



**United Nations**

# **Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination**

**Sixty-second session  
(31 May–1 July 2022)**

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(31 May–1 July 2022)**



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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 21 April 2022 and its substantive session from 31 May to 1 July 2022 at Headquarters. It held 21 formal meetings and numerous informal and “informal informal” consultations, as well as briefings.

#### A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the sixty-second 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 2023;
  - (b) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
  - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
  - (b) United Nations support for Agenda 2063.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-second session.

#### Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 21 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat ([E/AC.51/2022/L.2](#)), in which it was stated that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee had been invited to select the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system” ([A/76/286](#) and [JIU/REP/2020/8](#)) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon ([A/76/286/Add.1](#)) for consideration at its sixty-second session.

#### Programme of work

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 31 May, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the annotated provisional agenda ([E/AC.51/2022/1](#)) and to the revised note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation ([E/AC.51/2022/L.1/Rev.1](#)) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

5. 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.



6. Informal briefings were given by the Secretary of the Committee, on organizational matters; by the Chief, Business Partner Service, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, on logistical matters; by the Director, Inspection and Evaluation Division, Office of Internal Oversight Services, on evaluation issues; and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Controller, and the Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, on the proposed programme budget for 2023.

## B. Election of officers

7. At its 1st meeting, on 21 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Luiz Feldman (Brazil) as Rapporteur for the sixty-second session.

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 31 May, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Francis Saudubray (France) as Chair and Madou Diallo (Mali) as Vice-Chair for the session.

9. Accordingly, the members of the Bureau for the sixty-second session of the Committee were:

*Chair:*

Francis Saudubray (France)

*Vice-Chair:*<sup>1</sup>

Madou Diallo (Mali)

*Rapporteur:*

Luiz Feldman (Brazil)

## C. Attendance

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

Armenia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Belarus	Italy
Belgium	Japan
Botswana	Kenya
Brazil	Liberia
Cameroon	Mali
Chile	Malta
China	Mauritania
Comoros	Pakistan
Costa Rica	Paraguay
Cuba	Philippines

<sup>1</sup> In the absence of any nominations for the position of Vice-Chair from the Group of Eastern European States or the Group of Asia-Pacific States, those seats remained vacant at the sixty-second session of the Committee.

Dominican Republic	Poland
Eritrea	Republic of Korea
Eswatini	Russian Federation
France	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Germany	United States of America
India	Uruguay

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

Israel	Syrian Arab Republic
Morocco	European Union
Switzerland	

12. Also present at the session were the Chef de Cabinet; the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa; the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security; the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management; the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance; the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management; the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Controller; the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources; the Assistant Secretary-General for Support Operations; the Assistant Secretary-General, Chief Information and Technology Officer; the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions; the Assistant Secretary-General for Safety and Security; the Acting Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the Deputy Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC); the Executive Secretary of the Joint Inspection Unit; the 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.

13. The Inspector and Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit, Gopinathan Achamkulangare, also participated in the work of the Committee.

14. In addition to in-room participation by representatives of the relevant entities, the following reports were discussed with relevant representatives through videoconference: the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of subprogramme 1 of ECA, the evaluation of subprogramme 3 of ECLAC, the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees; and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system; as were the following programmes or parts of programmes of the proposed programme budget for 2023: programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; programme 2, Political affairs; programme 4, Peacekeeping operations; programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space; programme 6, Legal affairs; programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063; programme 10, Trade and development; programme 11, Environment; programme 12, Human settlements; programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice; programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa; programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific; programme 17, Economic development in Europe; programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean; programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia; programme 20, Human rights; programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees; programme 22, Palestine refugees; programme 25, Management and support services; and part II, Joint Inspection Unit, of programme 27, Jointly financed activities.

#### **D. Documentation**

15. The list of documents before the Committee at its sixty-second session is set out in the annex to the present report.

#### **E. Programme questions: evaluation**

16. **The Committee considered the evaluations to be reported in 2023 on the basis of information provided by OIOS. The Committee selected for consideration at its sixty-third session, in 2023, the following evaluations:**

- (a) **Development Coordination Office and the resident coordinator system: regional offices;**
- (b) **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: subprogramme 3, Shared economic prosperity;**
- (c) **Economic Commission for Europe: subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration, and subprogramme 6, Trade;**
- (d) **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: subprogramme 4, Environment and development;**
- (e) **Thematic evaluation of Secretariat support for the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (f) **Thematic evaluation of the youth and peace and security agenda: youth participation.**

17. **The Committee also selected the following evaluations for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental body:**

- (a) **United Nations Mission in South Sudan: contribution to the rule of law through support for justice initiatives and the promotion of human rights in South Sudan;**

(b) **United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic: support for the fight against impunity and for the extension of State authority and rule of law in the Central African Republic;**

(c) **United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo: contribution to strengthening the rule of law and human rights in Kosovo.**

## **F. Adoption of the report of the Committee**

18. At the 21st meeting, on 1 July, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee ([E/AC.51/2022/L.4](#) and addenda) and the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-third session ([E/AC.51/2022/L.3](#)).

19. At the same meeting, the delegations of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and China made remarks that they requested be reflected in the present report. The delegations recalled paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [76/236](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to engage, inter alia, with relevant stakeholders, on the sequence of budgetary procedures and practices. The delegations also recalled Assembly resolution [72/266 A](#), emphasized the importance of preserving the sequential nature of the review process conducted by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and noted that that sequential nature had not been maintained during the trial period of the annual budget cycle.

20. Also at the same meeting, the delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, France, Germany and Italy made remarks that they requested be reflected in the present report. The delegations expressed thanks to the United Nations Controller and the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division for their engagement with the Committee, on 31 May, on the experience with regard to the annual budget ahead of preparing the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the changes to the budgetary cycle, including on the sequence of budgetary procedures and practices, in line with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [76/236](#). The delegations indicated that, having examined the programme plans and engaged with programme managers over the previous five weeks, it was clear that the new approach to the programme budget and one-year budget cycle had had a very positive effect. They expressed the view that programme plans had become more dynamic, realistic and responsive, that a one-year programme cycle had allowed managers to better respond to new mandates and emerging risks and priorities, that programmes were more focused on results and outcomes and that performance measures were increasingly specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART). The delegations recalled resolution [72/266 A](#), in which the Assembly had approved the change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis and decided to review the implementation of the annual budget at its seventy-seventh session with a view to taking a final decision. It was the view of those delegations that the annual budget review process over the previous years had been carried out in line with resolution [72/266 A](#) and had preserved the sequential nature of the review process. They added that that was the only reasonable interpretation of that resolution and that it remained the most effective, efficient and logical way of carrying out that important task.

21. Also at the 21st meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report. The Committee also adopted the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-third 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 2022 session and by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

22. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of Belarus, the United Kingdom, the United States, China, the Russian Federation, the Philippines, India, Mali, Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Armenia and Cuba.

## Chapter II

### Programme questions

#### A. Proposed programme budget for 2023

##### Plan outline

23. At its 3rd meeting, on 31 May 2022, the Committee considered the plan outline of the proposed programme budget for 2023 ([A/77/6 \(Plan outline\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

24. The Chef de Cabinet introduced the plan outline and, together with the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Controller, and other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

##### Discussion

25. A delegation, speaking on behalf of a group of delegations, recalled that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/266 A](#), entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”, the plan outline and programme plans were the principal policy directives of the United Nations, which served as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, evaluation and monitoring, and expressed full support for all eight priorities indicated in the plan outline, while attaching importance to the fact that the programmatic activities of the United Nations and related performance and results related clearly to those eight strategic priorities. The delegation welcomed the clear and concise presentation of the priorities in the plan outline and the efforts of the Secretary-General to focus on the most important information and indicated that it was important that both the format and content of the plan outline be kept up-to-date and adjusted to take account of changes in the world.

26. A delegation expressed its support for the core role of the United Nations in global governance, in particular on global issues, such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, resilient economic recovery efforts and climate change. The delegation cited the long-term priorities of the Organization, including those set out in the declaration entitled “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit”, and observed that the continued spread of the COVID-19 pandemic had put Member States, especially developing countries, under greater strain in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The delegation also expressed its support for the focus on the development pillar, especially with regard to advancing post-pandemic economic recovery, ensuring no one was left behind and enhancing development at the global, regional, subregional and country levels.

27. A delegation commented upon the significant progress made in the format and presentation of the plan outline as compared with the previous outline, presented during the fifty-ninth session of the Committee, and stressed that the long-term goals and priorities of the Organization should be approved by the General Assembly. Furthermore, any initiatives and concepts that the Secretary-General planned to implement in the short and long term should also be agreed upon by intergovernmental bodies. The view was expressed that in the overall review of the content of the plan, it was implied that some areas of the activities of the Organization would be approved, confirmed or modified in 2023. In that regard, the delegation recalled that the Committee operated on the basis of existing mandates and that its

role was not to prejudge the future discussion of the General Assembly, but to make sure that, at that stage, the Secretariat correctly interpreted the instructions addressed to the Secretary-General by Member States. Clarification was therefore sought as to how the Secretariat had identified and prioritized the elements included in the plan outline.

28. Another delegation, speaking on behalf of a group of delegations, recalled the important role played by the Committee in examining the plan outline in accordance with the provisions of resolution 72/266 A and stressed that the Committee fully carried out that role. The view was expressed that the Committee should approach the plan outline in a technical manner, focus on objectives and key performance indicators without bringing political arguments to the fore and submit its programmatic conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration as part of its final approval of the programme budget. The same delegation indicated that the Committee, in considering the plan outline, should examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with its mandate and the sequential nature of the review process and submit its programmatic conclusions and recommendations, without undermining or impinging on the role of the Fifth Committee of the Assembly.

29. The view was expressed that, since the adoption of management reform in 2017, there had been a change in the sequence of budgetary procedures and practices, but the matter had not been fully addressed by the General Assembly. The delegation noted that, in accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 72/266 A, neither the budgetary methodology, nor the established budgetary procedures and practices should be modified without prior review and approval. The view was expressed that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions dealt with programmes for which the programme plans had not been reviewed by the Committee nor approved by the Assembly. The delegation underlined the importance of resolving the matter of the sequencing of budgetary procedures and practices to facilitate the smooth intergovernmental review of the proposed programme budget.

30. Delegations noted the request by the General Assembly for engagement with Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the review of the changes to the budgetary cycle, including on the sequence of budgetary procedures and practices, as called for in paragraph 10 of its resolution 76/236. In that regard, a delegation noted that the Assembly, in its resolution 72/266 A, had approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020, and had requested the Secretary-General to conduct a review of changes to the budgetary cycle in 2022, following the completion of the first full budgetary cycle. The delegation therefore questioned why the Committee was considering the proposed programme plan for the year 2023 and not for the biennium 2023–2024. Clarifications were also sought regarding the impact of the annual budget cycle on the Organization, including its advantages and disadvantages and any eventual additional burden on and workload for the Secretariat. Another delegation requested clarification on the impact on programme planning should the Member States decide to revert to the biennial budget cycle.

31. The role of management in programme planning was noted, as were the efforts of the Secretariat to improve programme performance, accountability and transparency, and the hope was expressed that the Secretariat would further enhance its efforts in fulfilling the mandate given to it by the Member States, including setting concrete deliverables that contribute to visible outcomes for Member States.

32. A delegation expressed that, with the efforts made under management reform to decentralize by bringing decision-making closer to the point of delivery, there was a continued need to improve performance and enhance manager accountability for the

use of public funds. The delegation sought clarification on the role of such tools as the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, senior management compacts and results-based budgeting in achieving that aim.

33. With regard to paragraph 10 of resolution [76/236](#), in which the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to engage with Member States and other relevant stakeholders when preparing the report on the review of the changes to the budgetary cycle, including on the sequence of budgetary procedures and practices, a delegation sought clarification as to the assessment of the sequencing problem that had been made by the Secretariat. Another delegation emphasized that consultations with Member States conducted by senior Secretariat officials that were aimed at improving the quality and clarity of the proposed programme budget should be in accordance with Assembly resolutions on programme planning.

34. A delegation reiterated the importance of ensuring that the terms and expressions referenced in the proposed programme plan had been intergovernmentally agreed, in accordance with paragraph 14 of resolution [76/236](#).

35. With regard to results-based management and the objective of the effective functioning of the Organization, several delegations recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution [76/235](#), had reiterated its request that the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes ensure that the recommendations of the Board of Auditors were promptly and fully implemented and that a detailed explanation of any delays in implementing those recommendations be provided.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

36. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the eight priorities for the period 2023–2025, set out in paragraph 42 of the plan outline ([A/77/6 \(Plan outline\)](#)).**

## **Programme 1**

### **General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management**

37. At its 14th meeting, on 8 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 2\)](#)).

38. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

### **Discussion**

39. A delegation expressed its appreciation to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for ensuring the smooth provision of mandated services for the United Nations to enable intergovernmental processes. The delegation also thanked the Department for its work in enabling the provision of documents in the six official languages in a timelier manner this year.

40. A delegation stated that the provision of support for the deliberations of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, as well as for those of the other United Nations committees and bodies, were crucial to the proper functioning of the



Organization. In this regard, the delegation expressed appreciation to the Department for the work related to the Committee on Conferences, and another delegation expressed its appreciation to the Department for the provision of interpretation services to support the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in 2021. Stating that effective participation in meetings and conferences was of utmost importance to country delegates, to enable them to take full advantage of all the opportunities offered by the United Nations as the ultimate forum for discussion, the delegation expressed the hope that it could count on the continuous support of the Department to facilitate the exchange of views among delegations and discussions on relevant matters in all forums and locations of the United Nations.

41. A delegation noted that the Department played an indispensable role in ensuring multilingualism within the Organization and welcomed the Department's stated determination to optimize the provision of timely, cost-effective and sustainable services in support of multilingualism, including for meetings in virtual and hybrid settings.

42. A delegation commended the Under-Secretary-General for his efforts in coordinating matters related to multilingualism, one of the main values of the United Nations, across the entire Secretariat. The delegation stated that it had consistently advocated the strengthening of that principle and had always paid particular attention to the need to maintain parity among the official languages of the Organization. The delegation expressed its hope that the Department would continue to provide high-quality conference services to Member States in the future and indicated its support for the proposed programme plan for programme 1 for 2023.

43. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the work done by the Department and highlighted the extreme importance of multilingualism and of the equal treatment of all six official languages in document publishing, translation and interpretation in all entities. The delegation also thanked all language staff for their hard work and emphasized that adequate training for and quality control of interpretation, especially on some politically sensitive issues, was of utmost importance.

44. Another delegation stated that the 2023 programme plan had been guided by a strategy of continuous modernization and improvement in all areas, including the digitalization of the Department's services, improving e-deleGATE and implementing measures to support multilingualism, all of which was welcome. The delegation invited the Under-Secretary-General to share his thoughts on what to expect next in the evolution of e-deleGATE. It was noted that the Department's embrace of innovative ways of operating had been crucial to ensuring that its work continued and that it was essential to continue to integrate lessons learned into its practices with respect to business continuity and virtual operations as the Organization returned to the next normal. The delegation sought more information on how those lessons learned could be integrated; for example, how the Organization could ensure that physical distancing or hybrid working needs could be met, where appropriate, when organizing meetings across the United Nations, while balancing those needs with the need to facilitate the negotiation process. In the context of the Committee, for example, the Department was asked whether it was more efficient to have hybrid meetings during the question-and-answer sessions or during negotiation sessions held towards the end of the process.

45. The same delegation commended the Department on its use of innovative practices and technologies to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of meetings and asked how that would improve the interoperability across all duty stations to achieve greater optimization in 2023. The delegation enquired as to how Department colleagues in other duty stations felt that such interoperability and integration was

working. The delegation also expressed interest in the progress made in the production of multilingual parliamentary documentation with the goal of accelerating documentation production and sought an update on that progress and on what the next steps would be.

46. A delegation indicated that it attached particular importance to the efforts made to modernize the digital infrastructure across duty stations, which would eventually lead to more efficiencies and resilience to address deteriorating conditions, including within the United Nations system, and expressed interest in the new innovative solutions to be employed by the Department.

47. A delegation indicated that it valued the important work of the Department and expressed its support for its proposed programme for 2023. The delegation expressed appreciation for the commendable efforts made by the Department to incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic into the programme plan for 2023 and stated that those efforts had assisted in ensuring business continuity of intergovernmental processes across the Organization during a challenging public health emergency.

48. Another delegation expressed its support for the work of the Department and conveyed its appreciation for its having avoided setbacks in the delivery of the services entrusted to it during the COVID-19 pandemic, when security and health measures had been imposed. The delegation underscored the Department's capacity to change the way it worked, by adopting new and innovative solutions with the aim of delivering the work of the Organization. The same delegation indicated that it attached great importance to the programme and urged the Department to continue to ensure that the use of the rooms and spaces of the United Nations was in line with the purposes and principles of its Charter. Although matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, the delegation asked about existing limitations to the Department's budget and its plans to deal with requests of Member States.

49. A delegation expressed satisfaction that the Department, within the boundaries of its mandate, had continued to effectively carry out the tasks entrusted to it to ensure the sustainable functioning of the United Nations. It was notable that, given the evolving situation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with the recommendations of local authorities on allowing Member States to meet in person, the Department found suitable rooms and responded quickly to individual requests emanating from intergovernmental bodies.

50. The same delegation welcomed the progress made in the provision of conference services in virtual and hybrid formats as a temporary measure in cases where COVID-19 restrictions did not allow for in-person meetings. The delegation mentioned in particular that the decision that the Department had proposed on the matter had taken into account the requirements of simultaneous interpreters and the concerns of Member States. The delegation said that, although reducing simultaneous interpretation time from three to two hours could pose a risk to the principle of multilingualism, it was to be considered a temporary measure aimed at ensuring that the concerns of interpreters were taken into account when in-person meetings were not possible.

51. A delegation recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic had had an impact on the implementation of mandates and required a shift in the approach to planning and coordinating meetings and expressed its appreciation for the flexibility demonstrated by the Department as it adjusted to the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

52. The same delegation congratulated the Department on its having provided fully remote interpretation for a major United Nations conference for the first time in 2021.

Because of the rigorous COVID-19-related restrictions in the country hosting the conference, the Department had used interpreting hubs in New York and Vienna to provide services for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan. The delegation encouraged the Department to make fully remote interpretation a regular process and asked about important lessons learned from providing fully remote interpretation for the Congress in Kyoto.

53. Although matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, the delegation enquired whether the Department had plans to strengthen its capacity to provide fully remote interpretation in order to reduce costs. It was noted that decreasing travel costs would help the Department to reduce the impact of unnecessary air travel and help to support the United Nations in its work to combat climate change.

54. A delegation noted that, according to paragraph 2.105 of the proposed programme plan, the Department would face a serious challenge with regard to the documentation-related needs over the next 10 years, as around 40 per cent of the team were expected to retire during that period and, along with another delegation, requested information on plans in place to ensure that all those who left would be quickly replaced by highly qualified employees. Another delegation referred to the need for early and strong recruitment owing to staff retirements, as indicated under result 3: documentation needs of Member States met through succession planning, of subprogramme 3 for Geneva and inquired whether the lesson learned could be applied to the duty stations in New York, Vienna and Nairobi.

55. With regard to figure 2.VI, on the simultaneous issuance of documentation in the official languages, a delegation asked why the actual performance for 2021 was 1 per cent lower than in previous years. It was noted that the General Assembly had increased the workload of translators to 5.8 pages and whether that was the reason for the 1 per cent change.

56. A delegation noted some overlap in the programme plans of the different offices of the Department covering elements of meeting management and asked the Secretariat how the programme plans could be rationalized and presented to the Committee in a more efficient manner. Another delegation highlighted subprogramme 4, result 3: contingency plans for maintenance of a broad array of sustainable, universally accessible conference-servicing modalities, for which all four offices indicated the same new result, although they have different programmatic activities. In New York, activities entailed remote simultaneous interpretation and remote participation. In Geneva, it was about virtual document distribution. In Vienna, it was about presenting technical data and, in Nairobi, about training interpreters in the use of remote simultaneous interpretation platform. Given that the same result was reflected for four locations, the delegation asked why the activities were different and wondered about the meaning of “sustainable” and “universally accessible”.

57. A delegation expressed appreciation for the high-quality document and the indicators reflected therein, which were highly relevant, and stated that it was interesting to examine indicators on a location-by-location basis, so that Member States could analyse performance and client satisfaction at each of the locations.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

58. **The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in managing and supporting United Nations conferences, meetings and deliberations to enable effective implementation of United Nations mandates, programmes and operations.**

59. The Committee commended the efforts of the Department in supporting multilingualism as a core and fundamental value of the Organization, thus emphasizing its importance in the activities of the United Nations and contributing to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations.
60. The Committee welcomed the Department's commitment to ensuring the quality of multilingual parliamentary documentation in all six official languages and provision of machine-readable documents.
61. The Committee emphasized the importance of respecting the linguistic differences of each of the six official languages in translation and interpretation.
62. The Committee appreciated the service of translators and interpreters and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to ensure quality control of translation and interpretation, including external translation and freelance interpretation.
63. The Committee noted with appreciation the progress made by the Department to develop new internal working methods and improve conference management software systems operated by the Department with the goal of maximizing automation and business continuity in accordance with existing mandates.
64. The Committee commended the Department on its commitment to continuous modernization, improvement, use of technology and innovation.
65. The Committee noted the Department's efforts to cope with challenges brought on by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic to ensure business continuity.
66. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in managing the participants of virtual or hybrid meetings across duty stations in equivalent ways to in-person meetings as appropriate.
67. The Committee welcomed the Department's efforts to pursue sustainable practices and to leave a smaller environmental footprint.
68. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

**Overall orientation**

**Strategy and external factors for 2023**

***Paragraph 2.12***

Replace “universally accessible” with “technically accessible to all”.

**Conference management, New York**

**Subprogramme 4**

**Meetings and publishing services**

**Planned results for 2023**

In the title of result 3, replace “universally accessible” with “technically accessible to all”.

**Paragraph 2.77**

Replace “universally accessible” with “technically accessible to all”.

**Table 2.9**

Replace “universally accessible” with “technically accessible to all”.

**Conference management, Geneva****Subprogramme 4****Meetings and publishing services****Planned results for 2023**

In the title of result 3, replace “universally accessible” with “technically accessible to all”.

**Conference management, Vienna****Subprogramme 4****Meetings and publishing services****Planned results for 2023**

In the title of result 3, replace “universally accessible” with “technically accessible to all”.

**Conference management, Nairobi****Subprogramme 4****Meetings and publishing services****Planned results for 2023**

In the title of result 3, replace “universally accessible” with “technically accessible to all”.

## **Programme 2**

### **Political affairs**

69. At its 16th meeting, on 9 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)](#)).

70. The representatives of the Secretary-General for the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and for the Office of Counter-Terrorism introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

**Discussion**

71. Delegations expressed appreciation for the programme and the efforts made by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in relation to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts at the global level. It was recognized that the Department played the central role in the Secretariat in matters related to those efforts and that it was the lead entity of the United Nations for good offices, political analysis, mediation, electoral assistance, peacebuilding support and political guidance, which were related to the Organization’s efforts to strengthen, inter alia, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It was observed that

the Department and its mandate of advancing peace processes and conflict prevention were of particular importance. A delegation requested the Department to continue to step up its efforts to promote the political settlement process, increase its good offices and mediation, and better fulfil its responsibilities in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard, the delegation reiterated the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes, the non-use of force and State consent. It said that underdevelopment was a root cause of many problems, especially in the countries and regions in conflict, and that increasing investment in the field of development to strengthen economic and social weak links was a fundamental way to eliminate risk factors, lay a solid foundation for peace and achieve long-term stability. The view was expressed that, while the political affairs programme contained many high-priority activities, it was also one of the longest programmes, and the delegation urged the Secretariat to consider streamlining the report.

72. A delegation observed that the external factors reflected in paragraph 3.10, particularly subparagraphs (a) and (c), were far removed from what it considered to be achievable on the ground, and it questioned whether they should be more realistic.

73. A delegation observed that the Department played a key role in inter-agency coordination with the relevant United Nations bodies and entities, including United Nations country teams in situations of complex conflict. The delegation asked about the potential for strengthening the procedures for and efficiency of coordination between the Department and United Nations entities to ensure the coherence of action on conflict-sensitive issues.

74. A delegation observed that the Department of Peace Operations had presented a very broad proposed programme plan, with references to peacekeeping missions that were not financed from the regular budget, such as the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With regard to the proposed programme plan for the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the delegation noted that paragraph 3.140 of the report contained a reference to 38 special political missions for 2023. In that regard, the delegation asked whether the budgets of special political missions, contained in the addenda to the programme document, also included proposed programme plans and whether such plans would be reviewed by the Committee. The delegation also made reference to resolution [72/199](#) on restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar, recalling that in paragraph 3 of that resolution, the General Assembly had stressed the need for ensuring accountability and transparency. In that regard, the delegation asked whether not presenting the proposed programme plans of special political missions to the Committee for its review was compatible with resolution [72/199](#).

75. With regard to subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, a delegation expressed continued support for the efforts to improve the capacity and capability of Member States and regional organizations to identify, prevent and address conflict situations. The delegation noted that the results of the subprogramme remained difficult to evaluate, as it was not possible to determine whether the role of the United Nations in a conflict area improved the situation directly. Another delegation welcomed the adaptation of the subprogramme in the face of the pandemic. The same delegation welcomed the continued focus in the subprogramme on enhancing political and operational linkages with subprogramme 6, Peacebuilding Support Office, and urged the Department to take concrete steps to strengthen the internal and external coherence of its work more broadly in the context of the new strategic plan for the period 2023–2026. The delegation noted the renewed efforts to strengthen cooperation with the Development Coordination Office and the United Nations development system, including in the development and delivery of regional strategies. A delegation said that the Department's role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts was of paramount importance and noted that

the provision of timely and accurate information, analysis and policy recommendations by the Department could play an important part in assisting the Organization in discharging its functions aimed at achieving and maintaining peace at the global level. The delegation welcomed the coordination of issues related to hate speech and the incitement of violence with the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (reported under result 3: improved responses for countering hate speech and incitement to violence) and reiterated its support for the Office, underscoring the importance of its independent capacities. A delegation asked whether there was redundancy with regard to the work of the Department of Global Communications in relation to result 3.

76. With regard to subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance, support and appreciation were expressed for the work of the subprogramme and its contribution to strengthening electoral processes and democratic institutions. A delegation noted that United Nations electoral assistance was critical to supporting countries in the conduct of free, fair and credible elections, and it welcomed the adaptations to the subprogramme in response to the pandemic. The delegation asked whether there were changes in the Department's operating methods that it would like to continue. A delegation requested further information on the efforts made by the Department with regard to coordination with regional and subregional organizations. The delegation also asked about the lessons learned during the pandemic in relation to overcoming the digital gap and about the nature of requests received in relation to technology. With regard to the strategy section, clarification was requested regarding the reference to other underrepresented groups and those who were marginalized, as reflected in paragraph 3.35 (d). Another delegation noted that, while the report indicated that the Department had achieved its electoral assistance benchmarks for the period 2019–2021 in a number of assistance missions, no information had been provided on the results of those missions. The delegation recalled its past observations in that respect and encouraged a more rigorous results-oriented assessment of the benchmark, rather than simply providing the number of assistance missions.

77. With regard to subprogramme 3, Security Council Affairs, a delegation expressed great appreciation to the subprogramme for its continued assistance to support the functioning of the Security Council during another year of the pandemic. It was noted that the subprogramme had also served to provide substantial support for the work of the Council in its sanctions activities, including the establishment of expert panels. The same delegation expressed its appreciation for the work under the subprogramme to update and maintain a list of experts and its accomplishment in submitting all expert panel proposals to the sanctions committees by the planned target dates. With regard to planned result 1, Council members receive timely information on the implementation of sanctions measures, a delegation asked why the planned target had not been met (para. 3.51).

78. With regard to subprogramme 6, Peacebuilding Support Office, a delegation noted that the pandemic had affected the planned activities of the Peacebuilding Commission, and it commended the Commission for its work in quickly adjusting its programmes. The delegation strongly encouraged even closer collaboration across United Nations offices and agencies and welcomed efforts to broaden the scope of countries that engaged with the Commission, especially those beyond African countries. Another delegation welcomed the additional focus of the Peacebuilding Fund on transition contexts and urged the subprogramme to continue to strengthen impact-level reporting on programmes of the Fund. While the difficulty of quantifying political results was acknowledged, it was observed that some performance measures did not provide information on actual results. The examples cited were the increased investments by the Fund (programme performance in 2021) and increased support by the Fund for women and youth in peacebuilding (result 3). In that regard, it was

observed that, while the numbers provided were notable, it would have been more important to provide information on what had been accomplished through such investments. The delegation said that such quantitative figures represented “objective-based management” and could not be considered “results-based management”. It was emphasized that it was important to present expected results or the impact of the work in the proposed programme plans. A question was asked regarding the current methods of and efforts in mobilizing peacebuilding resources, and in that regard, further information was requested regarding the financing of the Fund and the related activities that the Department planned to carry out.

79. With regard to the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, a delegation expressed continued commitment to working towards a more peaceful, secure and prosperous future for the people of the Middle East, both Israelis and Palestinians. The delegation also highlighted the need for the Office to focus its efforts on advancing freedom, security and prosperity in tangible ways in the immediate term, as that would be the best means of advancing towards a negotiated two-State solution in which Israel would live in peace and security alongside a viable and democratic Palestinian State.

80. With regard to the United Nations Office to the African Union, a question was raised regarding the milestones and success markers identified within the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

81. With regard to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, a delegation expressed support for the work of the Office to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts across the United Nations system and ensure a balanced and more effective implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The delegation encouraged the Office to continue to focus on the priorities identified in the review of the Strategy and emphasized the importance of repatriating, prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating foreign terrorist fighters and their accompanying families; addressing evolving threats of racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism; and ensuring that counter-terrorism measures were based on the promotion of the rule of law and whole-of-society approaches. The delegation acknowledged the Office for holding a recent high-level conference on human rights, civil society and counter-terrorism and urged the Office to meaningfully and systematically incorporate civil society into all appropriate aspects of its mandate.

82. A delegation expressed appreciation to the Office of Counter-Terrorism for preparing the draft programme of work for 2023 and indicated its continued support with a view to providing the Office with all possible assistance in carrying out its core activities. While one delegation said that all activities of the Office should be funded from the programme budget, another noted its general support for the Office and its coordination function and asked why the Office would need additional staff instead of using existing capacities and avoiding duplication in parallel structures. The same delegation observed that, while counter-terrorism policies were important, they could also infringe upon human rights. In that regard, the delegation said that the Office would need to exercise oversight and mainstream human rights, and it requested further information on how the Office planned to strengthen those areas.

83. A delegation noted that it would submit recommendations, which were largely editorial, to the Committee for its consideration. With regard to paragraph 3.240 (b), the delegation asked why the reference to requests from Member States for technical assistance had not been included, as had been the case in the programme plan for 2022. With regard to the expected result in paragraph 3.242 (d), “In requesting Member States, integration of human rights norms and standards in relevant measures taken in the context of preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism”, the delegation said that the Office did not have a mandate in that regard,



underlining that the Office could only raise awareness and provide assistance. It was noted that the role of ensuring that human rights norms were taken into account in accordance with international law laid with States and not with the Office.

84. With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels (para. 3.244), it was observed that, unlike the programme plan for 2022, there were no references to international organizations such as the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The view was expressed that reference to those organizations must be reinstated. Several delegations requested further clarifications as to the independent meta-synthesis of evaluations referred to in paragraph 3.248. A delegation requested further clarification about the newly proposed Human Rights and Gender Section and about which programme and subprogramme it would support. The delegation observed that the Office had four pillars under the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, including one for human rights, and asked whether there would be redundancy with regard to the current organizational chart.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

85. **The Committee commended the work undertaken by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to support the prevention, management and resolution of conflict by peaceful means.**

86. **The Committee welcomed all efforts to peacefully resolve differences and disputes through dialogue and consultation and emphasized the need for and importance of cooperation in that regard.**

87. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen coherence, synergy and coordination in the work of the Organization in the fields of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and development, in accordance with the respective mandates of United Nations entities.**

88. **The Committee welcomed the work undertaken by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to strengthen the effective role of the Peacebuilding Commission in bringing attention to peacebuilding needs, convening key actors and proposing peacebuilding strategies.**

89. **The Committee reiterated the importance of promoting political settlement processes, increasing good offices and mediation and implementing the Secretary-General's global ceasefire appeal.**

90. **The Committee emphasized that efforts needed to be taken to address both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism and to integrate political, economic, judicial, social and other measures in striving to eradicate the root causes of and conditions conducive to terrorism and extremism.**

91. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:**

#### **I. Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs**

##### **Overall orientation**

##### **Strategy and external factors for 2023**

##### ***Paragraph 3.6***

**Replace “violent conflict” with “conflict”.**

**Subprogramme 1**  
**Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts**

*Paragraph 3.21 (c) (xii)*

Replace “and young people” with “as well as the full, equal and meaningful participation and constructive engagement of young people”.

*Paragraph 3.30*

Replace the second and third sentences with “In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will continue to develop guidance and tools in the context of conflict and post-conflict settings and build the capacity of United Nations personnel in agencies, funds and programmes on monitoring hate speech, identifying trends and critical challenges and designing effective counter-strategies. This will enable United Nations personnel to engage with Member States, leading to improved responses of Member States for combating hate speech and incitement to violence in conflict and post-conflict settings”.

**Subprogramme 2**  
**Electoral assistance**

*Paragraph 3.35 (d)*

Replace “other underrepresented groups and those who are marginalized (General Assembly resolution [76/176](#))” with “those underrepresented and/or marginalized, including people in rural areas lacking infrastructure”.

**Subprogramme 6**  
**Peacebuilding Support Office**

*Paragraph 3.95*

Replace “Secretary-General’s report to the General Assembly on assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund” with “Secretary-General’s report to the General Assembly on investing in prevention and peacebuilding”.

**VI. Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Overall orientation**

**Strategy and external factors for 2023**

*Paragraph 3.240 (b)*

After “Directorate”, add “and to requests from various Member States”.

*Paragraph 3.244*

Replace “and international and regional organizations” with “specialized international organizations and regional organizations such as the African Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center, the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, the European Union, the League of Arab States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.”.

### **Programme 3**

#### **Disarmament**

92. At its 5th meeting, on 1 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 4\)](#)).

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

#### **Discussion**

94. Several delegations expressed support for the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and its multilateral efforts aimed at achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. A delegation expressed its appreciation to the Office for continuing to ensure the full implementation of its legislative mandates and compliance with United Nations policies and procedures, and for the work of the Office to develop the strategic plan for 2021–2025. Another delegation welcomed the adoption and implementation by the Office of its first-ever strategic plan for the period 2021–2025 and welcomed the steps taken by the Office to improve monitoring and evaluation as well as the update provided by the Office on that matter. Several delegations noted that, at its sixty-first session, the Committee had not been able to agree on recommendations related to programme 3; they expressed the hope that agreement on recommendations would be reached at the present session.

95. A delegation noted that, in recent months, threats related to the possible use of weapons of mass destruction had highlighted the importance of the work of the Office. Another delegation noted that disarmament was a critical tool for the United Nations in its efforts to restore and maintain peace and security; it expressed the view that, in the present uncertain international environment, disarmament issues should be given more prominence than ever. The same delegation noted that progress could be made only on the basis of mutual concessions, bearing in mind the principle of multilateralism.

96. A delegation expressed regret that, at present, expectations of progress in disarmament were moderate and hopes were tempered by caution, and emphasized that it was necessary to continue the search for solutions, common interests and opportunities that could bring conflicting parties to agreement. The same delegation noted that, because of contemporary challenges and threats, there was a need to consider the issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and sustainable development in close connection with each other, and expressed the view that it was never too late to find a multilateral approach to resolving those issues, which would be the key to improving the international situation.

97. A delegation encouraged the Office to continue to fulfil the mandate it had been given by Member States and intensify its efforts to seek the views and recommendations of all Member States on all aspects of the promotion of international cooperation on peaceful uses in the context of international security. The same delegation noted certain positive changes in the text with which divergence among Member States was being avoided, and encouraged the Office to continue its efforts and to follow the guidance of the Office of the Controller in preparing programmes. The same delegation requested the Office for Disarmament Affairs to focus on its core mandate and pay attention to disarmament itself pure and simple while reducing the amount of attention paid to unrelated or side issues.

98. A delegation expressed the view that Member States had not provided a mandate for the programme regarding the implementation of a number of initiatives, such as the Agenda for Disarmament (paragraph 4.3 and table 4.18), and that references to those should be deleted from the text. Another delegation said that there was indeed a mandate for the work reflected in the proposed programme plan.

99. With regard to paragraph 4.4, several delegations expressed the view that multilateral efforts in the field of disarmament had been disrupted by COVID-19 in recent years, and took note of the impact of the pandemic as set out in the programme performance information for the Office. Several delegations welcomed the virtual engagements of the Office, its flexibility, its adjustments and the lessons learned, all of which had been required because of the pandemic. Further updates were sought on the lessons learned in that respect. Another delegation requested clarification on the assumptions of the Office relating to the impact of COVID-19 in 2023. A delegation expressed the view that the flexibility, new technology and new ways of working developed during the pandemic could be considered positive developments, and could facilitate greater transparency, more inclusive participation and a more environmentally conscious approach to the work of the Office and to multilateral forums in general. Another delegation expressed the view that holding events in a virtual or hybrid format should not be considered an example of a best practice or lesson learned, and that face-to-face meetings allowed for the equal and fair representation of Member States that enabled delegations to interact effectively at the United Nations, both during events and on the sidelines. Several delegations indicated that the global community was looking forward to conditions that would make greater in-person participation possible, including with respect to the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in person in August 2022, and welcomed the Office's support in preparing for the Conference.

100. With respect to paragraph 4.5, a delegation concurred with the aspirations expressed in the programme document for greater cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, as well as for engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders.

101. Several delegations took note with appreciation of the references made throughout the programme to gender equality and to increasing efforts in favour of diversity in disarmament forums, and underlined the importance of diversity and inclusion, particularly gender equity, as a critical component of ensuring greater global peace and security. In that regard, an update was requested on progress with respect to the participation of women in the work of the programme. Another delegation suggested that support for gender equality and the normalization of a gender perspective was not a necessary condition for predicting the feasibility of the programme (paragraph 4.7 (e)).

102. With respect to subprogramme 1, Multilateral negotiations and deliberations on disarmament and arms limitation, a delegation referred to paragraph 4.26 under result 3 (advanced discussions on the risks and benefits of emerging technologies in biological sciences) and noted with appreciation that informal discussions among Member States and other stakeholders could serve to complement formal meetings and contribute to a growing convergence of views among Member States. The delegation noted that, in applying the lesson, support would continue under the subprogramme for informal discussions among Member States and other stakeholders, including academia and the scientific community, and asked whether it would be possible to indicate how many informal meetings would be supported or planned so that the results of such a good initiative could be measured. Also with respect to result 3, another delegation expressed its reservations to the planned performance measure for 2022, namely that States parties would agree at the ninth

Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty on ways to further strengthen the review of the risks and benefits of advances in science and technology under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (table 4.4).

103. With respect to subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, under the strategy of the of the subprogramme, a delegation expressed concern about the Office supporting the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its efforts to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons (paragraph 4.30 (h)). The same delegation suggested that the proposed programme plan of the Office should clearly indicate the mandate for the subprogramme with regard to interactions with civil society (paragraph 4.30 (f)). A delegation expressed its concern with the focus on nuclear disarmament issues in the proposed programme plan. The delegation observed that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was not a universal document, that it was not supported by many States and that it was not correct to refer to it in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and give those two Treaties equal treatment. Another delegation stressed that, with respect to nuclear disarmament, the highest priority was the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The same delegation emphasized its support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It noted that that Treaty had been adopted by almost two thirds of all Member States at a United Nations conference convened under a mandate of the General Assembly, that that mandate should continue to be executed and that questioning the mandate would mean questioning the Assembly's decision and authority.

104. With respect to programme performance in 2021, under the subsection entitled "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: entry into force and progress towards the first meeting of States parties", a delegation expressed appreciation that the Treaty had entered into force on 22 January 2021 and noted that it had been encouraged to learn that States parties had subsequently begun preparations for the first meeting of States parties to the Treaty, scheduled for June 2022. The delegation indicated that it was looking forward to the actual programme of work being developed, which would strengthen efforts to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. While one delegation expressed the view that the performance measure for a future programme of work that strengthened the Treaty's implementation and the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime should be removed (table 4.6, actual result for 2021). With respect to planned results for 2023, result 1: enhanced implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation commitments, a delegation observed that it could not support a performance measure based on the anticipated outcome of the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (table 4.7, planned result for 2023), and that that reference should be removed.

105. A delegation welcomed the continued efforts under the programme to reinforce the norm against chemical weapons, including by supporting full implementation of international instruments such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, and noted that maintaining levels of technical expertise, preparedness and resourcing was crucial to the delivery of the programme. Another delegation expressed its support for strengthening disarmament education.

106. With respect to subprogramme 3, Conventional arms, a delegation disagreed with reference being made to integration of the issue of small arms and light weapons into the Security Council considerations (paragraph 4.47, result 1: integrating small arms and light weapons considerations into the Security Council), and expressed the view that the Secretariat did not have a mandate to increase awareness of Member States, in particular those that were on the Security Council, of options for reflecting

weapons and ammunition management in relevant decisions (table 4.12, planned result for 2023).

107. With respect to subprogramme 5, Regional disarmament, programme performance in 2021, under the subsection entitled “Improved understanding by stakeholders of a gender perspective to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control” (paras. 4.72 and 4.73), a delegation expressed its appreciation for the fact that, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [65/69](#), [73/46](#) and [75/48](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, the subprogramme continued to implement projects with a gender-sensitive approach and make significant progress in incorporating a gender perspective into the workshops dedicated to illustrating and promoting the important role of women in arms control negotiations and policy implementation. Another delegation, however, expressed its concern regarding that result, and with reference to the performance measure “number of stakeholders with improved understanding of women and disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, noted that there were no data on the content of the subprogramme or indications of any more specific criteria for its effectiveness. The same delegation expressed the view that, with respect to result 3: strengthened implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) (paras. 4.79–4.81), the text should reflect that assistance to Member States with respect to the implementation that resolution was provided at the request of Member States, and that the Office was mandated only to provide administrative and logistical support in that regard.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

108. **The Committee recommended, in line with General Assembly resolution [76/236](#), that the Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, review the programme plan for programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

## **Programme 4 Peacekeeping operations**

109. At its 4th meeting, on 1 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 5\)](#)).

110. The Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

### **Discussion**

111. Delegations expressed appreciation and strong support for the work of the Department of Peace Operations and United Nations peacekeeping operations in maintaining peace and security and safeguarding the communities they serve. Delegations also expressed support for the work undertaken by the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). A delegation commended the Secretariat on the excellent presentation of the report, which they noted was smaller in size, more precise and more focused, and which tied key performance indicators to issues of interest to Member States.

112. Several delegations welcomed the measures taken to advance the women and peace and security agenda and emphasized the importance of that agenda in pursuing gender parity in peacekeeping. A delegation noted the slight improvement made with regard to gender parity and expressed the view that field missions lagged behind Headquarters in attaining gender parity at the most senior level. Another delegation expressed particular support for, and encouraged, the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of peacekeeping, including senior leadership.

113. A delegation noted that programme 4 was one of the programmes on which the Committee could not reach an agreement during the previous session and urged the Committee to work towards reaching an agreement on the programme for the current session. The view was expressed that the Committee should avoid bringing up issues that would better be discussed in the other Committees, such as the Fifth Committee or the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

114. A delegation expressed the view that peacekeeping was political, and its ultimate success depended upon active and sustainable political processes. Another delegation expressed its regret about recent events in the world, which were the result of a passive perception of the geopolitical ambitions of the powerful and a desire for domination that had led to threats and provocations. The delegation opined that the degree of confrontation between the largest countries in the world had reached a critical point that included manipulation of false facts at the international level and unilateral coercive measures, which were the visible causes of the crisis. The delegation further expressed its view that the world needed, now more than ever, a comprehensive reassessment of views on the development of modern conflicts and truly viable measures to respond to negative trends, both on a global scale and at the regional level.

115. A delegation highlighted that initiatives under the auspices of the United Nations aimed at restoring and maintaining peace and security, including those reflected in the programme on peacekeeping operations, should be given close attention. The same delegation suggested that ideas that sought to enhance the capacity to respond to the development of conflicts and adapt the configuration of peacekeeping activities to modern conditions deserved the widest possible support. Another delegation expressed the view that it was necessary to focus on political, rather than forceful, means for resolving crises and for strengthening global and regional interaction and, in that respect, the delegation welcomed the strengthened role of African regional and subregional organizations in peacekeeping. Another delegation indicated that peacekeeping was a central political tool and reaffirmed the importance of developing overarching, coherent political strategies that would address the increased threats to peace and security posed by extremist groups, through a collective and integrated effort.

116. A delegation expressed its view that political solutions were fundamental to peacekeeping reform and made missions more efficient and effective. Another delegation noted that, in recent years, international political realities, including with regard to conflict situations, had undergone significant changes, and a more rapid response to develop and adapt modern peacekeeping, conceptually and operationally, was needed. The delegation further emphasized that, in such circumstances, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the unconditional respect for the sovereignty of host States and the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping – the consent of the host country, neutrality and the use of force strictly in accordance with the mandate – should remain critical guidelines for maintaining peace and security. It was further expressed that improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations should be based on those principles and should serve as the main purpose for maintaining peace, promoting political processes and ensuring safety and security in the countries where they were deployed.

117. Delegations noted that peacekeeping operations were often deployed in complex and extremely dangerous conditions, complicated further by difficult humanitarian and socioeconomic situations and, most recently, by the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had had a detrimental impact on peacekeeping operations. Delegations expressed strong appreciation for the work undertaken by United Nations peacekeepers and the blue helmets and thanked troop- and police-contributing countries for their ongoing contributions to United Nations peacekeeping, while recognizing the risks that uniformed personnel took every day. Delegations paid tribute to those who had lost their lives in peacekeeping operations and emphasized the vital need for the Secretary-General to strengthen safeguards and measures for the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. A delegation observed that United Nations missions had evolved from simple “Chapter VI missions” to the complex, multidimensional missions that existed today, most of which included robust protection of civilian mandates. The delegation added that the security environment dynamics had changed, to the extent that the blue helmet was no longer a guarantee of safety, and peacekeepers in many missions were being targeted with deadly intent. In that regard, delegations further expressed the view that the Secretariat would need to ensure that the composition of missions, and their quality training, weapons, logistics and deployment patterns, should enable peacekeepers to fulfil their mandate without compromising their own security. The view was expressed that peacekeeping missions should not solely shoulder the duty of ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers, and the Department of Peace Operations was requested to support peacekeepers so they can better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, have convenient access to vaccines, be safe from explosive devices and have enhanced information capacity, improved situational awareness and access to basic first aid. A delegation recommended that the Department coordinate with Member States and the Group of Friends on the Safety and Security of United Nations Peacekeepers. Clarification was sought on the measures taken to improve safety and security of peacekeepers.

118. A delegation stressed the importance of continued coordination with troop- and police-contributing countries and called for the timely payment of troop- and police-contributing countries by the Secretariat. The delegation also noted the recent progress made in reimbursing troop and police contributing countries and reemphasized the importance of reimbursements in a timely manner.

119. The view was expressed that the most important role in the implementation of peacekeeping “in the field” belonged to the United Nations Secretariat. In that regard, delegations expressed appreciation for the personal attention and efforts of the Secretary-General with regard to such issues, including through his Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiative, and including the intent of the Department of Peace Operations to strengthen its delivery in 2023, which would provide a renewed focus and momentum for the initiative. A number of delegations welcomed the continued alignment of the Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiative with the programme plan, including with regard to sustained peace through successful transitions, in line with Security Council resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#). A delegation highlighted the importance of partnerships and joint efforts of the international community in ensuring the successful functioning of United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the need for clear and strict compliance by all participants in the process with the agreements and commitments reached in inter-State formats, primarily in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Another delegation sought clarification on whether the Department had reviewed its own activities and those of other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to determine whether there was duplication and whether the Department needed to carry out such activities already carried out by agencies. The delegation cited as examples the activities undertaken by the electoral units under the United



Nations Development Programme, the protection of children units of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Clarification was sought on whether such roles were required in the missions and whether maintenance of those sections dealing with security, policy and protecting civilians was required. The view was expressed that long-term agreements would facilitate access to such services provided by other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

120. With regard to other initiatives of the Secretary-General, a delegation recalled that some elements, in particular, the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and the action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers were supported by some Member States with reservations. The delegation opined that priority should be given to cooperation by peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Secretariat with the national authorities of the host State, who bore the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians, the elimination of the causes of crises and post-conflict reconstruction.

121. Similarly, the same delegation noted that the idea of prioritizing secondary tasks that were more common and specific to other United Nations pillars rather than peacekeeping, including in the field of human rights, should not be supported.

122. A number of delegations welcomed the prioritization of effective performance and accountability of all mission components, through the implementation of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System to evaluate mission performance using data and analysis and the development of an integrated performance policy framework and increased engagement with troop- and police-contributing countries on performance. A delegation noted that the Security Council had demonstrated its commitment to that framework in its landmark resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#) on peacekeeper performance and accountability, which had been unanimously adopted by the Council in September 2018. Clarification was sought on the reasons for the change in the title used for the comprehensive performance assessment system. A delegation welcomed the positive efforts undertaken by peacekeeping operations, including the new assessment model and the roll-out of new training equipment, which it acknowledged had not been easy, but it had been done.

123. With respect to planning, a delegation expressed the view that it was important for the United Nations to continue to improve the collection, sharing and use of data across the board, to support integrated planning structures in missions. That would need to be supported by evidence-based decision-making at Headquarters and throughout field missions and would feed into the analysis and recommendations provided to Member States. The delegation opined that it would be useful to embed such processes, for example, through the enhanced use of the comprehensive performance assessment system.

124. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue its efforts to implement the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework to address the performance of both uniformed and civilian peacekeepers and overall mission performance, enhance transparency and accountability and contribute to better safety and security. In that regard, delegations also emphasized the need to ensure that all peacekeeping personnel, uniformed and civilian, adhered to the highest standards of conduct and would need to be held accountable for their performance. The view was expressed that reforms must enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers, as well as increase operational effectiveness and address underperformance, and the work of the Secretary-General in that regard was commended. A delegation recommended that the Department of Peace Operations further enhance its internal control and accountability of peacekeeping missions to better implement mandates and strengthen management coordination with troop- and police-contributing countries.

125. Clarification was sought on the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors with regard to fraud, which remained high on the agenda. Clarification was also sought on the progress made by the Department of Peace Operations in addressing such concerns, including the 150 observations made by the auditors. With respect to training, clarification was sought on the possibility and risk of duplication among various training programmes and administrative complexities, the transaction costs of which were not negligible.

126. A delegation welcomed the progress made to ensure smooth and effective transitions from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, including through better and more widespread use of the United Nations integrated strategic framework and other joint instruments. The delegation expressed the view that it was essential to have a joined-up approach across the United Nations system, donors and other stakeholders. Another delegation recognized that effective and long-term conflict resolution, the stabilization of post-conflict situations and the prevention of the recurrence of crises would be impossible without providing countries with peacebuilding assistance. The delegation also recognized the work done by peacekeeping missions, peacebuilding offices and the Peacebuilding Commission in that area. It was further recognized that the challenges presented required the close attention of Member States and the systematization of peacebuilding processes through concerted efforts by Member States, United Nations funds and programmes, regional organizations, the Secretariat and international financial institutions. The same delegation pointed out that solutions were impossible without the close attention of Member States and the systematization of peacebuilding processes. The delegation also expressed support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and noted the added value of the Commission's coordination and advisory role in supporting the Security Council.

127. With respect to the strategy and external factors for 2023, a delegation commended the Department of Peace Operations for its focus on, among other matters, the women and peace and security agenda across all peace functions, including through the development of a methodology for gender-sensitive conflict analysis, distributing guidance on the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes and systematizing reporting on women and peace and security outcomes, as reflected in paragraph 5.2 (b).

128. With regard to subprogramme 2, Military, and specifically in respect of the programme performance in 2021, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the positive results reported on increased participation of female individual uniformed personnel in United Nations peace operations, as reflected in figure 5.II, and called for continued efforts in that area.

129. With regard to subprogramme 3, Rule of law and security institutions, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the results illustrated in paragraph 5.48 in particular, on the Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity. Another delegation expressed support for the performance measures identified for the implementation of Security Council resolution [2589 \(2021\)](#) for 2023, as well as the intent to increase the capacities of rule of law institutions of host States, especially measures to deliver law and justice in remote areas.

130. With regard to subprogramme 4, Policy, evaluation and training, a delegation expressed the view that training activities were crucial to fostering peace and security. The delegation stressed the importance of training and the important role of the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy. The same delegation expressed its appreciation for result 1: United Nations police personnel skills training adapted to contemporary requirements, and called for further improvements in that area. Another delegation opined that conflicts had no military solution, that lasting peace could only come through political and social means and that there needed to be

a parallel focus on performance effectiveness of the political and social components of missions as well. In that regard, the delegation recommended that a comprehensive evaluation and assessment system for non-uniformed components also be included as one of the planned results for 2023 in subprogramme 4.

131. With regard to UNMOGIP, a delegation noted that the mission was one of the first peacekeeping missions established by the United Nations and expressed its appreciation for the important work carried out by the mission to date. In acknowledging the unique role carried out by the mission, the delegation indicated that UNMOGIP remained a key instrument in the maintenance of regional and international peace and security in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The delegation further opined that its efficacy depended on the appropriate and sufficient allocation of budgetary resources, which would be central to the implementation of its mandate.

132. Some delegations sought clarification on why the reports for other peacekeeping missions, such as those addressed in volume II of the Board of Auditors report, had not been submitted to the Committee for its review and on whether UNMOGIP and UNTSO were the only two peacekeeping missions reviewed by the Committee.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

133. **The Committee recognized that peacekeeping operations continued to play a crucial role in conflict prevention, while facing increasing challenges, welcomed all efforts to peacefully resolve differences and disputes through dialogue and consultation, and emphasized the need for and importance of cooperation in that regard.**

134. **The Committee commended the Department on its efforts to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers and mission personnel, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to fulfil his responsibilities in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Security Council.**

135. **The Committee welcomed the Secretary-General's continued focus on the primacy of politics in the prevention, mediation and resolution of conflicts, and encouraged the Department to work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that peacekeeping operations were designed and deployed in support of viable political processes and solutions on the ground.**

136. **The Committee fully supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping, including through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its implementation plan, Action for Peacekeeping Plus, and reaffirmed the role of peacekeeping, as well as the importance of developing overarching, coherent political strategies through collective and integrated effort.**

137. **The Committee welcomed the work of the Department to incorporate lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments made to its programme owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

138. **The Committee commended the work of the Department to mainstream a gender perspective into its work, including through the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the full implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.**

139. **The Committee emphasized the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat, as well as the need to strengthen risk management, the internal control framework, results-based management and transparency. The**

Committee also emphasized the importance for the Department of having a reliable audit, investigation and evaluation system. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 67/253, in which the Assembly welcomed the progress made towards the implementation of the enterprise risk management system, and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect the application of enterprise risk management in the Department's future programme plans.

140. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department's programmatic activities are presented in line with mandates from the General or the Security Council.

141. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

#### **Overall orientation**

##### ***Paragraph 5.1***

Delete “, in particular Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 2250 (2015), 2282 (2016) and 2436 (2018), as well as General Assembly resolutions 60/180, 70/262 and 74/277”.

##### ***Paragraph 5.2***

After “in line with the commitments set out in the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations” add “, taking into account views expressed by the Member States”.

##### ***Paragraph 5.2 (d)***

After “Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System”, insert “, as part of the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework,”.

#### **Legislative mandates**

##### ***Paragraph 5.11***

#### **General Assembly resolutions**

##### **Insert**

**76/84 B** United Nations global communications policies and activities

#### **Evaluation activities**

##### ***Paragraph 5.14***

After “Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System”, insert “, as part of the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework”.

##### ***Paragraph 5.16***

After “Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System”, insert “, as part of the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework”.

## **Subprogramme 2**

### **Military**

#### ***Table 5.8***

In item 6, replace “peacekeeping intelligence” with “peacekeeping-intelligence/information gathering and analysis”.

## **Subprogramme 4**

### **Policy, evaluation and training**

#### ***Paragraph 5.59 (b)***

After “Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System” insert “, as part of the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework”.

#### ***Paragraph 5.61***

After “Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System” insert “, as part of the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework”.

#### ***Figure 5.V***

After “Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System” insert “, as part of the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework”.

#### ***Table 5.15***

After “Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System” insert “, as part of the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework”.

## **Programme 5**

### **Peaceful uses of outer space**

142. At its 8th meeting, on 3 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 6\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan for 2023 by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2022/13](#)).

143. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and, together with another representative of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

#### **Discussion**

144. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for strengthening international cooperation in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes, advancing the use of space science and technology and their applications, and increasing the understanding of the normative framework that guides the conduct of outer space activities. A delegation expressed appreciation that the plan was succinct yet rich with the requisite information. Another delegation expressed support for the Office’s mandate as the custodian of the United Nations treaties governing the rights and obligations of States

in space. The delegation noted that the Office served as a key multilateral forum for fostering conducive environments that strengthened the safety, stability and sustainability of space activities and built capacity in space law and policy. It expressed appreciation for the Office's role as the substantive secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subcommittees and working groups. It was noted that, from year to year, the Office would set itself ambitious goals and expand its programme activities.

145. A delegation noted the importance of the long-term sustainability of the outer space environment and emphasized its support for an inclusive approach to capacity-building and the implementation of the guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. The delegation expressed the view that it was important to understand what was stopping countries from being able to implement the guidelines, and it welcomed the Office's views in that regard.

146. In the context of global geopolitical confrontation, it was noted that space was increasingly becoming the object of a senseless arms race. It was also observed that gaps in the legal regulation of the uses of outer space had yet to be filled. A delegation commented that the elimination of the gaps would be facilitated in particular by the adoption of a treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, and in that regard, it referred to the joint Russian-Chinese initiative aimed at banning an arms race in outer space as a good example.

147. It was commented that access to the space industry should be used exclusively for educational and scientific purposes aimed at achieving progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The view was expressed that space was a game-changer, especially in terms of contributing to the achievement of the Goals, and a delegation emphasized its support for access to space for all Member States for science, research and development. A delegation welcomed the "Space2030" Agenda, as an important enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The delegation noted that the "Space2030" Agenda could play an important role in supporting both the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Glasgow Climate Pact. In addition, the delegation welcomed the agreement of the "Space2030" Agenda in the 2021 plenary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

148. A delegation welcomed the increased engagement with civil society and other stakeholders to support the work of the Office. Another delegation noted the increased cooperation of the Office with non-governmental organizations, referring to paragraphs 6.4 (c), 6.8 and 6.23 of the report. In that regard, the view was expressed that the main function of the Office, as indicated in paragraph 6.4 (a), was to facilitate the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The delegation observed that the Committee acted as an intergovernmental platform for discussing topical issues relating to international space law and that therefore, in its assessment, such close cooperation with non-governmental organizations was beyond the mandate of the Office, noting that it was not aware that the Committee had advocated the strengthening of such cooperation. The delegation noted that it was not convinced that paragraph 6.4 (c) provided grounds to conclude that, by working with Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to promote the responsible use of outer space, the Office could achieve agreement on principles for future space governance. The same delegation stated that the substantive and open consideration of those issues should be carried out within the framework of the General Assembly and its Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In that regard, it was observed that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies codified the principles of international space law and was the basis for

discussions on the research and use of outer space and that the harmonization of rules and standards outside the Committee would carry serious risks.

149. The view was expressed that it was unclear how the work of the Office outlined in paragraph 6.4 would contribute to the expected results of greater understanding, acceptance and application of the international legal regime governing outer space activities (paragraph 6.6 (b)) and an increased number of countries with access to space, in particular developing countries (paragraph 6.6 (c)). Further information was requested on the new partnerships referred to in paragraph 6.6 (e).

150. With regard to paragraph 6.4 (d), a delegation emphasized that technical assistance to Member States should be provided at their request. Another delegation expressed particular appreciation for the technical assistance provided to Member States that were just beginning to incorporate space activities into their programmes and noted that it had made appeals to the Committee for the earmarking of resources for assistance with regard to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities in such countries.

151. With reference to paragraph 6.14, further information was requested regarding the development of an online platform, including its financing, in connection with the registration of space objects.

152. With regard to programme performance in 2021, on increased compliance with the international legal regime for objects launched into outer space, a delegation welcomed the contribution reflected in the performance measure relating to the number of space objects identified and for which the current total registered had been reported to the Secretary-General.

153. With regard to planned results for 2023, under result 1: increasing access to space, a delegation noted that the work of the programme had contributed to one more State developing and launching its first satellite, which had brought the total number of such States to 6 out of the 13 planned, representing an implementation rate of about 46 per cent, and the delegation requested further information on what was being done to improve the implementation. The same delegation expressed appreciation for the actual performance for 2021 reported under result 2: a more secure global navigation satellite systems spectrum, which had contributed to 388 specialists receiving access to training, in excess of the planned target of 103. The delegation requested clarification as to whether the allocated funds had been sufficient to cover all training.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

154. **The Committee welcomed the contribution of the Office to the promotion of international cooperation on space activities, in particular its efforts to strengthen the capacity of a greater number of developing countries to use space science and technology, and encouraged the Secretary-General to further leverage cooperation with other United Nations agencies and Member States in that respect.**

155. **The Committee recalled the importance of the Office continuing to focus on its core functions, in particular being the secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, performing its duties as the register for space objects and raising awareness of the need to coordinate actions regarding space debris.**

156. **The Committee welcomed proposed improvements to the registration of space objects through the development of an online platform to modernize the registration process.**

157. The Committee noted the continued increase in the number of space objects launched every year and reiterated the importance of efforts of the Office of Outer Space Affairs in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to protect the spectrum.

158. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office to increase its technical support and services to Member States in using space to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

159. The Committee welcomed the implementation of the Space for Women project and highlighted the importance of increasing women's empowerment in the areas of space science, technology, innovation and exploration, and of advocating greater awareness in the corresponding education in collaboration with relevant partners.

160. The Committee welcomed the action being taken by the Office in response to the recommendations of the evaluation of the Beijing office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, including involving more partners and stakeholders, among them academia and regional and other United Nations entities, in the design of the programme activities of the office.

161. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

**Programme of work**

**Strategy and external factors for 2023**

*Paragraph 6.4 (c)*

Replace “responsible use of outer space” with “peaceful use of outer space”.

Replace “the implementation of the international regime governing space activities” with “the implementation of the international legal framework governing space activities”.

Replace “contributions to a global regime to coordinate space traffic and agree on principles for the future governance of outer space activities” with “assistance to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in further developing the governance of outer space activities”.

*Paragraph 6.4 (d)*

After “technical advisory support to assist States”, insert “, upon their request,”.

*Paragraph 6.6*

After item (e), add item (f), reading:

“(f) Continued focus on a contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.”.



## Programme 6

### Legal affairs

162. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 7 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 8\)](#)).

163. The Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar 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, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

### Discussion

164. Delegations expressed support and appreciation for the work of the Office of Legal Affairs, which, as the central legal service of the United Nations, dealt with a broad range of issues, including international law and its codification, the law of the sea, international trade and criminal justice. Some delegations welcomed the support provided by the Office to the General Assembly, its Sixth Committee (Legal Committee) and other bodies involved in public international law. Some delegations, noting that the Committee had previously not been able to agree on recommendations for the programme for the Office, expressed the hope that it would manage to do so at the current session.

165. A delegation recognized the positive impact of the Office's work, as reflected in the programme plan, which was in line with its diverse and complex mandate. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the Office's contribution to international justice and accountability, which was well within its mandate. A third delegation expressed appreciation for the presentation of the report.

166. A delegation recalled General Assembly resolution [76/122](#) on the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in which the Assembly had required the commencement of the United Nations-United States of America arbitration provided for in section 21 of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations. The delegation said that the Office had a key role to play in that arbitration, which should have been reflected in its programme of work.

167. With regard to paragraph 8.2, under "Mandates and background", a delegation expressed its view that the reference to the "Meeting of the States parties to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea", should be corrected to say "Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea".

168. A delegation noted that the Office would contribute to efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse by both United Nations personnel and non-United Nations security forces operating under a United Nations mandate (para. 8.6). The delegation said that it would be better for the Office to focus on preventing such acts and improving the internal culture and the moral qualities of personnel to ensure compliance with the internal code of ethics in the conduct of official duties.

169. With regard to the mandate of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) (para. 8.11), a delegation noted that the Office would ensure the widespread adoption and use of harmonized and modernized substantive private law rules to govern international commercial transactions, strengthen technical

cooperation and promote the participation of developing countries in the law-making activities of UNCITRAL. The delegation asked why “international commercial transactions” had been highlighted, since it was only one of the many areas of activity of UNCITRAL.

170. With reference to paragraph 8.13, a delegation noted the Office’s efforts to incorporate the lessons learned from, and best practices related to the adjustment and adaptation of its programme in response to, the pandemic. In that regard, the delegation sought clarification on the type of events and meetings conducted online or in a hybrid format in lieu of in person. The delegation said that the use of online or hybrid formats had no advantage over in-person meetings and should not set a precedent, with the use of such formats an exceptional measure necessitated by the pandemic. Another delegation, noting that the Office had provided vital advice to principal organs on operating and making decisions in the light of COVID-19-related restrictions, asked for more information on the lessons that the Office had learned and on its experience of the process, including the conduct of virtual meetings.

171. A delegation noted that the objective of subprogramme 1, Provision of legal services to the United Nations system as a whole, was to ensure respect for and adherence to public international law and to develop international justice and accountability (para. 8.25). The delegation sought clarification regarding the Office’s mandate to develop “international justice and accountability”. In respect of paragraph 8.26 (b), the delegation sought clarification on the mandate for providing advice to United Nations-assisted criminal tribunals and their oversight bodies and other international accountability mechanisms. The delegation said that criminal tribunals created by the United Nations was an administrative function, which should be correctly reflected in the objective and strategy.

172. With regard to the programme performance in 2021, and the entry into force of the status-of-mission agreement for the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan, a delegation noted that the phrase “the status-of-mission agreement for UNITAMS, which was concluded and entered provisionally into force on 4 July 2021” (para. 8.28) was not legally correct. The delegation said that an international treaty could either enter into force or be temporarily applied from the date of signing.

173. With regard to table 8.6, in which the deliverables for subprogramme 1 were set out, a delegation noted the reference to “support for one United Nations criminal tribunal and its oversight body and other international accountability mechanisms”. The delegation asked whether “other international accountability mechanisms” referred to the International Criminal Court. As not all States Members of the United Nations were parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the delegation said that (if the reference was indeed to the Court) it would be difficult for some States to support the activities of the Office.

174. With regard to subprogramme 2, General legal services provided to United Nations organs and programmes, a delegation noted the reference to “various partnership agreements with Member States, civil society and the private sector in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals” (para. 8.45). The delegation said that partnerships with research and training institutes were not mentioned, suggesting that the establishment of such partnerships would have supported the achievement of the Goals.

175. With regard to subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, a delegation suggested that the phrase “interpretation of the norms of international law” would have been more correct than “perception of the norms of international law” from an international legal perspective. Another delegation expressed deep appreciation for the work undertaken under the subprogramme,

particularly the initiative to organize the United Nations Regional Courses on International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with ECLAC and Governments of the region. The delegation noted that the courses had provided an opportunity for developing countries and countries with emerging economies to deepen their knowledge of international law and the legal work carried out by the United Nations and its associated bodies. The delegation also said that the cooperation between participants and the exchange of professional experiences at the regional level were particularly valuable. A delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the Codification Division and for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which it hoped would continue. Another delegation suggested that there was room for improvement in respect of results 2 and 3.

176. With regard to subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, a delegation noted the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen Governments' capacity for sustainable and integrated ocean governance. Another delegation sought clarification on the strategy and, in particular, on how the tasks listed in paragraph 8.65 could result in an increase in the number of States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and agreements on the implementation of its individual provisions.

177. With regard to subprogramme 5, Progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of the law of international trade, a delegation noted the importance and relevance of the activities under the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. Another delegation said that the reference to "the enactment of UNCITRAL texts in national law" in paragraph 8.78 (b) would be more correct from a legal standpoint if the text were revised to read "the adaptation of national legislation to UNCITRAL texts". Another delegation noted the important work undertaken by UNCITRAL on the harmonization and unification of international law – for example on international arbitration. The delegation acknowledged the considerable work undertaken by UNCITRAL over the past 20 years, including its provision of support on matters related to international trade law to academic institutions. The delegation said that holding sessions in both Vienna and New York had made it difficult to follow the discussions and asked why the sessions could not be held in a single location. Another delegation welcomed the automation in commercial transactions reflected under result 2.

178. With regard to table 8.15, containing the performance measure for result 1 under subprogramme 4 (progress in making global fisheries sustainable), a delegation said that it was premature to prescribe possible results for sustainable fisheries in relation to the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, as the Conference was to be held in 2023. The delegation suggested that the performance measures should have been aligned with the agreed language of General Assembly resolutions.

179. With regard to subprogramme 6, Custody, registration and publication of treaties, a delegation expressed appreciation for the role of the Office as depositary for multilateral treaties, including its registration and publication of such treaties. A delegation said that the references to "the prevention of issues of interpretation and implementation of final clauses of multilateral treaties" and "the entry into force of multilateral treaties" (para. 8.92) appeared incorrect, as consenting to be bound by international legal instruments was the sovereign right of each State. Another delegation, acknowledging the important role of the subprogramme, asked whether there were recordings of studies or publications, including all agreements reached by States.

180. With regard to the programme performance in 2021 reported under subprogramme 6, a delegation asked why the Office had highlighted the entry into force of international treaties in the field of environmental protection (para. 8.93). Over the past 40 years, many multilateral instruments on other topics had entered into force, and the Office's selective attention to individual sectors hardly contributed to the dissemination of information and knowledge about international law as a whole.

181. Several delegations expressed full support for and confidence in the work of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, which reflected the commitment of Member States to combating impunity and ensuring justice and accountability for atrocities and other abuses committed before and after the military coup of February 2021. A delegation congratulated the Mechanism on the progress that it had achieved and welcomed the flexibility and effectiveness that it had shown by adjusting its planning in response to the challenges created by the pandemic. The view was expressed that establishing the Mechanism was within the authority vested in the General Assembly by the Charter of the United Nations, and that its establishment and placement under programme 6, Legal affairs, were mandated pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 39/2, 42/3 and 43/26 and reaffirmed in Assembly resolution 73/264. A delegation noted the vital role played by the Mechanism in collecting, consolidating, preserving and analysing evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011. The delegation said that the prepared files could be shared with national, regional or international courts or tribunals to facilitate fair and independent criminal proceedings. A delegation welcomed the rapid acceleration in the work of the Mechanism, as evidenced by the volume of information processed for sharing.

182. Other delegations expressed concern and disappointment that section II, on the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, was still included in programme 6. They reiterated that the inclusion of what they termed an illegitimate structure was inappropriate and set a dangerous precedent, as the Mechanism had been created by what they saw as an improper and politicized country-specific Human Rights Council resolution for a single Member State, and had no relevance to United Nations legal affairs. Some delegations said that the Mechanism should be removed from programme 6.

183. Several delegations expressed support for the work 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 (sect. III), which, they stressed, was vital in bringing accountability to situations of appalling wrongdoing in the Syrian Arab Republic. A delegation noted that, for over a decade, the Syrian people had endured the unimaginable and, in that regard, the Mechanism had become a vital instrument that provided prosecutors and investigators with the evidence needed to ensure criminal accountability, thereby achieving a measure of justice for the many victims. The delegation said that the Syrian people should be heard and that every Syrian should have the opportunity to seek justice. The delegation recalled that accountability and justice were essential to the international community's efforts to promote a sustainable United Nations-facilitated political process in the country.

184. Several delegations acknowledged the progress made by the Mechanism in implementing its critically important mandate to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses committed in the Syrian Arab Republic over the past decade. Some delegations said that there was a clear mandate for the Mechanism, which was set out in General Assembly resolution 71/248, and a clear need to include its work under programme 6.

185. Other delegations expressed concern and disappointment that the Mechanism was still included under programme 6. A delegation emphasized that the programme was devoted to the activities of the Office, reiterating that the inclusion of what was termed an illegitimate structure was inappropriate. Another delegation said that the General Assembly had overstepped the powers vested in it under Articles 10 to 12 and 22 of the Charter when it created the Mechanism. The delegation also said that the establishment of the Mechanism, in the absence of the consent of the Syrian Arab Republic or a resolution of the Security Council adopted pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter, violated the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. The delegation recalled that the resolution in which the Assembly had established the Mechanism had been adopted without the consent of the host country and been drafted and agreed upon by a group of interested States against the will of the Syrian Arab Republic.

186. The delegation said that the Mechanism should not be financed from the United Nations budget, noting that there was limited reporting and a lack of accountability in relation to the use of funds by the Mechanism. Some delegations suggested that the Mechanism should be removed from programme 6 and from the regular budget altogether.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

187. **The Committee recommended, in line with General Assembly resolution [76/236](#), that the General Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, review the programme plan for programme 8, Legal Affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

## **Programme 7 Economic and social affairs**

188. At its 9th meeting, on 3 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 9\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

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

### **Discussion**

190. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the work carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, noting with satisfaction that the Department continued to support global post-pandemic recovery and that its subprogrammes remained effective and up to date. A delegation specifically welcomed the support provided by the Department for the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development. The work of the Department to assist small island developing States was also recognized by several delegations.

191. A delegation expressed support for the activities of the Department, including efforts made towards recovery and to support sustainability in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The delegation also expressed support for the full implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in full compliance with its

fundamental principles. It added that more substantive cooperation between the Department and the resident coordinators would help to intensify the provision of assistance to Member States so as to help them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals at the national level.

192. Appreciation was also expressed for the work of the Department on capacity-building in statistics in the least developed and developing countries, and for the support provided to the intergovernmental machinery of the Organization, including the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum, which remained key to the efforts made by Member States to review, and show progress towards attaining, the Sustainable Development Goals.

193. A delegation expressed appreciation that proposals previously made by Member States had been taken into account in the programme plan that was currently before the Committee.

194. It was recalled that, at the previous session, owing to lack of time, the Committee had been unable to conclude its discussion on the programme, although consensus had been very close to being reached. It was also recalled that the Committee's inability to agree on the programme had been due to the fact that some delegations had proposed language on which debates had ensued that were more appropriate for the Second Committee. In that connection, a delegation urged Committee members to show maximum flexibility and to conclude its discussions on the programme on time. A delegation expressed the hope that, at the current session, the Committee would be able reach consensus on the programme efficiently, so as to provide the Department with the guidance it sought, and that the Department would not understand the Committee's lack of agreement as a lack of support for the programme. Clarification was sought from the Department about the impact on the programme should the Committee not recommend its approval to the General Assembly during the current session and on how the Committee could support the programme.

195. In relation to the outcome of the fifty-third session of the Statistical Commission, a policymaking organ under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, a delegation raised concerns over two Commission decisions contained in its report ([E/2022/24-E/CN.3/2022/41](#)), in which a number of decisions were brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. First, in paragraph (d) of decision 53/112, on health statistics, the delegation remarked that, while it strongly supported transparency in the sharing of information on all health-related aspects and firmly believed in the scientific approach to decision-making in public health policy issues, it felt that the methodology used and the results obtained by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment did not hold up to scientific rigour or rational scrutiny. It was of the view that the process had been neither collaborative, nor adequately representative, and that the data sources used for the modelling exercise had not been reliable. The delegation also stated that it had not agreed with the use of varied sources of data, which, in turn, had rendered the validity of the forecasting techniques questionable, in particular when countries such as the one represented by the delegation already had a robust system in place for collecting vital data relating to births and deaths. As a result, the delegation did not support either the process or the methodology adopted by WHO and the Technical Advisory Group, nor did it endorse the results obtained by Group. Second, the delegation recalled its concerns regarding paragraph (d) of decision 53/108, on civil registration and vital statistics, the content of which, it felt, did not fully address the concerns repeatedly expressed by the delegation, in particular on estimating excess mortality associated with COVID-19, and reiterated that the Commission had not appropriately reflected the position of the delegation's Member State on COVID-19 mortality assessment.

196. A delegation mentioned that the current day was “Duan Wu Day” in China, a day when people prayed for peace and unity. In that connection, the delegation added that peace and unity could not be achieved without development, and that that sentiment was closely related to the item currently under consideration by the Committee. The delegation remarked that sustainable development was the goal of the international community, especially developing countries, and that the continued spread of the COVID-19 pandemic undermined the achievements of global poverty eradication and development, leaving the world’s economic recovery divided and unbalanced. The delegation commented that there were new challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and that solidarity and cooperation were the only options for addressing the crisis and boosting implementation of the Agenda and post-pandemic recovery. The delegation added that the Department’s support for the intergovernmental machinery remained fundamental to the efforts made by Member States to review and ensure development progress and that analysis and technical support were central to informing intergovernmental outcomes that were intended to address global development challenges in a holistic manner.

197. Stating that the work of the Department was essential for the United Nations and, above all, for addressing development within the Organization, a delegation emphasized that eradicating poverty remained a persistent challenge that had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had endangered the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The delegation also recalled that, in several resolutions, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to follow up on the question of unilateral economic measures as a means of exerting political and economic pressure and to study the impact of those measures on the countries affected, including in relation to their ability to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions. The delegation requested that the Department expand its work in that regard. Another delegation highlighted the destructive effects of unilateral coercive measures and the right to development of people in targeted countries, as affirmed by the Assembly and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and sought information on what specific measures the Department had considered in the programme for 2023 to lessen the effects of such measures.

198. A delegation highlighted the urgent need for planning and funding to respond to sand and dust storms in Western Asia and the Persian Gulf region and requested more information on efforts to address those issues.

199. A delegation opined that the work of the Department was important to ensuring the application of common approaches by United Nations intergovernmental bodies and to strengthening inter-agency links, in order to provide support to Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The delegation was of the view that only collective involvement in resolving pressing socioeconomic problems, which included eradicating the use of unilateral coercive measures as a tool for political pressure, would help Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

200. Noting that particular attention was paid by the Department to the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, as well as to small island developing States and countries in Africa, in identifying effective policy options to accelerate the eradication of poverty and addressing inequalities, delegations emphasized that the development needs of middle-income countries also had to be prioritized. It was recalled that the need for comprehensive assistance to that group of countries had been mentioned repeatedly, including in reports of the Secretary-General. A delegation stated that a systematic and consistent approach to working with middle-income countries was lacking and that the Organization needed to work with that group of countries under a single integrated approach, which, would involve, inter alia, drawing from the experience gained through working with other groups of

countries, such as the least developed countries, and the development of a set of specific measures aimed at promoting sustainable development. In that regard, delegations recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 76/215, had called on the Secretary-General to conduct an analysis of existing capacities to support middle-income countries, including development indices, strategies and tools, in order for the issue to be subsequently considered and a system-wide response plan devised. The delegation concurred with the Department's efforts to accelerate progress in achieving sustainable development in such areas as overcoming the impact of climate change, financing sustainable development, implementing digital transformation and ensuring data accessibility and sought clarification on how it planned to implement the mandate on conducting a mapping exercise to facilitate sustainable development cooperation with middle-income countries, as contained in paragraph 23 of resolution 76/215.

201. It was recalled that, at the sixty-first session of the Committee, delegations had examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on several aspects that were included in the programme, and that middle-income countries, however, were not among the groups of countries being considered under the strategy and external factors for the programme plans for 2022 and 2023. In that connection, a delegation remarked that the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries, were all countries in fragile situations that had been subject to particular challenges by the pandemic. Specifically, it was noted that middle-income countries were not included among the countries addressed by subprogrammes 3, Sustainable development; 4, Statistics; 5, Population; 6, Economic analysis and policy; or 7, Public institutions and digital government. The delegation opined that middle-income countries must be included in the narratives of those subprogrammes so they can better respond to the specific challenges faced by those countries. The delegation expressed the hope that, as 73 per cent of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries, the issue be properly considered in order to ensure adequate support for those countries also.

202. A call was also made for coordinated support from and increased efforts by United Nations organizations and the international financial system for middle-income countries. A delegation stressed the important role of the Committee in ensuring that the recommendations put forward under its mandate respected the principle of inclusivity, so as to leave no one behind. The delegation remarked that the work of the Committee had to be inclusive of all groups of developing countries, including middle-income countries, and that the United Nations system should continue to improve the support structure it offered to developing countries, including middle-income countries. The delegation added that it was important to explore all avenues that had the potential to benefit middle-income countries, citing as an example the work of the Committee for Development Policy, which, despite not having a mandate focused on that group of countries, possessed expertise in the development and application of indices and methodologies that went beyond the current processes. Further information was sought on how the Committee could include the experience of middle-income countries in the programme plan review process, to ensure that they adequately receive the support that was needed.

203. Support was expressed for the focus of subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support and coordination for sustainable development, on post-pandemic recovery in the fulfilment of the decade of action for the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

204. Regarding subprogramme 2, Inclusive social development, the consistent foregrounding in the subprogramme of the issue of combating poverty was welcomed.



205. Concern was expressed regarding the contents of paragraph 9.51 and the performance measures presented in table 9.7 under subprogramme 3, Sustainable development. A delegation remarked that it could not support the idea that the “global road map” on energy transition should be considered as an official outcome of the high-level dialogue on energy. It opined that the road map did not reflect the broad range of opinions expressed during the dialogue and that further interaction with Member States was needed. The delegation also stated that it would request that those references be deleted. It also remarked that there was no intergovernmentally agreed goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, as mentioned in paragraph 9.51.

206. A delegation stated that subprogramme 4, Statistics, and subprogramme 5, Population, were exceptionally important for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The delegation requested that more attention be paid, in reports of the Commission on Population and Development, to measures to support birth rates and families in countries with falling birth rates and ageing populations. Regarding the Department’s analytical publications on those issues, the delegation drew attention to paragraph 9.87 of the programme plan, which contained a reference to the importance of working with national counterparts among its lessons learned, and hoped, in that regard, that that plan would be implemented as much as possible.

207. The inclusion of General Assembly resolution [76/215](#), on development cooperation with middle-income countries, in the list of mandates of subprogramme 6, Economic analysis and policy, was welcomed. In that context, a question was raised as to how the Department had planned to conduct the intended study on the existing means of support that were available to that group of countries. A delegation recalled resolutions [74/200](#) and [76/191](#), on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries, and sought additional information about the work of the subprogramme to implement those mandates and highlighted the need to reflect that work in the results section of the subprogramme.

208. The importance of the work carried out under subprogramme 7, Public institutions and digital government, as well as of the activities of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and the Internet Governance Forum, was highlighted. A delegation recalled the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/189](#) with regard to the implementation of decisions of the World Summit on the Information Society and the holding of a multilateral dialogue on internet governance issues. The delegation proposed that the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee of Experts be taken into account in the expected results of the subprogramme, including in the paragraph on improving the capacities of public servants, where focus had been placed on gender equality, when the focus on the primary requirement should have been on the professionalism of public officials.

209. Concerning subprogramme 8, Sustainable forest management, the activities conducted by the Department to support the United Nations Forum on Forests were welcomed, and a delegation expressed interest in the efforts made to address the issue of boreal and mixed forests, as well as in properly taking the contribution of forests into account in the context of climate change.

210. Regarding subprogramme 9, Financing for sustainable development, the outcomes of the subprogramme were welcomed, and particular appreciation was expressed for the work of the Department in attracting sustainable investments. A delegation cited the bold and progressive initiatives of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office in the area of global credit ratings reform and hoped that those initiatives would continue to be presented in the future. The delegation also noted the absence of Economic and Social Council resolution [2021/30](#), on open-source technologies for sustainable development, in the list of mandates of the

subprogramme and requested its inclusion. It recalled that that resolution contained a specific mandate for the Secretariat to develop the possibility of using open-source technologies.

211. A delegation stated that there had been considerable improvement in the presentation of subprogramme 9 as compared with the text examined at the previous session. It added that the current version of the programme contained a clear reference to the results of international conferences on financing for development and specific references to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was the most relevant and important document relating to financing for development. The same delegation noted, however, that paragraph 9.132 (e) contained a reference to following up on the workstreams of the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, also known as the “Canada-Jamaica initiative”. In that connection, the delegation recalled that, although the 259 policy recommendations of the Initiative had been the result of consultations among Member States, experts, academia and civil society representatives, they had not been the outcome of an intergovernmental negotiating process and had not been agreed upon by Member States. The delegation added that, although some of the policy suggestions were useful, many of the recommendations remained controversial. It further recalled that the transformation of the discussion groups into clusters within the framework of that initiative had not been mandated by Member States. The delegation therefore believed that there was no mandate for the aforementioned workstreams and that it was crucial that the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development be based on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and not on non-mandated initiatives or initiatives that had not been agreed upon. The delegation enquired about the specific intergovernmentally agreed reference for the inclusion of that element in the subprogramme, although it believed that such a reference did not exist. Similarly, another delegation requested the removal of the reference to the informal Canada-Jamaica country initiative mentioned in paragraph 9.132 (e) of the programme, in the context of references in the subprogramme to the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force and to the comprehensive national financing mechanisms.

212. A delegation encouraged the Department to continue to apply results-based management in its programme and recognized the Department’s efforts to implement recommendations made by OIOS. More detailed information was sought regarding the Department’s reform efforts and the concrete impacts that were expected in 2023. Clarification was sought on the steps that had been taken to date to ensure that the Department was aligned with the United Nations development system reform efforts and on the role of the Department in the resident coordinator system.

213. A delegation mentioned that the Department had played an important role in assisting countries in pursuing the inclusive, data-driven and people-centred policies needed to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, and it sought information on how the Department coordinated with other parts of the United Nations development system. It added that the work of the Department on sustainable development had become all the more urgent in the light of the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the recent disruptions in global trade and the looming challenges to food security. It remarked that those issues put the call to leave no one behind even more at risk and stressed that collaboration with Member States, civil society businesses and other stakeholders was critical to achieving the Goals.

214. On climate change, a delegation commented that combating climate change and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement were fundamental for economic development to be sustainable. It opined that, for development to be truly sustainable, it was necessary to take full account of the human rights dimension and of the protection of the rights of minorities, which should be appropriately reflected in the

programme plan. The delegation also stated that work remained to be done to streamline documentation, increase clarity, sharpen performance indicators and make the programme plan more about outcomes rather than outputs. As an example, the delegation referred to indicators that included the number of people attending meetings or the number of countries attending an investment fair, rather than references to the outcome of the fair. While recognizing that the Department was very much involved in organizing those investment fairs, the delegation stressed that the Department did not simply need people to attend those events, but that such events should lead to real increases in investment, which should, in turn, be reflected in the indicators of the subprogramme.

215. A delegation recalled that, in the previous session, the programme had lacked a strategic approach and contained dispersed goals. The delegation considered that the presentation of the programme currently before the Committee was one about means and not goals, one that was focused on the organizational chart and not on the goals of the Department, and that it was therefore quite difficult for the Committee to locate the goals set under the management reform, as set forth by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: implementing a new management architecture for improved effectiveness and strengthened accountability” ([A/72/492/Add.2](#)). The delegation added that such considerations had led to a lack of consensus on the programme at the previous session and opined that the overabundance of information in the present document, the structuring of which was based strictly on cost structure, with an emphasis on means, did not properly reflect the goals set by the Secretary-General as part of his reforms. The delegation appealed to the Department to return to the logic of managing by objectives and results, as was put forth by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly.

216. Another delegation observed that a new budget structure was being reviewed and that there was a change of management paradigm in the Organization, which was an element that the Committee needed to take into account when evaluating the programme before it.

217. A question was raised regarding financing for sustainable development, in particular in regard to the decade of action, in the context of which countries were requested to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that connection, an observation was made that effective achievement of the Goals required the mobilization of financial resources from various sources, the most important of which were domestic sources, which, although inadequate, were considered to be the most predictable and reliable sources of financing. A delegation commented that, for many countries, domestic resources constituted over 70 per cent of the financing required to support the achievement of the Goals and that countries with revenue below 50 per cent of that requirement would find it difficult to finance achievement of the Goals, especially as many of the least developed countries had a gross domestic product below 50 per cent of the amount needed. Information was therefore sought concerning initiatives that the Department would undertake to resolve the situation. The delegation also stated that official development assistance (ODA) was a critical complement to domestic resources and played a vital role in stimulating the mobilization of those resources. It expressed the view that ODA should be scaled up and target least developed countries and transitional economies in order to leave no one behind. Clarification was sought on the initiatives that the Secretariat would undertake to ensure that ODA donor countries met the long-standing commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as aid to developing countries.

## Conclusions and recommendations

218. The Committee commended the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the important work carried out in support to Member States with regard to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

219. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Department to improve collaboration across its subprogrammes.

220. The Committee welcomed the Department's close coordination with United Nations system entities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

221. The Committee recognized the role that virtual and hybrid meetings have played in facilitating the delivery of programmes in 2021, including the high-level political forum, by facilitating participation in meetings, including of small island developing States, and encouraged the Department to continue to use technology to increase the inclusivity of meetings as appropriate.

222. The Committee recognized the role of middle-income countries and the need for them to be included in the United Nations system-wide plans and programmes and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of Assembly resolution [76/215](#) and other relevant resolutions pertaining to the needs of middle-income countries.

223. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

### Overall orientation

#### Strategy and external factors for 2023

##### *Paragraph 9.4*

At the end of paragraph, insert "In addition, middle income countries still face significant challenges to achieve sustainable development."

##### *Paragraph 9.8 (c)*

Replace "women and girls, and people in vulnerable situations" with "the poorest and the most vulnerable, including women and girls".

##### *Paragraph 9.13 (c)*

After "Governments and other", insert "relevant".

### Legislative mandates

#### *Paragraph 9.18*

#### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

##### Insert

[21/30](#) Open-source technologies for sustainable development

#### Subprogramme 3

#### Sustainable development

##### *Paragraph 9.51*

Replace the last sentence with the following: "In its resolution [76/210](#), the General Assembly tasked the Secretary-General with continuing

engagement with the Member States on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 as a follow-up to the high-level dialogue”.

#### **Subprogramme 7**

##### **Public institutions and digital government**

###### ***Paragraph 9.106 (d)***

Replace “including bottom-up engagement on issues” with “including discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance”.

###### ***Paragraph 9.107 (d)***

After “with a focus on”, insert “improved professionalization of the public sector workforce and”.

#### **Subprogramme 8**

##### **Sustainable forest management**

###### **Strategy**

###### ***Paragraph 9.119 (h)***

After “Member States”, insert “, as appropriate,”.

After “on issues related to”, insert “sustainable forest management, including on”.

###### **Planned results for 2023**

**Result 1: progress towards advancing the United Nations strategic plan for forests for stakeholders**

###### **Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

###### ***Paragraph 9.123***

Replace “developing bankable project proposals to gain access to financing” with “facilitating access to financing and assisting Member States in mobilizing resources”.

**Result 3: strengthened effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests to address climate change and biodiversity loss**

Replace title with “strengthened effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests, including the United Nations forest instrument, to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including on climate change and biodiversity loss”.

###### ***Paragraph 9.127***

After “global biodiversity framework”, add “, consistent with the mandates and priorities of respective intergovernmental agreements and initiatives”.

###### ***Paragraph 9.128***

Replace the paragraph with following:

“The lesson for the subprogramme was that it needed to increase its focus efforts, including the communications strategy on

highlighting the interdependent role of forests in enabling the world to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to climate change adaptation and maintaining eco-system services. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will continue to develop knowledge-promoting materials, conduct both in-person and virtual capacity-building efforts (training workshop, as appropriate) and work in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional partners, major groups and United Nations country teams to ensure action at all global, regional and national levels. The subprogramme will contribute to enhancing the contribution of forests regarding issues related to climate change and biodiversity loss, by following up on the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and on work towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, bearing in mind the mandates of different organizations and entities.”.

*Table 9.27*

**B. Generation and transfer of knowledge**

***Deliverable 5***

Replace “United Nations forest instrument and other various issues related to forests” with “global forest goals and United Nations strategic plan for forests”.

***Deliverable 7***

Replace “development” with “forest management”.

**Subprogramme 9**

**Financing for sustainable development**

***Paragraph 9.132 (e)***

Replace the paragraph with the following:

“In alignment with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and existing mandates, follow up on the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond.”

**Programme 8**

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

224. During its sixty-second session, the Committee considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 10\)](#)).

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

**Discussion**

226. Delegations expressed their support and appreciation for the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked

Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. A delegation said that the world was currently facing many grave challenges, including profound changes and the worst pandemic in a century. Gaps in wealth, recovery, development and immunity were widening and having a severe impact on global development. In that context, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States were facing multiple challenges and difficulties; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would never fully be achieved if those countries were left behind. Delegations highlighted the valuable and important work of the Office of the High Representative and welcomed its programme plan for 2023, in particular the strategies and objectives that it contained, which included strengthening policies to eradicate poverty in the least developed countries and accelerating structural transformation of their economies, improving the connectivity of landlocked developing States and reducing their trade transaction costs, and increasing the overall resilience of small island developing States.

227. A delegation said that the Office had an important role to play in supporting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in their recovery from the pandemic, in particular given the capacity constraints faced by many of them. The Office had made a meaningful contribution towards fostering dialogue on global responses to the pandemic as they related to the three groups of countries. It was important that the Office improve its coordination across the United Nations system to ensure that the Organization was responding effectively to the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Another delegation said that crises had multiplied and inequalities had been exacerbated owing to the pandemic and that it was therefore necessary to strengthen international cooperation with those three groups of countries, so as not to leave anyone behind. A further delegation emphasized that the pandemic had had a disproportionate impact on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. In a world still in the grip of a global pandemic, the Office should remain steadfast in providing multifaceted support for the most vulnerable countries on their road to a sustainable recovery, the accelerated implementation of their programmes of action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was to be hoped that the Office would continue with its broad mandate to assist the 91 most vulnerable countries.

228. The same delegation noted with appreciation that, in 2023, the Office would continue to advocate strongly on behalf of the 91 most vulnerable Member States in order to ensure that their special needs and challenges remained the focus of global solidarity, including by building their resilience and providing them with better and more timely access to financial relief, given that many continued to struggle with the impacts of the pandemic, climate change and debt.

229. With reference to paragraph 10.5, a delegation welcomed the fact that the Office would continue to raise awareness, mobilize support and build consensus with regard to the most vulnerable countries. It was noted that mobilized resources would also enable the most vulnerable countries to benefit from capacity-building activities, peer learning and the exchange of best practices relevant to the Goals and to build resilience in the aftermath of the pandemic.

230. A delegation, referring to paragraph 10.10, asked whether any alternative strategies for the implementation of the programmes of action and the achievement of the Goals were available for countries that were undergoing a period of instability. Another delegation sought more information about the evaluation activities that were listed in paragraph 10.16. It was pointed out that the evaluation of the project on strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries through the provision of an enabling environment for investment in sustainable energy, which had

been completed in 2021, had guided elements of the proposed programme plan for 2023.

231. A delegation noted that convening events through virtual means had enabled the Office to reach a wider audience and increase the number of stakeholders, despite the obstacles resulting from limited connectivity in some countries. The fact that the Office intended to opt for meeting modalities that built on the advantages of virtual and in-person interactions, while minimizing the shortcomings thereof, was also welcomed. Another delegation requested the Office to continue to enhance its partnerships with other United Nations entities under the development pillar, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional economic commissions, so as to support the full achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

232. A delegation expressed the hope that, in the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031, the Office would focus its work on the most significant issues for that category of countries, namely to accelerate socioeconomic development and build domestic growth potential, develop the real production sector and establish their own capital markets. Another delegation stressed that the Office had the added responsibility of providing comprehensive support for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Doha in March 2023, and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in 2024.

233. A delegation said that, given that the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had once again been postponed, from 2022 to 2023, the focus for the least developed countries was on pivoting towards building innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships that would boost the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action at a time of deepening inequalities and crisis. Information was sought on whether the Doha Programme of Action would be fully implemented by 2031 or would need to be reviewed and on what measures were being taken to ensure that the Conference would not be postponed again.

234. A delegation noted with satisfaction that the programme for 2023 adequately took into account the preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. Moreover, it was an important programme covering work related to some of the most vulnerable countries. Another delegation highlighted the need to prioritize the economic resilience of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and their ability to adapt to climate impacts. It added that it had announced a new small island developing State capacity and resilience programme, which was aimed at building capacity to access funding and scale up technical solutions. It was important to ensure that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States were present at deliberations and that their voices were heard, as they were often on the front line when it came to climate change. While in-person meetings were vital, small island developing States, in particular, would have to travel long distances to attend, whereas virtual and hybrid meetings provided an opportunity for them to be more engaged. Clarification was therefore sought as to how virtual or hybrid meeting formats were managed in terms of inclusivity.

235. A delegation called upon the Office to continue to implement the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. It was of the view that close coordination with the United Nations system should also be maintained so as to ensure that the Organization effectively addressed the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked



developing countries and small island developing States, including by seeking synergies and simplifying processes towards the achievement of the Goals.

236. The same delegation stated that the research capacity in many of the least developed countries was limited and the share of their scientific publications amounted to less than 1 per cent of the global total in 2019, despite accounting for 13 per cent of the world's population. Furthermore, it was observed that those countries had few female researchers. It was noted that the Office had invited researchers from the least developed countries and those working on least developed countries to various meetings that it had organized to discuss the main challenges faced by those countries. In 2021, the Office had organized an academic conference, the Least Developed Countries Future Forum, which had been held in hybrid format. Out of the 240 researchers and policymakers who had attended, some 70 had participated in person, half of them women.

237. With regard to subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, and its performance indicator for 2023, which concerned the appointment by 25 landlocked developing countries of national focal points for the Vienna Programme of Action, clarification was sought as to whether any countries had already appointed such focal points. Detailed information on the intended functions of the national focal points and their expected contribution to the work of the Office was also requested.

238. A delegation welcomed the capacity-building that had been conducted in landlocked developing countries and requested examples of transformative projects that had been carried out. Another delegation asked whether any analytical materials had been developed to address the specific challenges faced by the least developed countries to facilitate peer learning on poverty eradication and structural transformation, including through gender mainstreaming.

239. A delegation said that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States needed support to build resilience faster against future shocks, something that could only be achieved through stronger and coordinated international cooperation. The fact that the Office had forged broad and durable partnerships was therefore appreciated. It was recognized that young people's involvement in the implementation of and follow-up to the relevant programmes of action was important, as was enhanced cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in order to foster young people's participation. Another delegation wondered whether any of the partnerships with the regional organizations in Africa could be further strengthened through the continued implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

240. Regarding subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, a delegation asked whether the intention was to integrate the criteria of the multidimensional vulnerability index for those countries. A delegation representing a small island developing State said that it was confident that the multidimensional vulnerability index could be finalized and used by December 2022, as had been envisaged by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/203](#), on follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which would make it possible to better identify and direct the required financing to such countries. Another delegation noted that, according to table 10.15, there had been no regional or interregional review meetings on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway in the past three years, while eight such meetings were planned for 2023. Information on that ambitious target was requested.

241. A delegation noted that the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action would continue to guide the Office and coordinate its

work in support of landlocked developing countries, which had also contributed to the implementation of climate-resilient transport infrastructure projects. Training workshops would continue to be organized for policymakers in landlocked developing countries, equipping them with the knowledge and networks to deliver transformative projects. Information was requested on the number of countries in which climate-resilient transport infrastructure projects had been implemented and on any other actions that had been undertaken to ensure the full implementation of the road map.

242. Reference was made to fragile health systems, the lack of domestic financial resources, the slowdown in global trade and unsustainably high debt levels, all of which presented urgent challenges. Resources meant for fuelling economic growth were being diverted to meet immediate humanitarian needs. The delegation said that any such support should follow the principles of financial responsibility and viability so as to avoid the implementation of projects that could increase the debt burden for vulnerable communities. Universally recognized international norms of transparency and respect for sovereignty and national priorities and balanced ecological protection and conservation standards should be followed, and the transparent assessment of project costs undertaken. Furthermore, it was just as important for project sustainability to ensure that projects were accompanied with skills and technology transfer.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

243. **The Committee commended the Office on its continuous efforts to advocate strongly on behalf of the most vulnerable Member States, support the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and continue to forge broad and durable partnerships, including within and outside of the United Nations system.**

244. **The Committee congratulated the Office on the preparation and adoption of the Doha Programme of Action and noted that the most important task ahead for the least developed countries and the international community was to ensure its effective implementation in support of the 2030 Agenda.**

245. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage the Office to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, the inter-agency task force on least developed countries graduation and continue its cooperation with the resident coordinators.**

246. **The Committee, recognizing the importance of hosting the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2023, noted that the primary focus for least developed countries was on pivoting towards building innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships that would boost the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, at a time of deepening inequalities and during the recovery from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

247. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage the Office to help to advance the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and enhance trade and connectivity for landlocked developing countries.**

248. **The Committee noted that the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action would continue to guide the Office and coordinate its work in support of landlocked developing countries, which had also contributed to the implementation of climate-resilient transport**

infrastructure projects. The Committee also noted that, in accordance with the road map, training workshops would continue to be organized for policymakers in landlocked developing countries, equipping them with the knowledge and networks to deliver transformative projects.

249. The Committee welcomed the timely update to subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, to reflect General Assembly resolution [76/203](#) and preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

250. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage the Office to help to implement the Samoa Pathway, including through the national focal point networks and the roll-out of a multidimensional vulnerability index to improve access to development finance.

251. The Committee noted the importance for the Office of intensifying its advocacy efforts in relation to resource mobilization for sustainable development in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in particular with respect to public and private financing, including innovative finance, for resilience-building, thereby supporting Member States to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

252. The Committee recognized that young people's involvement in the implementation of and follow-up to the programmes of action on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States was important. The Committee noted that the Office would enhance its cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to foster the involvement, participation and input of young people in intergovernmental negotiations and United Nations processes.

253. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

**Legislative mandates**

***Paragraph 10.14***

***General Assembly resolutions***

**Subprogramme 1**

**Least developed countries**

**Insert**

**[75/233](#) Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system**

**Subprogramme 2**

**Landlocked developing countries**

**Insert**

**[75/233](#) Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system**

**Subprogramme 3**  
**Small island developing States**

**Insert**

**75/233**    **Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system**

**Subprogramme 3**  
**Small island developing States**

**Objective**

***Paragraph 10.45***

Replace “sustainable economic, social and environmental resilience” with “sustainable development and economic, social and environmental resilience”.

**Programme 9**  
**United Nations system support for the African Union’s Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation**

**Commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063**

254. At its 11th meeting, on 6 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union’s Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#)).

255. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introduced the programme and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

**Discussion**

256. Delegations expressed support and appreciation for the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in supporting the development of the African continent, being responsible for ensuring a coherent and integrated approach for United Nations support for Africa and addressing gaps, following up on the implementation of all relevant global summit and conference outcomes of the United Nations related to Africa, coordinating and guiding the preparation of Africa-related reports and inputs, initiating reports on critical issues affecting Africa, monitoring the implementation of commitments made towards the development of Africa and coordinating global advocacy in support of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), currently subsumed under Agenda 2063 of the African Union. Delegations highlighted the importance of the coordination role of the Office in that regard and in supporting Agenda 2063. A delegation asked about the extent to which the programme included plans to mobilize the large resident coordinator system network and cooperate with the Development Coordination Office, which were the conduits for the success of Agenda 2063.

257. Several delegations noted that the change in the name of the programme recommended by the Committee at its sixty-first session, in 2021, had benefited the work of the programme, as it provided more clarity about its purpose, and that the programme was better structured, more concise and understandable, and more in line

with its direct mandate. A delegation welcomed the proposed changes to the names of the three subprogrammes with the aim of ensuring their alignment with both Agenda 2063 and the new programme strategy, as indicated in paragraph 11.6.

258. Another delegation stressed the importance of the programme and its aspirations – strengthened coordination, coherence and alignment of the United Nations in Africa, including support to the African Union – and emphasized that the programme would be effective only if there were adequate engagement and monitoring with stakeholders and a strong relationship with the African Union. The delegation remarked that ECA could play a strong role in supporting regional integration and that the African Continental Free Trade Area was an opportunity to support the recovery from the pandemic and address food sovereignty concerns. The delegation also said that the Green Recovery Action Plan of the African Union offered a blueprint for some of the proposed work and, in that connection, requested an update on United Nations support in relation to the Action Plan.

259. A delegation reaffirmed the six cluster areas allocated for the work of the programme. The delegation expressed support for the emphasis in the programme on the need for recovery from the socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic, youth issues and the promotion of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The delegation considered important the topics of access to energy and a balanced approach to the energy mix, which took into account all three aspects of sustainable development. The delegation welcomed the activities relating to the digitalization of health care and the development of the pharmaceutical industry on the basis of local production.

260. With regard to the pandemic, a delegation expressed concern about its continuous impact on the economic, political, security and humanitarian spheres in Africa and its exacerbation of conflict there, and recommended that the programme be focused on post-pandemic recovery and enhance partnerships with other departments covering development, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the regional economic commissions, to support Africa in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The delegation stated that, as indicated in paragraph 11.3, the pandemic had continued to prove in 2021 that no country was ready to overcome the challenges of the future on its own and that it had created an opportunity to promote a change of paradigm in the international multilateral system that was particularly relevant for Africa. The delegation added that a new narrative was needed that reflected and strengthened the role of Africa as a key stakeholder and vital player in the global arena, with its success stories and best practices to share; that brought to the global debate issues that were key for the development of the continent, such as domestic resource mobilization, the energy mix and the role of digitalization in supporting institution-building, innovation and economic growth, and were of Africa and from Africa, to be fully embraced within the United Nations and beyond; and that the programme strategy was aimed at promoting that new narrative.

261. The delegation remarked that, as the United Nations prepared for building forward and building better, it was crucial to ensure that Africa seized the opportunities created by the pandemic, in particular to promote a systemic change that would lead to the continent assuming its rightful place as a dynamic force, influential global player and partner in the multilateral system; to shift the debate towards issues that were crucial for the growth and development of Africa; and to change and own the narrative about the continent, including by communicating success stories from African countries.

262. Delegations stated that they appreciated that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications would continue to promote digitalization and the African Continental Free Trade Area as critical tools for recovery and that the three subprogrammes would increase their focus on climate adaptation and energy access to ensure that African countries had the capacity to power their industrialization and thereby increase their resilience. Several delegations stated that Africa had a significant development gap compared with the rest of the world, questioning the likelihood of the continent's achieving the planned objectives given the current pace of execution. Examples cited as reasons for the inadequate pace were the effects of climate change, a situation to which Africa contributed little; the lag in industrialization; the pandemic and the vaccination gap. The delegations asked whether it was time to think of a plan for Africa similar to the Marshall Plan put in place for Europe after the Second World War. A delegation said that Agenda 2063 was intended to be the equivalent of the Marshall Plan for Africa and asked what was missing from the Agenda for ensuring its success. The delegation suggested that the Marshall Plan and the creation of the European Community had been focused on the need to forgo some aspects of sovereignty, and it asked whether the policy orientation and plans for Africa needed to reflect a similar approach. Another delegation stated that it believed that the programme must continue to invest in long-term economic and social development through the construction of cross-border and transregional infrastructure, industrialization, poverty reduction, job creation and agricultural modernization, and it asked how likely it was in reality that Africa could achieve the strategic development goals by 2030. A delegation stressed that the continent had the youngest demographic profile in the world, suggesting that well-timed and targeted investments in human capital could harness the productive potential of the future labour force and accelerate economic growth for women and young people. The delegation stated that coordinated action was critical to achieving human capital objectives and that stand-alone reforms were not likely to bring about the results needed to achieve full health and education over the first 8,000 days of life. The view was expressed that progress was attainable and that there was consensus among development partners that investments across the first two decades of life were essential to maximize the human capital potential of a nation.

263. Delegations indicated that they supported deepened cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and that they believed that, following its reform, the Office would play a better role during the process. Another delegation said that it was important to ensure complementarity in the work of the United Nations and the African Union in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, in particular through the provision of assistance to the African Union Development Agency, and the delegation welcomed the policy of taking into account the priorities of African countries and the dialogue with the Group of African States. A delegation indicated that, together with several African countries, it had launched the Initiative on Partnership for Africa's Development, with a view to creating effective synergy among the international community to enhance the pursuit by the continent of sustainable development, and that it was prepared to conduct third-party and multi-party cooperation with relevant players.

264. The continued support of international partners for the sustainable development of Africa through financial contributions, technical support and the adoption of policy frameworks that supported African ownership and empowerment was highlighted, and the view was expressed that international organizations and partners were fully committed to the implementation of multi-stakeholder projects and programmes in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063, NEPAD and the priorities of the African Union and African countries. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union had been further strengthened through the continued implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for

Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, the renewed approach to the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the adoption of the African Union-United Nations Framework on Human Rights.

265. A delegation noted the strategy and external factors for 2023, in particular paragraphs 11.4, 11.5 and 11.7, as well as the external factor under paragraph 11.11 (a). Another delegation asked what had changed in the realignment of the priorities of African countries towards building forward and building better, as mentioned in that external factor. A delegation said that it was grateful that, as indicated under paragraph 11.13, the programme would, in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, promote, through its activities and policy recommendations, proposals that specifically fostered the inclusion of persons with disabilities and would take the measures necessary to increase the accessibility of its products and events. Another delegation emphasized that it would welcome a strong push on both gender and disability inclusion and asked how the programme would strengthen African normative frameworks and their implementation to ensure sustainable ownership.

266. With respect to subprogramme 2, Regional coordination of United Nations support for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, and subprogramme 3, Public information and awareness activities in support of Agenda 2063, a delegation requested further elaboration as to why targets had not been met under result 1 of subprogramme 3, highlighting the continent's challenges and priorities in a digital and multilingual world, and result 2 of subprogramme 2, the role of digitalization for sustainable recovery from the pandemic, in relation to the number of social media followers of *Africa Renewal*, and intra-African trade as a percentage of total trade in Africa, respectively. Another delegation asked, with regard to paragraph 11.49 (c), why content would not be translated into all six official languages and about the decision to translate content into Kiswahili.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

267. **The Committee noted with appreciation that its recommendation at its sixty-first session to change the name of the programme had been endorsed by the General Assembly.**

268. **The Committee welcomed the consistent focus in the programme on the areas in line with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and further emphasized the need for continued support for African countries, taking into account their national priorities and needs.**

269. **The Committee commended the Office of the Special Adviser for its efforts to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to United Nations support for Africa and address gaps in that support, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to promote coherence and synergy in the work of the United Nations on Africa as mandated and to ensure that the work was consistently aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.**

270. **The Committee noted with appreciation that the programme would continue to promote enhanced coherence of the United Nations system in Africa, leveraging the complementarities involving the interdepartmental task force on African affairs, to which the Office of the Special Adviser provided support.**

271. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage the Office of the Special Adviser to continue to**

work closely with United Nations development entities, ECA, regional economic communities, and regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union, in coordinating international efforts to support African countries in their ongoing management of and recovery from the pandemic.

272. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Office of the Special Adviser had developed a wide range of deliverables and activities for the promotion of youth and their inclusion in strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, taking into account the crucial role of young people in Africa in the continent's development.

273. The Committee noted with concern the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on Africa and its effects on the economy, the health system, social protection structures, employment, education and other areas critical to the development of Africa and highlighted the urgency of enhanced coordination and advocacy efforts in the work with the African Union to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage the Office of the Special Adviser to ensure that the planning and implementation of programmes and projects to address the impact of the pandemic were aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, in order to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive post-pandemic recovery.

274. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modification:

#### **Subprogramme 2**

**Regional coordination of United Nations support for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063**

#### **Planned results for 2023**

**In the title of result 2, replace “transformative” with “sustainable, inclusive and resilient”.**

## **Programme 10**

### **Trade and development**

275. At its 8th meeting, on 3 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 12\)](#) and [A/77/6 \(Sect. 13\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

276. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Deputy Executive Director of ITC introduced the programme and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

#### **Discussion**

277. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme and stated that the reports were of good quality.

278. Delegations expressed their support for the work carried out by the programme, and some delegations expressed their full support for the proposed programme plan



for 2023. A delegation commended the programme for excellent and balanced work in the interest of all developing countries, and, in that context, another delegation said that it was fundamental that the Committee achieve consensus on the programme plan, as had been done the previous year.

279. Delegations expressed the view that the work of UNCTAD and ITC was important, and, in that context, a delegation said that trade was an important tool to reduce poverty and realize development. The view was expressed that, as a crucial engine of world economic growth, trade had a vital role to play in economic globalization and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

280. A delegation underlined the importance of the cross-cutting coordination within the United Nations system, especially at a time when the world economy was struggling to recover from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had exacerbated previously existing problems. With the leadership of UNCTAD in full and cross-cutting coordination with ECLAC, ESCWA and ECA, the delegation said that it trusted UNCTAD to continue to provide technical inputs, relevant contributions and direct advice for quality public policies and for greater economic integration. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the continued coordination of international dialogue to counter the negative impacts of the pandemic on trade and the global economy.

281. With regard to cooperation with other entities, it was noted that subprogramme 4, Technology and logistics, and subprogramme 5, Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, dealt with least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing States, which were linked to programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. In that connection, a question was raised as to how action by UNCTAD related to that of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Information was sought regarding the cooperation between UNCTAD and the Office of the High Representative and the potential for any synergies and overlaps.

282. With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, questions were raised about the impact of the pandemic on the global economy and about the recovery from the pandemic, especially by the least developed countries. In that context, a question was raised regarding the measures that both organizations, UNCTAD and ITC, intended to use in regard to increasing, securing and improving market access for least developed countries.

283. The view was expressed that trade must contribute to economic recovery and that attention should be paid to recovery of less developed economies who suffered disproportionately from the crises. It was also mentioned that recovery should be an opportunity to launch processes necessary for investment in future economies and that attention should also be paid to achieving climate goals and digital transformation. A delegation mentioned that its country had taken steps to address those challenges, such as making a contribution to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility in order to enhance global resilience to COVID-19 and the implementation of the SheTrades West Africa project, in collaboration with ITC, to empower African women farmers and entrepreneurs.

284. It was further mentioned that member States must continue advancing in trade from which everyone could prosper, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, women and indigenous peoples. The view was expressed that UNCTAD should continue its work on digitization and that the pandemic had showed the great potential of digital commerce and the digital economy, which could allow micro-,

small and medium-sized enterprises and young entrepreneurs to go further, venturing into international trade.

285. A delegation expressed agreement with the approaches to provide technical cooperation support to countries in order to address the challenges exacerbated or identified by the COVID-19 pandemic and to increase their resilience to future economic shocks through building productive capacity, strengthening capacity to develop and implement policies in areas related to development finance, investment, international trade, science and technology and promoting sustainable development.

286. Delegations expressed the view that they embraced and defended multilateralism. Delegations further stated that they were convinced of the contribution that UNCTAD could continue to make to States in order to transform and diversify their economies and that international cooperation and dialogue were fundamental elements to be able to successfully address the great global challenges.

287. A delegation sought information as to the extent to which UNCTAD would be providing support to developing countries through multilateral measures to alleviate debt, bearing in mind the conditions they faced during the pandemic and that they continued to face. In that connection, information was sought on what assistance was planned for indebted countries.

288. Another delegation sought further information on cooperation between UNCTAD and international financial institutions to achieve progress towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries and to strengthen national capacities for effective debt management. Information was sought as to whether those efforts also entailed the exchange of data, statistics and expertise and, if so, whether that was done through regular cooperation or on ad hoc basis.

289. The inclusion of issues of regional integration and the promotion of dialogue between regional integration associations in the mandate of the programme was welcomed, and the view was expressed that the theme of integration should become an important focus for UNCTAD as a new dimension of multilateralism on the international agenda.

290. A delegation, which identified itself as being from a middle-income country, stated that middle-income countries were facing serious difficulties to gain access to financing for development. The view was expressed that there was an overwhelming need to counter the dramatic effects of the pandemic on the economies of middle-income countries and to achieve a green, sustainable and inclusive recovery through profound technological transformation. The challenges faced by middle-income countries were highlighted, in particular due to the difficulties in gaining access to financing and international cooperation; it was added that that also applied to economies in transition.

291. A delegation sought clarification regarding improving access to concessional financing, especially for the countries transitioning from the least developed to middle-income categories, and regarding some of the debt relief measures that the programme had planned, to assist them in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

292. A view was expressed that the formation of the mandate of UNCTAD should also take into account the interests of middle-income countries, which were home to about 70 per cent of the world's population.

293. A delegation underscored the importance of the basic mission of UNCTAD, which was supporting the inclusive development and growth of developing countries through trade, investment and technology. Another delegation noted that the 2023 proposed programme plan included, among its new results, the elimination of barriers to trade, the improvement of the participation of African countries in regional and

global value chains, support for recovery and resilience and the promotion of the digital economy and logistics, to which the delegation attached great importance.

294. Another delegation considered that, on the basis of its intersection between trade and development, UNCTAD offered a great instance of collaboration between States and a diversity of actors, a fact that was very relevant today to fulfil the commitment to leave no one behind.

295. The contribution by UNCTAD to ensuring comprehensive consideration by the United Nations system of trade and development and related issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, as well as to coordinated international dialogue on measures for the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic was recognized as significant by one delegation, and another delegation stated that the role of the programme was, now, more critical than ever in the light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

296. One delegation observed that there had been major changes in the mandates and background section of the report. It was emphasized that the mandates and background should remain stable and focused on the core and basic mandate of UNCTAD, and concern was expressed about some new elements mentioned in that part, although they were not included in the list of legislative mandates for UNCTAD.

297. A delegation noted its long-standing relationship with UNCTAD, having hosted its third session 50 years earlier. The delegation recognized that, since that time, the world had undergone significant changes, and said that the greatest global challenges were multidimensional, which made it impossible to separate the social from the economic and the environmental.

298. Regarding the strategy and external factors for 2023, appreciation was expressed regarding UNCTAD having addressed interrelated issues essential to all countries with regard to attaining sustainable economic growth and development. In that connection, it was noted that, according to paragraph 12.6 of the report, UNCTAD planned to support the building of a new integrated treatment of development economics, one that more fully integrated inclusiveness and climate change, and that, according to paragraph 12.7, UNCTAD planned to promote structural transformation and to continue to provide reliable statistical information and indicators in the areas of trade and development.

299. Delegations expressed their support for the outcome document of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, the Bridgetown Covenant. A delegation expressed its gratitude to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for her initiative and efforts to strengthen all three pillars of UNCTAD: intergovernmental dialogue, analytical work and technical assistance. The delegation expressed its appreciation that all units of the secretariat of UNCTAD had clearly reflected in the proposed programme plan for 2023 what had been adopted in the Bridgetown Covenant and stated that that gave hope for the effective implementation of the renewed mandate of UNCTAD and the achievement of excellent results on trade and development, in particular in the context of the upcoming sixtieth anniversary of the organization.

300. A delegation expressed agreement with the insights of the Bridgetown Covenant, which served to highlight growing inequalities and vulnerability, climate change and environmental degradation and the digital divide as the main global challenges on the path to economic recovery and sustainable development.

301. Also in the context of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD, a delegation welcomed the Bridgetown Covenant, and its adoption by consensus, and expressed the view that it strengthened the mandate of UNCTAD for sustainable economic growth and development. The delegation highlighted the importance of reflecting the provisions of the Covenant in the programmes and workplans of UNCTAD.

302. The same delegation noted that, under the Bridgetown Covenant, member States were urged to refrain from any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that were inconsistent with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that adversely affected the well-being of the population or that might impede the comprehensive socioeconomic development of the affected countries and/or worsen their trade relations. In that connection, the view was expressed that UNCTAD could play a role in assessing the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on sustainable development, including on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

303. Regarding evaluation, a delegation welcomed the series of responses by UNCTAD to recommendations stemming from the evaluations of projects implemented and work carried out and encouraged further efforts in the integrated framework, including in the areas of gender, environment and climate change, from a new development perspective.

304. A delegation said that it and others had long called for increased transparency and recalled that the Joint Inspection Unit, in its 2012 report on the review of management and administration in UNCTAD (JIU/REP/2012/1), had called for increased transparency to resolve one of the two key problems affecting the intergovernmental machinery. In that connection, it was noted that the 2023 proposed plan contained a call for increased trade transparency and support for transparent governance by member States but no acknowledgement or offer of a path to improved transparency at UNCTAD itself.

305. The same delegation supported the recent comments by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in favour of peer review of UNCTAD publications and stated that economic analysis was one of its most important functions. It also expressed the view that, out of concern for the objectivity of UNCTAD publications, peer review processes had been a long-standing recommendation by the delegation and others. In that connection, it was noted that the only reference to peer reviews in the 2023 proposed programme plan was in paragraph 12.48 (d) and that the paragraph did not contain a reference to UNCTAD publications, per se. A recommendation was made to include in the 2023 programme language specifying the steps that UNCTAD was planning to take to institute peer review for its publications.

306. The delegation further expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for her remarks at the eighty-third session of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Performance, held in February 2022,<sup>2</sup> in which she called for results-based management at UNCTAD. In that connection, a recommendation was made to include language expressing a commitment to results-based management in the 2023 programme plan.

307. A delegation emphasized the great importance of maintaining a rules-based, universal, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system.

308. Appreciation was expressed for new planned results (result 3) for 2023, including: increased agility in providing evidence-based and data-driven analysis to implement the 2030 Agenda for all, reflecting the challenges of member States' (subprogramme 1); reignited investment policies in support of member States' COVID-19 recovery and sustainable development (subprogramme 2); and simplified trade procedures through the Automated System for Customs Data Single Window (subprogramme 4).

<sup>2</sup> See <https://unctad.org/meeting/working-party-programme-plan-and-programme-performance-eighty-third-session>.

309. Regarding subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, the quality of the report on trade development was welcomed and an expectation was expressed that the independent point of view of UNCTAD in global processes would be taken into account in the work of the Bretton Woods institutions.

310. Regarding subprogramme 4, Technology and logistics, it was noted that the objective was to harness innovation and technology, including e-commerce and the digital economy. In that connection, a question was raised regarding what other innovations or technologies had been proposed. A question was also asked as to what had been done to increase the capacity for inclusion and sustainable trade and development, especially in developing countries.

311. A delegation said that, for subprogramme 4, value lay in its publications on the digital economy, innovation and maritime transport; the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy; and the annual E-commerce Week. The success of the project under way for those was also highlighted.

312. The same delegation also expressed support for the work under subprogramme 5, Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, in terms of diversifying exports, structural transformation and capacity-building for production in less developed countries. Another delegation welcomed the implementation of useful instruments to assess existing production issues as an index for production capacity. Information was sought regarding progress made in reverting to the practice of translating the main UNCTAD publications into all official languages.

313. With respect to the programme plan for subprogramme 6, Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development, on ITC, contained in document [A/77/6 \(Sect. 13\)](#), a delegation expressed appreciation for the Centre's efforts in using an inclusive approach to its programmes and assistance projects. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the Centre's efforts in implementing its vision to build inclusive, sustainable and prosperous economies through trade.

314. A delegation expressed gratitude for the work done by ITC in support of countries and economies in transition and expressed the hope that ITC would continue to share its projects with that group of countries in particular. The delegation pointed out the very modest results in terms of achieving target 17.11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on significantly increasing the exports of developing countries, in particular with the view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020, and stated that the work of ITC should pay closer attention to traditional ways of assisting trade, such as providing assistance in diversifying exports, carrying out an analysis of possible hospitable foreign markets and conducting work on transport and logistics infrastructure. In that connection, the delegation highlighted the importance of the organizational database of ITC and opined that access to it should be free of charge, where possible, for the most vulnerable countries.

315. Another delegation expressed support for ongoing efforts to implement the Centre's strategic plan for the period 2022–2025. The delegation welcomed the work of ITC in contributing to combating climate change by supporting business opportunities for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in markets for environmental goods and services and promoting sustainable production, consumption and climate action. In that connection, a question was raised as to how that work was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and how ITC saw it evolving in the coming years.

316. A delegation expressed support for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and welcomed the opportunity to partner with ITC to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the initiatives described in the proposed

programme plan for 2023. Appreciation was expressed for ITC support for private sector-led growth and for the Centre's focus on countries in armed conflict and its dedication to least developed countries, sub-Saharan Africa, landlocked developing countries, small and vulnerable economies and small island developing States. Another delegation welcomed the focus placed in the strategic plan for 2022–2025 on workers' well-being, inclusive trade, the environment and sustainable development and stated that that was consistent with its own trade agenda. The delegation highlighted that it had shared the Centre's interest in supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area during its formative years and that the ITC flagship One Trade Africa programme complimented the Prosper Africa initiative, led by the United States Agency for International Development, which was just getting under way. The delegation added that it was working collaboratively with ITC on issues related to e-commerce and digital trade and on developing tools that addressed sustainable growth and climate change and provided market access information for the private sector.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

317. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of UNCTAD to promote fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable non-discriminatory globalization and to pursue a prosperous and sustainable global economic environment, as well as inclusive global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, as suggested in the Bridgetown Covenant.

318. The Committee noted the efforts of ITC to increase the international competitiveness and resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, especially the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, for inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and investment.

319. The Committee noted the importance of the Bridgetown Covenant as a milestone document for UNCTAD and acknowledged the efforts made to implement the Covenant.

320. The Committee noted the programme evaluation activities conducted by UNCTAD to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of its programmatic activities, as well as its engagement with the United Nations development system reform process.

321. The Committee underlined the importance of UNCTAD and ITC continuing their efforts to support equal opportunities for women and to allow them to benefit more from international trade.

322. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modification:

#### **Overall orientation**

##### ***Paragraph 12.1***

Replace the last sentence with the following: "It will also give account to a number of essential underlying issues for sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth and development as mandated in the Bridgetown Covenant."

## Programme 11 Environment

323. At its 6th meeting, on 2 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 11, Environment, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 14\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

324. The Acting Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Deputy Executive Director of UNEP introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

### Discussion

325. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the proposed programme plan and for the UNEP programme of work. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the work done by UNEP, saying that despite the continued disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, UNEP played a key role in addressing the planet's biggest environmental challenges, including delivering on the Paris Agreement on climate change and the recently agreed Glasgow Climate Pact. According to a delegation, the environment remained a critical part of the journey in the years ahead and taking care of it was more important than ever. Another delegation considered clear waters and lush mountains invaluable assets; it welcomed the Programme's continuous efforts to reduce the effects of human activity on the climate, the loss of biodiversity and pollution in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and encouraged UNEP to continue to lead and coordinate action on environmental matters within the United Nations system.

326. A delegation observed that the planet was facing a threefold crisis: the climate crisis, the nature and biodiversity loss crisis and the pollution and waste crisis. The delegation proposed that UNEP be provided with as many resources as needed to address those crises, and stressed the importance of transparency and accountability in the use of resources. A delegation welcomed the fact that UNEP representatives had joined the meeting from Nairobi and Stockholm in a sustainable way, namely by video conference.

327. A delegation recognized that it was important that UNEP focus global efforts to address environmental degradation and crisis in a multitude of areas, including to support efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Another delegation highlighted the value of implementing the 2030 Agenda and of planetary sustainability and said that the work of UNEP would lead to achieving the Agenda. The same delegation expressed full support for the Programme's work and the implementation of its medium-term strategy for 2022–2025.

328. A delegation said that it was important to maintain UNEP as a non-politicized agency for the coordination of international efforts regarding the environment, and that the Programme should strictly adhere to its mandate. The delegation emphasized that the primary responsibility for maintaining that line clearly rested with UNEP management. The delegation noted that the UNEP programme plan was based on the medium-term strategy for 2022–2025 and that UNEP had planned to offer strategic guidance on environmental sustainability while promoting a balanced consideration of the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development. In that regard, the delegation stressed that all actions in those areas should be based on scientific facts.

329. A delegation expressed strong support for the work of UNEP. It mentioned in particular the Programme's work on scientific assessment, capacity-building, technical assistance (including with regard to air quality), chemicals and waste management, ocean issues and environmental law. The delegation expressed appreciation for the Programme's work in support of small island developing States, including to address issues related to plastic contamination of the oceans, and encouraged the Programme to continue its work in that area. Another delegation said that environmental issues were extremely important to small island developing States, since they were very susceptible to the impact of climate change.

330. In reference to paragraph 14.16 on evaluations planned for 2023, a delegation noted that no evaluations were planned for subprogramme 3, Nature action, and subprogramme 5, Chemicals and pollution action, and said that it was looking forward to receiving more information about those subprogrammes.

331. Delegations expressed appreciation to UNEP for leading and coordinating environmental actions within the United Nations system and providing strategic guidance to efforts by Member States to achieve environmental sustainability through the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. A delegation said that the Programme's continued and close collaboration with the rest of the United Nations system was important for addressing the threefold planetary crisis that, if left unattended, would have far-reaching consequences for all societies and economies. According to another delegation, it was important that the Programme's work to tackle climate change was taken forward in a coherent way across the United Nations system. In that regard, the delegation asked how UNEP was coordinating with other parts of the United Nations system, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and what action had been taken to avoid duplication.

332. A delegation said that while UNEP had a very broad and cross-cutting mandate in line with the environmental objectives and the functions and responsibilities specifically set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) and decision 19/1 of the UNEP Governing Council, it was assumed that UNEP played a role in providing general policy guidance to peacekeeping operations. The delegation asked whether UNEP had the competence, strictly speaking, to provide operational assistance to peacekeeping operations.

333. A delegation stressed the importance of the Programme's work to expand the possibilities to mitigate the effects of future zoonotic pandemics. It urged collaboration with WHO in that regard.

334. With respect to programme performance for 2021, a delegation made reference to the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of mandates, particularly in connection with travel restrictions, and the possible resurgence of COVID-19 in the near future. The delegation asked whether alternative approaches had been prepared for UNEP to fully implement its mandate. Another delegation said that the pandemic had affected the ability to collect data in 2021 under subprogramme 3, Nature action, and subprogramme 5, Chemicals and pollution action, and asked what measures had been adopted to improve data collection under those two subprogrammes. The same delegation asked whether the pandemic had caused delays in the implementation of mandates and whether that would affect the strategy and work of UNEP in the coming years. A delegation said that it saw value in supporting work to deliver a green recovery from the pandemic and delivering on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.

335. A delegation stressed that, in carrying out activities to combat climate change, it was important to adhere to the Paris Agreement and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the results



of the Glasgow Climate Pact. The delegation emphasized that all international initiatives in that area should be taken advantage of, including the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, and not only the Global Methane Pledge. The same delegation said that the transition to low-emission development should be equitable and fair and should not be politicized. The delegation further said that attention should be paid to all types of energy that could be used to combat energy poverty in the world in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 7 to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, including by harnessing new technologies in the use of traditional sources of energy.

336. In reference to paragraph 14.31 under subprogramme 2, Digital transformations in supporting environmental action, a delegation noted that work was being undertaken to enhance digital tools for the collection and analysis of feedback from users and stakeholders through a global engagement process. The delegation asked to what extent digital sense-making tools had been rolled out and what amount of data had been collected. Another delegation asked what was meant by "information and communications technologies procured in accordance with sustainability standards" in paragraph 14.31 (e).

337. A delegation asked whether, in table 14.10, the words "... on the post-2021 global biodiversity framework ..." should have read "... on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ...".

338. With regard to subprogramme 5, Chemicals and pollution action, information was requested about the work being done specifically at the subregional level, in particular in the Southern Africa subregion (see para. 14.66).

339. One delegation expressed appreciation for the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly with regard to, among other things, plastics, sustainable nitrogen management and the establishment of a new science policy on chemicals and pollutions. Another delegation agreed and expressed appreciation for the successful hosting of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of Programme, UNEP@50. The same delegation called for a strengthening of the role of Nairobi as the global environmental capital and for greater partnership and cooperation under capacity-building initiatives for the financing of efforts in the area of climate adaptation, in particular among actors in the developed world.

340. A delegation expressed appreciation for the support UNEP had provided before and during the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, in 2021. The delegation encouraged UNEP to continue to support the implementation of the outcomes of that Conference in the run-up to the twenty-seventh Conference, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022, in particular through the Programme's Global Campaign for Nature, in the run-up to the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Kunming, China, in December 2022, in raising the profile of the Leaders' Pledge for Nature and in scaling up the role of nature-based solutions.

341. A delegation commended UNEP for the way it had made use of the funds contained in the budget proposal to deliver on the Paris Agreement and fulfil all other environmental commitments. Another delegation said that the donor base of UNEP should be broadened. That delegation and expressed its appreciation that UNEP had already been working to that end.

342. With reference to the enterprise risk management project of the Secretariat, a delegation said that programmes were expected to develop their own risk registers and include in those both the corporate risks identified and the measures aimed at

mitigating them. The delegation also said that risk analyses, risk registers and risk mitigation measures should be included in the programme plans for all 28 programmes that were being considered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to inform its decisions on strategies and goals. It was noted that the proposed programme plan of UNEP included references to small risks related to some of the goals, but that it did not reflect the corporate-level risks that UNEP was facing or the impact of those corporate-level risks on the UNEP programme plan. The delegation said that the environment was obviously exposed to many risks, and asked why the Programme's corporate-level risk analysis had not been included in the proposed programme plan.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

343. The Committee commended UNEP for its work in the fields of climate change, resilience to disasters and conflicts, healthy and productive ecosystems, environmental governance, chemicals, waste and air quality, resource efficiency and environment under review, in accordance with its mandates and as set out in the relevant subprogrammes, while mainstreaming its work on resilience to disaster and conflicts, in accordance with its mandates.

344. The Committee encouraged UNEP to continue to ensure the alignment of the programme objectives with its mandate and medium-term strategy.

345. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its guidance to the Secretary-General to ensure that the terms and expressions referenced in the UNEP programmatic narrative were consistent with its mandate and in line with resolution [76/236](#).

346. The Committee appreciated work undertaken by UNEP in engaging with the United Nations country teams in collaboration with the Development Coordination Office and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary General to encourage UNEP to continue to enhance cooperation and leverage its work within its mandate at the regional, subregional and country levels.

347. The Committee welcomed the work of UNEP in supporting Member States attain a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary General to encourage UNEP to continue to comply with General Assembly resolution [53/242](#).

348. The Committee also welcomed, where appropriate, the engagement of commercial entities with the United Nations system, but noted that it was inappropriate to single out the contribution of individual commercial entities or their nationalities in programme plans.

349. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 11, Environment, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

#### **Overall orientation**

##### ***Paragraph 14.7***

Replace the third sentence with the following:

“The United Nations development system reform offers an opportunity for the United Nations to continue to address the crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”

**Legislative mandates*****Paragraph 14.12******General Assembly resolutions*****Insert**

**75/233**    **Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system**

**Subprogramme 3****Nature action*****Table 14.10******B. Generation and transfer of knowledge******Deliverable 5***

After “nature-based solutions”, add “to be implemented in a manner consistent with the relevant mandate”.

**Subprogramme 5****Chemicals and pollution action*****Paragraph 14.68***

Replace “teamed up with a Swiss air quality technology company (IQAir)” with “worked”.

**Programme 12****Human settlements**

350. At its 6th meeting, on 2 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 15\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

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

**Discussion**

352. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to support Member States and for its proposed programme plan for 2023. A delegation emphasized its appreciation for the work on urban displacement and people-centred smart cities, and the work with the urban poor. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the work done by UN-Habitat to address the challenges of sustainable urbanization, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to ensure the widest possible enjoyment of the social, economic and environmental benefits brought about by sustainable urban development. The role that UN-Habitat continued to play in the monitoring and reporting of global progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Goal 11 was also emphasized.

353. Gratitude was expressed for the work of UN-Habitat, and its intention, stated in the foreword of the report, to continue to act on its bold and ambitious vision of “a

better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world”, working closely with Member States and partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. A delegation commented that UN-Habitat promoted urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty. The delegation added that sustainable urban development had a catalytic impact on development, improving living conditions for those furthest behind. It was noted that well-planned urbanization resulting in efficient cities drove the sustainable development agenda, including social and cultural change, environmental protection and economic growth, and that sustainable urban transformation presented an opportunity to work with all types of actors, in particular those traditionally excluded.

354. A delegation welcomed the scope of the programme, suggesting that there was a need to consolidate the programme portfolio of UN-Habitat. That delegation also commented that, although the agency’s proactive approach was commendable, it was important that, when it created new tools, it give full consideration to their purpose and the extent of national or city government demand for those tools. The delegation also welcomed the steps taken to consolidate the programme, noting that two programmes (inclusive, vibrant neighbourhoods and communities and people-centred smart cities) were due to be mainstreamed across four subprogrammes.

355. The view was expressed that there was scope to improve the quality of key performance indicators across the programme. It was said that the assessment of the programme’s performance had been based on many output indicators, rather than impact indicators. For instance, there was a tendency to reference the number of people who had attended a planning workshop, which, a delegation considered, was not evidence of concrete change on the ground. The delegation expressed the hope that UN-Habitat would take more steps to identify a set of impact indicators, while acknowledging how difficult that was.

356. Further clarity was sought with regard to the purpose of new platforms and programmes, such as the global online Urban Agenda Platform. In that regard, a delegation asked how the re-establishment of the Urban Indicators Programme supported cities to make better decisions or implement more effective urban interventions.

357. With regard to the programme performance in 2021, further information was sought in relation to the work under the programme during the pandemic. A delegation asked to what extent risk management and risk analysis had been reflected in the planning of the programme for 2023.

358. With regard to the strategy and external factors for 2023, and specifically cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, it was noted that UN-Habitat would continue its close cooperation with international and regional organizations and other regional actors, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (on national urban policies), the World Bank and the European Union (on urban recovery frameworks), as well as regional development banks, as was mentioned in paragraph 15.14.

359. Delegations expressed their appreciation of the agency’s plan to maintain a focus on partnerships with local authorities and their associations and city networks, and especially its plan to continue to focus on partnerships with grass-roots organizations, foundations, international financial institutions, the private sector and academic institutions to support municipal efforts to localize the Sustainable Development Goals. Gratitude was also expressed in relation to the continued collaboration mentioned in paragraph 15.15, which related to inter-agency coordination and liaison. UN-Habitat would continue to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations regional,

economic and social commissions and strengthen its strategic partnerships with other United Nations agencies, building on the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development and agency-specific collaborative frameworks. It was noted with appreciation that UN-Habitat would also collaborate with the resident coordinator system to improve the integration of urban issues and territorial approaches into common country assessments and the formulation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

360. With regard to the spirit of leaving no one behind, it was noted with appreciation that, as described in paragraph 15.18, UN-Habitat used its strategic results framework, gender policy and action plan to integrate a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results in order to ensure women's safety and their inclusion in cities. Support was also expressed for the gender-responsive land and housing policies that improved tenure security for all.

361. Delegations also welcomed the agency's intention (para. 15.19) to continue to work with its partners, including the World Blind Union and World Enabled, to integrate disability inclusion into its programmatic work, in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. They commended the plans to create a comprehensive accessibility assessment and action plan to ensure that disability inclusion was mainstreamed throughout the organization's work, highlight good practices and identify key areas that required capacity development, technical resources and assistance.

362. A delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts by UN-Habitat to champion inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities in Kenya during the programme period, and its roll-out of initiatives and programmes. In addition, information was sought on how the programme could improve its mandated operations.

363. A delegation requested additional information regarding the role of the World Urban Forum in relation to the work of UN-Habitat and asked how the eleventh session of the Forum, to be held in Katowice, Poland, could influence the agency's activities moving forward.

364. While recognizing that matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, a delegation requested an update on how UN-Habitat planned to resolve its financial situation, as well as information on extrabudgetary resources for 2023, including whether the agency would consider reducing its use of contractual and consultancy services. The delegation also expressed concern with regard to the sustainability of resources, in view of the significance of the proportion of funding that came from voluntary contributions, to ensure the implementation of the mandate.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**365. The Committee commended UN-Habitat for continuing to implement governance reform and the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development and continuing to engage with other relevant urban stakeholders, as mandated.**

**366. The Committee welcomed the continued use of flagship programmes to fast-track the integration of the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat and scale up and increase the impact of the organization.**

**367. The Committee welcomed the continued efforts of UN-Habitat to support Member States to monitor, report on and implement the transformative commitments enshrined in the New Urban Agenda, which would enable Member States to build resilience, recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and attain structural transformation.**

368. The Committee also commended UN-Habitat for continuing to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in urban areas, including by supporting cities to decongest and digitize local markets, improve hygiene and sanitation in slums and create livelihood opportunities.

369. The Committee noted with appreciation that, under the programme plan for 2023, UN-Habitat would continue to support and drive the delivery of sustainable urbanization, reduce poverty and inequality across the urban-rural continuum, mainstream social inclusion and promote transformation of lives in cities and communities around the world.

370. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for 2023.

### **Programme 13**

#### **International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice**

371. At its 8th meeting, on 3 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect.16\)](#)). The Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan for 2023 by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2022/13](#)).

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

#### **Discussion**

373. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to contribute to countering illicit drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. Delegations also expressed their appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2023. A delegation emphasized that its commitment to countering illicit drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism was underlined by its continued support for UNODC as one of the Office's largest donors. The same delegation expressed strong support for UNODC as the primary international body with drug control and anti-crime expertise, including in the fields of cybercrime and anticorruption. Another delegation asked about actions that could be undertaken in 2023 to support countries on the front line in efforts to counter the drug problem.

374. A delegation recognized that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a global framework for sustainable development that could help countries to work toward global peace and prosperity. Another delegation welcomed the fact that programme 13 was linked to the 2030 Agenda, which would make it possible to improve at a more intensive pace the effectiveness and efficiency of the response to the interrelated challenges posed by drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. The delegation emphasized that it considered it necessary to maintain a balance between the 2030 Agenda and the main goals and objectives of UNODC, since giving primary importance to the themes of the 2030 Agenda in relation to the main elements of the UNODC mandate could distort the results of the Office's work and lead to an unjustified expansion of the mandate instead of obtaining contextual support for effective and meaningful programmatic activities.

375. A delegation suggested that UNODC should focus its work on its core mandate of assisting Member States in the areas of drug control and anti-crime expertise, including in the fields of cybercrime and anticorruption. A delegation recalled the value of the important mandate of UNODC in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Another delegation expressed the view that issues of international drug control, crime prevention, including crimes in the field of trafficking in human beings, terrorism and criminal justice were important both in the national context and at the international level.

376. Delegations referred to the length and complexity of the programme plan. A delegation welcomed the streamlining of the programme, expressed the view that only relevant documents should be included in the list of mandates and that the programme should move to simpler, usable language where possible. Another delegation suggested that the number of subprogrammes could be reduced, such as by removing the last subprogramme, to make the report easier for the reader. Another delegation noted that, while the document was very detailed, it was also difficult to read, and that the list of relevant legislation was very long.

377. A delegation noted that a preliminary draft of the programme for the Office for 2023 had been discussed in Vienna in December 2022 and that it included comments and suggestions made by interested delegations. At the same time, the delegation drew attention to some of the changes that the document had undergone; in particular, it provided a breakdown of the legislative mandates by subprogramme (in the document discussed in Vienna, all mandates had been included in a common list).

378. A delegation noted that strengthening democracy and the rule of law was the basis of its Government's reform agenda and advised that, in line with the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its country continued the multi-sectoral efforts to prevent crime and improve the criminal justice system. The delegation emphasized that its Government had put at the heart of its criminal justice reform a human-centred and human-oriented approach with the objective of transitioning from punitive to restorative justice.

379. A delegation expressed the view that the Office had done extensive work, and that the experience gained along the way was very useful in further efforts to combat drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism effectively. The view was expressed that the Office's programming, technical assistance, research, policy and normative work was indispensable to global efforts to confront those threats. A delegation noted that its country had been working towards expanding the scope of its successful cooperation with UNODC with a view to benefiting from the Office's vast knowledge, expertise and experience with regard to the strengthening of criminal justice reforms and crime prevention. The delegation noted that it had consistently implemented robust measures to prevent and combat corruption and that its law enforcement agencies had benefited from the expertise of UNODC in the area of drug control, including through the Container Control Programme, which it had joined in 2021. The same delegation noted that, at least in its part of the world, UNODC had much competition from programmatic activity in individual Member States; nonetheless, the Office's vast expertise should be put to good use, especially in key areas such as training for law enforcement agencies, anti-corruption education and awareness, and international cooperation in the face of unprecedented levels of global interconnection that created challenges surpassing the level of individual States.

380. With respect to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operating environment and the activities of the programme, a delegation noted the difficulties of implementing policies; it also noted the impact of the pandemic on public health, trafficking in persons and drug trafficking. Another delegation commended the

document for reflecting the analytical assessments of the success of the Office's response to the pandemic.

381. A question was raised regarding the risk analysis referenced in paragraph 16.6 of the document and the extent to which that risk analysis had been reflected in the external factors referenced in paragraph 16.12.

382. A delegation stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation. This was echoed by another delegation, which expressed the view that, at the same time, multilateral cooperation was an integral part of any effective efforts in the relevant areas and that high-quality programme work largely determined the success of projects implemented by the Office and other agencies. With reference to paragraphs 16.10, 16.11 and 16.24, as well as to cooperation with intergovernmental bodies, the question was raised what the potential was for cooperation with subregional organizations and other non-intergovernmental bodies.

383. A delegation raised a concern about the description of the mandates and the background information in the section on the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance in 2021 in that there was no mention of the most important area of the Office's work, namely the fight against trafficking in persons, but that at the same time, crimes against the environment were described very broadly, perhaps even too broadly. In response, another delegation welcomed the emphasis on work to counter crimes against the environment. Another delegation expressed concern that the complexity of the various mandates of the programme would make it difficult to secure financing for work to counter terrorism and expressed the view that funding for country projects should be studied on a case-by-case basis. A delegation noted that under subprogramme 2, a comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the world drug problem, basic documents regarding the mandate of UNODC had been omitted, such as the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the final document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 and the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem of 2019. The same delegation recalled that all those documents remained relevant and were reconfirmed during the ministerial review held in Vienna in 2019. The delegation also noted that some documents had been included that were no longer valid, for example, the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted in 2001.

384. With reference to the UNODC strategy 2021–2025, and given that 2022 was the second year of the strategy, a delegation said that it would welcome an assessment of the strategy's status.

385. A delegation welcomed the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in crime prevention and criminal justice reform and the percentage of Member States that had succeeded in that regard, as shown by the performance measure in figure 16.XI, and asked whether it was possible to achieve a higher level of mainstreaming in the future. The delegation expressed the view that some performance indicators could be improved by a shift to qualitative measurements rather than quantitative.

386. Delegations expressed concern about the use of terminology that had not been agreed at the intergovernmental level. A delegation expressed concern about the deterioration in the use of terminology in the programme and requested that UNODC follow the guidance of Member States and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to improve the quality in future reports. The delegation



expressed concern that paragraph 16.5 contained a passage according to which the strengthening of UNODC capacity in key crosscutting areas, including mainstreaming human rights, a gender perspective and youth in all its work, would contribute to addressing the integration of UNODC mandates and the 2030 Agenda. The delegation expressed serious concern about the terms used in that paragraph. Another delegation expressed support for maintaining a balance in programme activities and, as already mentioned in the conference room, accurately reproducing the wording of the documents to which reference was made in the programme. The same delegation noted that as coordinator of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, it could not be satisfied with the mediocre treatment of topics related to combating trafficking in human beings in the proposed programme. The same delegation stressed that it would insist on a fuller treatment of that important area of the Office's work and that it would make proposals to that effect.

387. A delegation expressed concern that a new term had been introduced into the report, namely "trafficking in natural resources" (paragraph 16.7). The delegation noted that United Nations system bodies with a mandate related to countering crime had not used such a concept in earlier documents, not to mention the term "unregulated and illegal plundering of non-renewable resources" (paragraph 16.1). The delegation recalled that the mandate of UNODC was to provide technical assistance to interested States, in accordance with resolution 10/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the Convention, which was referenced in the document, and that it considered the tasks of the Office to be the promotion of capacity-building to assist States in the effective application of the Convention in preventing and combating transnational organized crime and criminal activities that had an impact on the environment. The delegation recalled that in the same resolution, the Conference of the Parties had reaffirmed that States had full and permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. The delegation emphasized that the Office's assistance should be focused on those crimes affecting the environment that were transnational and organized. The delegation recalled that, in reference to the list of such crimes, the also in the same resolution, the Conference had made reference to the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, as well as to General Assembly resolution [74/177](#), in which the Assembly had referred to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora and other crimes that affect the environment, such as trafficking in timber, precious metals, stones and other minerals, involving organized criminal groups.

388. A delegation recalled that the problem of combating HIV/AIDS was indirectly related to the solution of the world drug problem and suggested that the text of subprogramme 2, A comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the world drug problem, be properly adjusted.

389. With reference to paragraph 16.182, a delegation noted the usage of inconsistent terminology such as "environmental crime". The delegation advised that it would be necessary to replace the term with one for which there was a consensus, namely "crimes that affect the environment".

390. With reference to the proposed organizational structure of UNODC, a delegation noted that the report included much detail about the various headquarters-based offices and field offices. Another delegation noted that the proposals for changing the organizational structure of UNODC had been included in the draft programme plan presented in Vienna in December 2019 and, in particular, the establishment of the Border Management Branch (see A/77/6 (Sect. 16), annex I, para. 2 (d)) and the

Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch (*ibid.*, annex I, para. 2 (a)). The delegation stated that, in general, it was not opposed to the proposed reorganization in order to increase the efficiency of the Work of the Office. The delegation also welcomed the intensification of the dialogue with Member States on such structural innovations, including on the Vienna platform.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

391. The Committee recommended, in line with General Assembly resolution [76/236](#), that the Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, review the programme plan for programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.

## **Programme 14**

### **Gender equality and empowerment of women**

392. At its 6th meeting, on 2 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 17\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

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

### **Discussion**

394. Several delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and indicated that they would welcome conclusions and recommendations on the programme. A delegation highlighted the continued work by UN-Women to position itself as a global knowledge centre on gender equality and the empowerment of women and stated that women remained central to the welfare of their families and that they played a vital leadership role in their communities, adding that evidence suggested that the best way to improve economic development was to empower women. Support was also expressed for the programme’s focus on five thematic areas: developing and implementing global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women’s empowerment; promoting women’s leadership and political participation; facilitating women’s economic empowerment; eliminating violence against women and girls; and reiterating women’s contribution to peacebuilding and humanitarian relief efforts.

395. With reference to figure 17.I, a delegation expressed support for the incorporation of activities for women with disabilities and highlighted the significant progress made with regard to the number of country teams that included a focus on women with disabilities. Appreciation was expressed by another delegation for the work of UN-Women with regard to marginalized and vulnerable groups of women and girls, including those with disabilities, as referenced in paragraph 17.24 under the result on leaving no women and girls with disabilities behind. The same delegation stated that its strong support for the mission of UN-Women had been clearly demonstrated by its being consistently among the largest contributors of core voluntary funding to UN-Women and pointed to its seat on the Executive Board of UN-Women through the end of 2025.

396. Delegations expressed support for the work of the programme in mainstreaming a gender perspective and ensuring equal representation at all levels of decision-making. It was mentioned that mainstreaming a gender perspective into tracking climate change and disaster reduction was becoming more and more important. The view was expressed that UN-Women had admirably prioritized evidence-based implementation of national action plans on women and peace and security, and a delegation was encouraged by the growing number of national action plans and regional strategies devoted to advancing efforts related to women and peace and security.

397. A delegation expressed appreciation that UN-Women would continue to prioritize the creation of opportunities for young people, in particular adolescent girls and young women, to engage equally and meaningfully in decision-making. Another delegation suggested that the wording regarding women and girls' rights be clarified, as they were not the same; in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, participation in decision-making could only be done once a certain age or level of maturity had been reached.

398. In the context of recognizing the programme's work to improve the situation of women and girls, a delegation expressed appreciation for the thematic impact areas set out in paragraph 17.5, namely, governance and participation in public life; women's economic empowerment; ending violence against women and girls; and women and peace and security, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction. The delegation expressed the view that all those areas were very important for its domestic policy and the delegation fully aligned itself with them.

399. In relation to funding, several delegations expressed readiness to continue to cooperate with UN-Women to ensure that women and girls were empowered to reach their full potential, emphasizing the importance of adequate funding to foster the achievements and success of women and girls, including by strengthening the work for the prevention of all forms of sexual violence against women and girls, and highlighted the multiplying effect of such work for the development of society. With reference to paragraph 17.68, a delegation pointed to the level of extrabudgetary support requested by UN-Women and called on UN-Women to speed up the processes to secure that funding, noting the impact on the outcome of the programme of work. Another delegation noted that the programme's funding was based mainly on voluntary contributions and called for the wholehearted support of Member States in that regard.

400. The role of UN-Women, and in particular of its work in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal 5, which was aimed at putting an end to all forms of discrimination against women and girls, was recognized by several delegations. However, one delegation opined that UN-Women needed to better implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and advance the call for gender equality and called upon UN-Women to enhance its programmatic performance and accountability.

401. Another delegation commented that terminology in the proposed programme plan needed to be brought into line with universally agreed language on sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. That delegation expressed the view that it attached great importance to the work and role of civil society with regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women. At the same time, it believed it was necessary to be cautious with the wording in the proposed programme plan pertaining to civil society participation in intergovernmental processes and to ensuring the participation of girls in decision-making processes. The delegation further stated that the programme

should refrain from using terminology that did not have a single definition or interpretation, or universal recognition.

402. While expressing support for the programme proposal, a delegation underscored the importance of implementing the programme of work only with the consent and approval of the host country, bearing in mind different national realities and national legislation, and with respect for cultural aspects and level of development.

403. Another delegation suggested that any activities of UN-Women within countries, including cooperation with civil society, should be done only upon the request of the State in question. The same delegation stressed that UN-Women instructions should not replace those of the specialized agencies of the United Nations or the various bodies of the United Nations, in particular in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing that the focus of UN-Women should be on Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

404. A delegation indicated that it valued the work of UN-Women to achieve the meaningful participation of women in the political, social and economic spheres and indicated its gratitude to UN-Women for the detailed and constructive information contained in the programme budget report, in particular the programme performance for 2021 under subprogramme 1, result 2, which indicated that the work of UN-Women had contributed to 75 per cent of countries incorporating a gender perspective into their voluntary national reviews.

405. A delegation shared aspects of its country's related policies focused on rights, representation and resources, indicating that its policies on rights included addressing violations where and when they occurred, in particular for cases during war and conflicts when women and girls were specially exposed to sexual and gender-based violence, domestic abuse and/or human trafficking. Regarding representation, the delegation highlighted that studies had showed that its country's peace processes had proven to be more effective and sustainable when women were represented in the decision-making processes. Regarding resources, the delegation highlighted the need to ensure that women had access to the means they needed, for example, to finances, healthcare and education. A fourth element of the Member State's policies was diversity, which was not only about women, but also about inclusiveness, equal rights, equal representation and adequate resources for all those who were discriminated against owing to gender, origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation or identity or any other reason.

406. A delegation expressed concern that there was no mention of the Generation Equality Forum that had been organized by UN-Women, Mexico and France.

407. Another delegation supported the use of temporary special measures to reduce barriers to women's participation in political life, in line with the lessons learned set out in result 3 under subprogramme 2. The delegation further called for wider access to training and education; science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and digital technology, so as to ensure that women and girls had equal access and opportunities within those areas of expertise. The delegation called on Member States to create and support an enabling environment and structures for women to achieve full, equal and meaningful participation.

408. A delegation expressed appreciation for the quality of the programme budget document, which had been improving over the years in terms of presentation and content.

409. One delegation expressed the hope that, given the large amount of support expressed for UN-Women, the Committee would not fall into the trap of debating issues more appropriate to the Executive Board of UN-Women, as had happened at

the previous session, but that it would focus on the programme and the role that the Committee had to fulfil.

410. Several delegations recognized the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the disproportionate impact on women and girls and the fact that UN-Women activities had had to evolve accordingly. Delegations mentioned that extreme poverty and gender inequity remained prevalent owing to insufficient and imbalanced development and that the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the challenges that women faced in education, health and employment; the “return to poverty” for women as a result of the pandemic was also highlighted. In relation to the post-pandemic period, questions were raised regarding how UN-Women aimed to ensure the full and effective implementation of its mandate, given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls, and, with respect to the framework of voluntary national reviews, how UN-Women evaluated the commitment made by countries in implementing the framework in view of the current challenges and how innovative ideas could be better aligned with the situations faced by women. Another delegation indicated that it would welcome an update on the degree to which the proposed programme for 2023 incorporated both the lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments made over the last two years.

411. Delegations expressed appreciation that UN-Women had developed alternative solutions to the problems that had occurred during the COVID-19 period and commended UN-Women for being at the forefront of providing guidance to Governments and across the international system in ensuring a gender-responsive approach to the pandemic so as to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on implementation of its mandates in 2021. Another delegation expressed appreciation to UN-Women for striving to ensure business continuity and to support countries in integrating a gender lens in the COVID-19 pandemic response.

412. A delegation expressed the view that the most important area in which to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls would be education, especially the education of girls, which was something that had continued scope to be explored. The delegation therefore asked how UN-Women could work closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to make progress on that issue. The delegation noted that the programme of UN-Women was focused on major urban centres and recommended that the programme also be implemented in more remote areas, in particular in Africa, where the vast majority of women lived outside major metropolitan areas. Accordingly, there was a need to reach out to the women living in the countryside to achieve the empowerment of women and girls.

413. A delegation mentioned its appreciation for the support of efforts by UN-Women to integrate a gender perspective in the country teams’ programme process. Another delegation encouraged UN-Women to continue to act as a knowledge hub to support gender mainstreaming and to further engage closely as a key partner in the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including leading it in the coordination of women’s issues.

414. A delegation expressed support for the strategic plan for 2022–2025, with its focus on integrated and well-coordinated approaches to addressing the root causes of gender inequality, and indicated that 2023 should be the year in which UN-Women needed to accelerate the implementation of the plan, emphasizing the need for UN-Women to continue to work with Member States and partners across and outside the United Nations system to deliver on Sustainable Development Goal 5. The delegation stressed that it was important for UN-Women to focus on its role as a normative and policy-setting agency in the humanitarian system. Stating that UN-Women had, in recent years, consistently struggled to gain traction across the

United Nations system in that regard, the delegation requested an update on what UN-Women saw as barriers in terms of pushing forward the normative agenda.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

415. The Committee noted the efforts of UN-Women in supporting Member States to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including the implementation of the UN-Women strategic plan 2022–2025.

416. The Committee encouraged UN-Women to further promote and protect women's and girls' rights and opportunities by focusing on such key issues as public health, pandemic preparedness, economic empowerment and poverty eradication, and by addressing challenges, including bridging the digital divide and climate change, so as to achieve women-related targets as part of "early harvest" results of the 2030 Agenda.

417. The Committee commended UN-Women for its active participation within the United Nations development system.

418. The Committee welcomed the continuous implementation by UN-Women of its mandate for gender equality and the empowerment of women, including amplifying gender- and disability-inclusive policies and programmes within the United Nations system, implementing the UN-Women strategic plan 2022–2025 and the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and working to address the challenges faced by all women and girls, including those in the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

419. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

#### **Overall orientation**

##### ***Paragraph 17.1***

Replace "the gender-responsive" with "systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the".

##### ***Paragraph 17.7***

Replace the fourth sentence with the following:

"UN-Women will continue to work in partnership with a range of actors and support, at the request of Member States, civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, for accelerated action for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."

##### ***Paragraph 17.13***

Replace "accelerate" with "contribute to accelerating".

##### ***Paragraph 17.18***

Replace the existing text with the following:

"The results and lessons of the evaluations referenced above have been taken into account for the proposed programme plan for 2023. In response to the evaluation findings, UN-Women will continue its

role as a knowledge hub to support gender analysis and gender mainstreaming, and will develop more comprehensive and organized systems and practices for capturing and sharing lessons learned in the process of piloting and testing innovative initiatives that might have a significant potential impact on gender equality and the empowerment of women.”

*Paragraph 17.19 (c)*

After “civil society”, insert “, as outlined in its mandate”.

**Subprogramme 1**

**Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships**

*Paragraph 17.21 (c)*

Replace “to engage in” with “to contribute to relevant”.

*Paragraph 17.25*

Delete “social, political and economic”.

Replace “to support” with “supported”.

**Result 1: climate action becomes gender-responsive**

Replace the existing text with the following:

“Result 1: mainstreaming a gender perspective in climate action”.

*Paragraph 17.32*

Replace the existing text with the following:

“Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 and in keeping with Assembly resolution 74/121, youth are recognized as agents of change in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the UN-Women strategic plan underscores the empowerment of all women and girls, the importance of the voice and leadership of women, in particular adolescent girls and young women, and women’s participation in decision-making, as well as in UN-Women programming at the global, regional and country levels. However, young women continue to be excluded from decision-making processes, undermining the collective ability to address gender equality. In line with intergovernmentally agreed outcomes, the subprogramme has been advocating the systematic and sustainable inclusion of women, including young women, in intergovernmental processes and creating opportunities for their full, equal and meaningful engagement in decision-making spaces. Since 2015, the subprogramme has held youth forums prior to the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, creating opportunities for young people, including young women, from more than 300 youth organizations to directly engage with Member States through high-level intergenerational dialogues. The subprogramme has also held at least 200 dialogues in different countries that have strengthened intergenerational partnerships with young women.”

***Paragraph 17.33***

Replace “systematic, diverse and influential” with “full, equal and meaningful”.

Delete “, for example, in the Commission on the Status of Women, high-level political forums and Human Rights Council processes. It will also convene political dialogue focused on barriers to mainstreaming youth issues in national sectoral policies, resulting in one policy paper per year that supports the localization of local agendas and frameworks on young people”.

In the last sentence replace “people” with “women”.

**Subprogramme 2****Policy and programme activities*****Paragraph 17.38***

Replace “gender-responsive” with “systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the”.

**Result 2: evidence-based implementation of national action plans on women and peace and security**

Replace “evidence-based” with “data-based and results-driven”.

***Paragraph 17.47***

After “national partners,”, insert “upon request,”.

**Programme 15****Economic and social development in Africa**

420. At its 10th meeting, on 6 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 18\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

421. The Executive Secretary of ECA introduced the programme and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

**Discussion**

422. Delegations expressed strong support and appreciation for the programme plan and the work carried out by the Commission, as well as for its results-based strategy and strengthened review process. It was to be commended that the programme plan demonstrated the important role played by the Commission in Africa’s development, in particular with regard to food security, youth employment, climate change, connectivity and regional integration. A delegation reiterated the positive role played by the Commission in promoting Africa, both through project and norm-setting activities. Another delegation stated that much work remained to be done before Africa could begin to enjoy sustainable economic and social development. The delegation also pointed out that there were duplications in the work of subregional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States, and sought information on how the Commission was seeking to eliminate redundancy in that regard. Another delegation proposed that all subprogrammes should have plans that targeted all member States so that no one was left behind.



423. It was noted that the Commission continued to support capacity development of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development through the implementation of the regular programme for technical cooperation and United Nations Development Account projects. It was also noted that the Commission would further build on its medium-term programme framework (covering 2022–2025), which was aimed at providing forward-looking planning guidance and bringing together all the work streams of its divisions and subregional offices and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, along transformative areas of focus that provide entry points for subprogramme activities in 2023.

424. A delegation underscored the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach to achieving the results set forth in the Commission's programme plan, noting that civil society, academia and the private sector all played a critical role in the plan's implementation. It also encouraged the Commission to continue its efforts to facilitate knowledge exchange and experience-sharing among the regional commissions. Another delegation stated that it supported greater coordination of the Commission with other United Nations entities to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and implement Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Another delegation urged the Commission to seek enhanced partnerships with other entities within the development pillar, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Clarification was sought on the Commission's efforts to coordinate with the rest of the United Nations system in the context of United Nations development system reform.

425. With regard to subprogramme 1, as noted in paragraph 18.29, a delegation highlighted that the work of the subprogramme had contributed to the deployment and adoption of the integrated planning and reporting toolkit in an additional six countries, bringing the cumulative total to 15 in 2021, which exceeded the planned target of 14 countries. In that regard, the delegation recommended that, in developing its three-year capacity-building efforts, the Commission should target all 56 member States as the Commission had not yet reached all the African member States in terms of the deployment and adoption of the toolkit.

426. A delegation appreciated the expected results in the area of regional integration and trade, as set out in paragraph 18.37. The delegation also welcomed the work that had been done under subprogramme 3 on the private sector development and finance and commended the Commission on the objective set out in paragraph 18.49.

427. Under subprogramme 3, a delegation noted deliverable 8 in table 18.8, which would encourage cooperation on infrastructure investment in Africa with a specific foreign player, and stated that it would be interesting to explore the potential of such work with other countries.

428. Several delegations noted that increasing inequality and vulnerability were affecting women and youth in particular and that there was a need to create greater resilience in Africa, including through greater job opportunities. A delegation stressed that unemployment and low wages were two factors that needed to be addressed as those two problems could threaten peace and security.

429. Clarity was sought on the innovative initiatives that could be expected from the Commission to promote revenue generation for young people, particularly girls and young women. Further clarity was sought regarding the Commission's contribution to public finance management and the fight against illicit financial flows, the latter of which urgently required solutions, according to one delegation. A delegation commented that it was not clear why the mandates of subprogramme 6 on gender equality included Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, which did not fall within the competence of the Commission.

430. A delegation stated that without human rights, rule of law and strong social protection systems, economic development could not occur.

431. The importance of the digital economy and comprehensive digitalization as key for the development of the continent were emphasized. Several delegations also stressed the need for strengthened health and food systems. Support was expressed for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, statistics, the suppression of illicit financial flows, and efforts to improve road safety. A delegation also expressed support for the activities of the Commission in connection with cutting-edge research and related integrated policy and capacity support, which was focused on economic diversification and industrialization, investments in infrastructure, productive sectors and domestic resource mobilization, and digital transformation. With regard to result 3 of subprogramme 9, clarity was sought regarding the main factors to be taken into account to attain the objectives and, with reference to figure 18.XXX, more information was sought on the factors used to measure progress in building greater capacity to design such youth-targeted policies. Another delegation pointed out that subprogramme 5 was particularly relevant and suggested that technology could be incorporated in subprogramme 4, thereby allowing subprogramme 5 to focus on the environment.

432. A number of delegations expressed support for the alignment of the programme of the Commission with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. A delegation emphasized that through this alignment, the Commission would be better able to coordinate its work, with a greater focus on the interests of member States. Another delegation stated that achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 was a shared responsibility at the global, regional and national levels.

433. Several delegations recognized the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area, its operationalization and the opportunities that it would bring for the development of the continent. It was noted that the target date for operationalizing the Free Trade Area had been delayed because of the impact of COVID-19. A delegation emphasized that the operationalization of the Free Trade Area would ensure growth and enhance value chains, including by creating an enabling business environment. It was stressed that the Free Trade Area presented an opportunity to accelerate intra-African trade and to use trade more effectively as an engine for growth and sustainable development, to create more jobs and more economic opportunities for the citizens.

434. It was also emphasized that the Free Trade Area presented a strategic and timely response to the continent's developmental challenges, such as market fragmentation, the small size of national economies, overreliance on the export of commodities, underdeveloped industrial regional value chains and high regulatory and tariff barriers to intra-Africa trade. A delegation welcomed the emphasis placed on fostering regional integration in all subprogrammes and enquired about the possibility of developing commercial ties with other regions, including Eurasia. With respect to subprogramme 7, component 4, a delegation observed that assistance would be used to help member States and regional economic communities to develop national strategies for their Free Trade Area activities and to diversify their blue economy activities through knowledge production, as well as to conduct market access studies and policy dialogues. More details were sought on plans to speed up implementation to ensure that all African Union member States would benefit from the Free Trade Area. Another delegation enquired about initiatives to make true progress on the Free Trade Area and plans that could be put in place to help the mechanism to function without impediments.

435. Delegations noted the important role of the Commission in the post-COVID-19 recovery. A delegation emphasized the need to foster integrated recovery strategies as

collective efforts were needed to address the major challenges facing the continent in the lead-up to 2030. The delegation was of the view that greater focus should be placed on the areas that most required the Commission's support with post-pandemic recovery, such as climate change, industrialization and investment. A delegation asked about the use of special drawing rights as an instrument to support COVID-19 recovery and the Commission's role in that regard. It was noted that the Commission had carried out activities and produced knowledge products supporting member States in their domestic resource mobilization efforts, however, comprehensive work had not been done to strengthen the debt management capacities of Africa in order to ensure a resilient recovery from COVID-19. In that regard, a delegation asked about the Commission's efforts to reach out to member States to address the projected rise in cases of COVID-19 in the near future. Another delegation noted that the pandemic had revealed some threats, as well as opportunities for strengthening the social and economic resilience of member States and thus supporting the attainment of the outcomes of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. A delegation, in conveying its support for the Commission's key role in support of development in the African continent post-COVID-19, and its close collaboration with regional and development partners, such as the African Union, asked about the impacts of COVID-19 on financing and the efforts of the Commission to mitigate those impacts. A delegation highlighted a number of relevant areas, including capacity support for industrialization, infrastructure and economic diversification; the development of agrifood systems, including agribusiness, food industry and food safety; the strengthening of health systems through the development of the pharmaceutical industry, including the localization of production on the continent; comprehensive digitalization and the application of the latest technologies; and comprehensive socioeconomic post-COVID-19 recovery. It was pointed out that, among the mandates of programme 15, General Assembly resolution [74/306](#) on a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which explicitly mentioned African countries, was missing. A delegation commented that, contrary to the decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and those taken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the concept of a "green recovery" after the pandemic was promoted in the narrative. The delegation stated that, against the backdrop of a post-COVID-19 socioeconomic burden, the focus should be placed rather on sustainable recovery, which considered all three dimensions of sustainable development, and not only the environmental dimension.

436. Clarification was sought on the real impact of NEPAD on Africa's economic development and the plans for a post-COVID-19 relaunch.

437. Different views were expressed on the length of the programme plan document. Several delegations stated that, while progress in comparison with previous years was evident, the document was still too long. The view was expressed that there was duplication between subprogrammes 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 and the components of subprogramme 7 and that, therefore, components should not have separate plans. A delegation argued that the presentation by subprogramme should either be substantive or geographical and that if there were elements that applied to other subprogrammes then they should be incorporated there instead of separated. Another delegation stated that the programme plan document should be summarized and the length reduced but without lowering the quality of the information contained therein. It was commented that there was scope to reduce the length of the programme plan to improve its clarity and focus on the indicators. A delegation said that the length of the document was appropriate and that the focus should be on the details that it contained rather than the length. The delegation thanked the Commission for its willingness to share the many elements of its work in such detail, which it described as a good practice. Furthermore, the same delegation stated that there were some programme plan documents that contained less details but were longer.

438. Concerning human resources, a delegation invited the Commission to explain the reason for the high vacancy rate given the talent available in Africa, as well as the Commission's attractiveness as an employer, while another asked whether the deficit in human resources was attributable to people's lack of interest in the Commission.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

439. The Committee commended the Commission for its efforts to promote the economic and social development of Africa and support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and underlined the importance of its role in fostering regional integration and promoting international cooperation for the development of Africa.

440. The Committee reiterated the need for the Commission to continue to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Commission to continue, within its mandate, to collaborate with other relevant United Nations entities at the regional, subregional and country levels.

441. The Committee welcomed the Commission's continuing to focus on fast-tracking the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, promoting the economic and social development of its member States, fostering intraregional integration and promoting international cooperation for the development of Africa, especially in achieving the post-pandemic recovery in a sustainable, resilient and inclusive manner.

442. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Commission to continue to enhance its role in identifying, proposing and making available to countries in the region innovative financing, macroeconomic, trade, technology and other policy options to overcome the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to build on the opportunities provided by COVID-19 prevention and recovery tools at the global level.

443. The Committee welcomed the Commission's consistent priorities on economic diversification and industrialization, investments in infrastructure, productive sectors and domestic resource mobilization, the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area, poverty eradication and digital transformation, and further emphasized the need for continued support to African countries, taking into account their national priorities and needs.

444. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Commission would continue to facilitate the identification and proposal of innovative financing tools to boost domestic resource mobilization, and address debt servicing as a main mitigating measure. Its activities would also entail targeted support for national development planning and the creation of an enabling business environment in relation to food systems and would address land, energy and infrastructure. The sustained operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area would play a critical role in deepening the value chains in Africa in various productive areas, including the pharmaceutical sector.

445. The Committee noted that countries were implementing the recommendations contained in their respective African Continental Free Trade Area strategies in order to better harness the benefits of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, in the hope that this would result in more coherent, coordinated and responsive interfaces between the African Continental Free Trade Area and the free trade areas and customs unions of the regional economic communities.

446. The Committee noted that member States and regional economic communities continued to cooperate among themselves for harmonized actions, focusing on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

447. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Commission would further build on its medium-term programme framework (2022–2025) aimed at providing forward-looking planning guidance and bringing together all the work streams of its divisions and subregional offices, including concerning the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

448. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

**Overall orientation**

**Legislative mandates**

*Paragraph 18.16*

*General Assembly resolutions and decisions*

**Insert**

**75/233** Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

**Subprogramme 3**

**Private sector development and finance**

*Table 18.8*

**C. Substantive deliverables**

**Consultation, advice and advocacy**

After “promoting healthy” insert “diets”.

**Subprogramme 5**

**Technology, climate change and natural resources management**

*Paragraph 18.80*

Before “sustainable and climate-resilient recovery” delete “green,”.

*Paragraph 18.82*

Replace “green and blue” with “sustainable”.

After “economic recovery” insert “and green and blue economy”.

*Paragraph 18.84*

Before “security” delete “digital”.

After “security” add “in the use of information and communication technologies”.

**Subprogramme 6**  
**Gender equality and women's empowerment**

***Paragraph 18.89 (c)***

Before “machineries” delete “gender”.

After “machineries” insert “for gender equality”.

**Programme performance in 2021**

***Heading above paragraph 18.91***

Delete “economic”.

***Paragraph 18.91***

Replace “gender-related” with “gender”.

***Table 18.13***

Replace “gender-related” with “gender”.

***Paragraph 18.96***

Replace “gender-related” with “gender”.

***Table 18.15***

Replace “gender-related” with “gender”.

**Table 18.17**

***Deliverables 8 and 14***

Replace “gender-related” with “gender”.

**Subprogramme 8**  
**Economic development and planning**

***Paragraph 18.180***

After “disasters” add “, including but not limited to those related to climate change”.

**Programme 16**  
**Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

449. At its 18th meeting, on 10 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

450. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

## Discussion

451. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the programme and congratulated the Commission on its upcoming seventy-fifth anniversary, reiterating their support for its work. A delegation underscored the pivotal role played by the Commission in fostering regional integration and welcomed the Commission's strong support for post-pandemic recovery, its work towards eliminating poverty and its efforts in areas such as the digital economy, combating climate change and the environment. Gratitude was expressed for the efforts in terms of regional cooperation and coordination, with a delegation welcoming the work on subregional collaboration, South-south cooperation and cooperation with other regional entities.

452. A delegation expressed strong support for the Commission's work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, encouraging the Commission to use strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound goals to create attainable and realistic performance measures.

453. It was pointed out that the document was among the longest before the Committee, with a delegation asking how the Commission could better consolidate and streamline it so as to make the programme more accessible, while noting the challenge in maintaining the content. Another delegation stated that, while the report was rich in content, the progress towards results-based budgeting was not evident, given that the programme plan appeared to be structured in line with the organization chart rather than by goals and targets. The delegation called for a slimmed-down version of the document and a move to greater emphasis on results-based budgeting and management through the setting of goals in the future. Another delegation, however, expressed satisfaction with the current structure of the document, welcoming its stability over the years.

454. It was highlighted that more than half of the members and associate members of the Commission were categorized as least developed, landlocked or small island developing States, which should never be left behind. A delegation, emphasizing the travel challenges facing small island developing States, asked how the Commission had coordinated with those States during the pandemic and whether virtual work platforms had helped with integration in terms of the number of people able to participate and the seniority of those people. The delegation sought more information about the lessons learned from the pandemic and how they would be implemented going forward.

455. A delegation urged the Commission to fill all its vacancies, especially at the senior levels, to mitigate any potential negative impact on programme delivery.

## Conclusions and recommendations

**456. The Committee commended the Commission on its efforts to promote the economic and social development of Asia and the Pacific and to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with its mandate.**

**457. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Commission to improve international and regional cooperation to strengthen the resilience of its member States to the socioeconomic effects of pandemics, especially in achieving the post-pandemic recovery in a sustainable, resilient and inclusive manner.**

**458. The Committee encouraged the Commission to continue its efforts to build resilience and sustainability, alleviate poverty and inequality and invest in the welfare of people, by promoting regional transport networks and connectivity, trade facilitation and digitalization and paying attention to those member States**

in special situations, namely the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

459. The Committee recognized the role that virtual and hybrid meetings had played in facilitating the delivery of the programmes by facilitating participation in meetings, including of small island developing States, and encouraged the Commission to continue to use technology to increase the inclusivity of meetings, as appropriate.

460. The Committee noted that 2022 marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Commission and encouraged the Commission to utilize the opportunity and momentum to further accelerate its efforts to support its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close coordination with its partners at the regional, subregional and country levels.

461. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for 2023.

## **Programme 17**

### **Economic development in Europe**

462. At its 14th meeting, on 8 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

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

### **Discussion**

464. Delegations expressed support for the role of ECE in promoting economic development in the region. A delegation expressed support for ECE and its efforts to pursue sustainable development and regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the important role played by the United Nations regional commissions in strengthening mutually beneficial regional economic integration and achieving sustainable development. The same delegation noted that the decisions of the Commission should best meet the interests of Member States, should be clearly justified in terms of both content and financial arrangements, and should not diminish the Commission's relevance and ability to provide Governments with the necessary support in development matters.

465. Delegations expressed support for the multilateral nature of the Commission's work and concern about unilateral actions that were not in accordance with international cooperation, noting that such cooperation formed the basis of the work of the organization in promoting sustainable development. A delegation expressed concern about the exclusion from the system of regional cooperation of two ECE member States, namely Belarus and the Russian Federation, which included one of the main donors of the region. The same delegation expressed concern that excessive politicization within the framework of the Commission on technical cooperation issues and, as a consequence, development financing issues, had jeopardized the effectiveness of the ECE mandate and progress towards achieving the Goals. The



delegation also emphasized that it shared the approaches of other ECE member States to supporting the work of the Commission, including increased attention to regional and subregional cooperation and integration, in order to ensure sustainable development, and noted that it demonstrated the political will to cooperate and rejected the use of unilateral coercive measures.

466. With regard to subregional cooperation, a delegation noted that it attached great importance to further strengthening the role of ECE in promoting and facilitating economic integration and coherence in economic policies of the member States of the region, including through subregional cooperation, in order to ensure sustainable development. A question was raised related to the Commission's cooperation with external bodies, including the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

467. Support was expressed for the work of ECE beyond its region, including its work on norms and standard-setting with a worldwide impact. Another delegation expressed support for discussions on transport in the ECE Inland Transport Committee, which had a positive impact well beyond Europe. The delegation said that, given its global impact, the Inland Transport Committee should remain vigilant to ensure that it did not promote one set of regional regulations and agreements over other United Nations agreements. The delegation stressed that a truly global forum should look beyond any one region for creative ideas, listen to the needs of parties from various regions of the world and promote advanced technologies and innovation regardless of geography to meet the long-standing goals of road and vehicle safety, environmental protection and sustainability. Another delegation recommended that ECE increase its work on outreach and coordination with the other regional commissions.

468. A delegation expressed appreciation for the Commission's efforts to help countries to convene activities and cooperate on norms, standards and conventions in support of the Goals. The delegation expressed commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals, and looked forward to continued partnership with ECE and fellow Member States to accelerate the achievement of the Goals and to promote regional cooperation, peace and security in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Another delegation noted that ECE was actively helping to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Goals by providing a regional intergovernmental platform for addressing challenges in eight main areas, ranging from environmental protection and sustainable transport to the development of smart cities through the promotion of innovation and access to clean energy. The same delegation advised that the annual ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, in turn, provided a regional multilateral platform for follow-up and review of the achievement of the Goals and for the exchange of information on practical ways to achieve sustainable development.

469. A delegation stressed that the successful implementation of technical assistance projects within the framework of ECE in such areas as innovation and digitalization, infrastructure, circular economy, energy and urban sustainability helped to ensure the sustainable development of beneficiary countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, which contributed to the achievement of the common goal of implementing the 2030 Agenda. The same delegation said that developing countries in the region were interested in continuing and expanding their participation in ECE project activities.

470. A question was raised with regard to the Commission's contribution to assisting member States in transitioning from traditional sources of energy to more sustainable, clean sources.

471. A delegation expressed the view that the ECE mandate for economic development would support the reconstruction and recovery from war, which would be a key focus in the next few years.

472. A delegation emphasized that enterprise risk management and the risk register should be key considerations in the development of the ECE strategy.

473. A delegation welcomed the new partnerships strategy to guide the Commission's engagement with the private sector and sought clarification on how it would be effectively operationalized and regarding the status of its implementation.

474. A delegation welcomed the move towards hybrid arrangements for ECE meetings and sought further information on how hybrid working allowed for a wider level of participation in meetings for delegates.

475. A delegation said that the results-based budgeting approach of the proposed programme plan for 2023 was well documented. The delegation asked whether the subprogramme structure in the report reflected the current structure of the organization or vice versa. The same delegation emphasized that, as set out in regulation 4.5, rule 104.5, of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, congruence of the programmatic and organizational structure could be interpreted to mean that the programme should be aligned with the organization's structure rather than with the objectives outlined in the programme budget document.

476. With regard to the external factors mentioned in paragraph 20.11 ©, which reads "voluntary resources continue to be available", a question was raised concerning the procedures that ECE followed to garner the voluntary contributions.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

477. **The Committee commended the continuing efforts of ECE to promote economic integration and cooperation in the region, and underlined the importance of its role in ensuring regional cooperation for sustainable development, in accordance with its mandate.**

478. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for 2023.**

### **Programme 18**

#### **Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

479. At its 15th meeting, on 8 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

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

## Discussion

481. Appreciation and support were expressed for the work of ECLAC and for the programme plan. It was recognized that the Commission played a crucial role in promoting the economic, social and sustainable development of Latin American and Caribbean countries through international cooperation. The work of ECLAC was more important than ever, as the region had been hit hard by the pandemic and was facing new challenges, including in relation to food insecurity. A delegation recognized and expressed support specifically for a differentiated and targeted approach based on the different needs of the countries of the region.

482. A delegation highlighted that ECLAC had for decades been a knowledge leader in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for other regions and at the global level. The Commission had contributed to equality being placed at the centre of development and assisted the countries of the region, which are classified as middle-income, in facing important challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that context, a delegation welcomed the programme, as it highlighted the relevance of the work of the Commission in strengthening capacity in areas related to employment policies and labour markets, macroeconomics and financing for development. The delegation commented that the annual publications produced by the Commission, such as the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, were good examples of the analytical work on policy formulation carried out under the programme.

483. A delegation, speaking on behalf of a group of delegations, noted the efforts of the Commission to develop the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, which tracked and mapped all of the macroeconomic policies implemented by Latin American and Caribbean countries to address the impact of the pandemic. It was lauded as an example that demonstrated the Commission's adaptation to the changing needs of the region. It was added that the policy briefs and webinars of the Observatory were useful and timely tools for helping countries to stay abreast of developments in the region and informing the formulation of policies to address the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. It was recognized that the Observatory was an important dynamic response to emerging challenges and that it had been necessary to set up the Observatory quickly in order to address the demands of States. A question was asked about lessons learned from the process of setting up the Observatory rapidly and about whether the Commission would take a similar approach if faced with another challenge in the region.

484. A delegation observed that Latin American and Caribbean countries had been particularly affected by the pandemic and that its effects would likely continue to be felt in the years to come. It was added that lives were still being lost daily and that the multidimensional impact on society, the economy, economic growth, gender equality and health systems was continuing. In that context, the delegation expressed concern about the worsening situation in the region and the effects on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that challenging environment, the delegation highlighted the work of the Commission and its dedication to growth in Latin America and Caribbean, as well as the support that it provided to countries in achieving the Goals. Another delegation agreed with the Commission's concerns that the pandemic had exposed problems in the region's economic model, social protection systems and welfare schemes. The delegation expressed particular concern about women being affected the most by the pandemic and asked how the Commission planned to help them to rejoin the post-pandemic

labour market. The delegation welcomed the Commission's integrating a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results.

485. Another delegation said that Latin America and the Caribbean was the developing region that had been hit the hardest by the pandemic, making it imperative to rethink the development model in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda and unlock the full potential of the region. It was stated that the Commission could play a relevant role in that process in coordination with other United Nations and non-United Nations entities. The delegation advocated greater collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as a number of countries in the region fell into the groups within the Office's area of competence.

486. A delegation said that States wished to continue to cooperate with the Commission in order to make further progress in overcoming the pandemic, achieving the 2030 Agenda and leaving no one behind. It was noted that, despite the challenges involved, the work carried out by the Commission in the area of economies in transition was important for countries that had graduated but remained fragile.

487. Appreciation was expressed for the Commission's work on further advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities and ensuring the full realization of their human rights in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

488. A delegation expressed support for the work of the Commission and the countries of the region, considering the challenges posed by the environmental crisis and the opportunities arising from the digital economy and trade. The delegation also voiced support for the efforts of the Commission aimed at eradicating poverty and offering social assistance to those in need. It was recognized that the pandemic had highlighted the importance of strengthening social protection systems and leaving no one behind.

489. With regard to the Caribbean countries, it was recognized that the Commission had provided support in the areas of development and macroeconomic growth, in particular in the form of proposals for the debt swap initiative for climate action, which had been discussed at the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. A country example was mentioned that ECLAC supported and to which it provided technical advice in different areas, including with regard to monetary policies.

490. Furthermore, it was recognized that the Commission fostered discussions on the urgent need for access to financial resources and international cooperation, as well as the role of regional development banking in the development of innovative financing mechanisms. A delegation reiterated that national data based on criteria such as gross national income per capita were not in line with the multidimensional scope of sustainable development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda or with the development needs and challenges of developing countries. It was also reiterated that, in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, had been called upon to develop transparent approaches for measuring progress towards sustainable development that went beyond per capita income.

491. Support was expressed for subprogramme 5, Gender equality and women's autonomy, as it went beyond mainstreaming the gender perspective and resulted in regional agreements, including the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and the Santiago Commitment, both of which had been adopted by members of ECLAC at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

492. A delegation asked how operating during the pandemic and increasing the volume of work performed remotely as a result had affected the Commission. As an example, it was mentioned that the Committee had heard from staff of other programmes that the remote-working approach had sometimes enabled a greater number of senior attendees to participate in meetings, as it was often more difficult for certain types of participants, such as ministers, to travel long distances in order to attend in person. It was asked, in that connection, whether the experience of the Commission had been similar and what the lessons learned were in terms of the balance between virtual, hybrid and in-person meetings. In the context of that subprogramme, a delegation commended the efforts and the work of the Commission in the area of the development of women's rights, as women had been particularly affected by the pandemic. The delegation also highlighted the work of the Commission on the economic autonomy of women, the participation of women in the labour market, and the health crisis that had resulted from the pandemic and been addressed by the Commission.

493. Regarding subprogramme 8, Natural resources, a delegation said that the use of the term "ecosystem-based solutions" was not appropriate in that context and that it would have been better to refer to "approaches". Another delegation remarked that the subprogramme was clear and detailed.

494. The issue of multi-country offices was highlighted, and it was recalled that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, Member States had urged the United Nations system to ensure a balanced and integrated approach within the system towards its support to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. A delegation stated that the so-called revamped regional assets of the Commission should be used to support United Nations country teams. The Commission was asked how appropriate it believed its programme to be for those particular needs and for the provision of support to the multi-country offices in the region.

495. It was also recalled that, in 2021, foreign ministers and policymakers had discussed the need for policies to promote the achievement of sustainable growth, and a delegation asked when those discussions would end and concrete action be taken to implement policies that would result in the actual achievement of sustainable growth.

496. A number of delegations noted that the document was extensive, saying that the Committee considered the programme plans of other regional commissions that also had heavy workloads and that those documents were half the length of the one under discussion. The suggestion was made for the Commission to strive to be more concise in the presentation of its programme plan. It was further remarked that better alignment of the Commission's objectives could lead to a better presentation in 2023, which would be more interesting to the Committee, by focusing less on the internal workflow structure. The aim would be to present programme elements more in relation to results-based budgeting with an approach that would be more dynamic and more focused, inter alia, on development policies, regional integration policies and poverty.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

497. **The Committee commended ECLAC for its efforts to promote economic and social development and underlined the importance of its role in ensuring regional cooperation on sustainable development, in accordance with its mandate.**

498. The Committee also commended ECLAC for its efforts to respond to the changing needs of its member States, including the challenges posed by the pandemic.

499. The Committee welcomed the timely update to subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, to reflect the work of the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean.

500. The Committee also welcomed the use of online and hybrid meetings that facilitated the delivery of the programmes by facilitating access to and participation in meetings and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage ECLAC to continue with those new ways of working as part of its efforts to increase the inclusion of small island developing States in the Caribbean.

501. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

#### **Subprogramme 8**

##### **Natural resources**

##### *Paragraph 21.115 (e)*

After “Promote”, insert “, among others,”.

Replace “solutions” with “approaches”.

##### *Paragraph 21.115 (g)*

Replace “in particular” with “including”.

## **Programme 19**

### **Economic and social development in Western Asia**

502. At its 10th meeting, on 6 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 22\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

503. The Executive Secretary of ESCWA introduced the programme and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

#### **Discussion**

504. Delegations expressed appreciation for the programme and for the work carried out by the Commission, in particular its efforts to integrate a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results in line with Economic and Social Council resolution [2013/16](#). Appreciation was also expressed with regard to the Commission’s intent to continue to intensify efforts to advance the inclusion of the needs of persons with disabilities in its work, in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. Support was expressed for outcomes of the programme, especially those in the areas of climate change, gender, the economy, governance and conflict prevention.

505. A delegation highlighted its excellent relations and collaboration with the Commission, which had helped its Government to carry out important projects in the

country. The delegation added that the Commission's technical expertise had allowed the country, *inter alia*, to ensure the reform of social protection mechanisms, the development of a national digital programme and support for its analytical capacity in the areas of multidimensional poverty, justice and gender. The delegation also acknowledged the usefulness of the programme's policy tools that made use of technology, including the tool for the evaluation of policies with regard to equality and gender balance. It was added that ESCWA had provided Member States with a great deal of value and that the Commission's work would continue to be supported in order to bolster its competence in all aspects.

506. It was also recognized that the Commission played an important role in helping the Arab region to reach its potential as it grappled with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and with ongoing global instability.

507. Taking into account the issues of climate change and the development of accessible green technologies, the view was expressed that the region could grow and improve its socioeconomic conditions to attain positive results for political stability. Those issues were recognized as being fundamental to, and deeply interrelated within, the programme.

508. A delegation expressed support for subprogramme 1, Climate change and natural resource sustainability, and welcomed the subprogramme's focus on sustainability of water, energy and food, and on improving food security, all of which were deemed to be very important in view of the disruptions to global trade currently being experienced. The delegation added that it supported in particular the subprogramme's focus on regional water management and increased regional knowledge platforms, as those issues were aligned with the regional climate programme of its Government, which was working on regional water management. The delegation stated that it would welcome the views of the Commission regarding what more could be done on energy security.

509. Regarding subprogramme 2, Gender justice, population and inclusive development, specifically, the performance measure presented in figure 22.III, which showed a positive trend in the number of policies and pieces of legislation that addressed gender equality and promoted the empowerment of women and girls in the Arab region, a question was asked as to whether there was also a qualitative assessment to help to understand the impact of those policies and legislation and how the Commission assessed their effectiveness. Similarly, in connection with figure 22.IV, under result 2, which showed the number of Arab countries with coherent ageing policies, a question was raised as to how the coherence of those policies had been defined. Clarification was also sought regarding the geographical coverage of the subprogramme, in particular as the subprogramme included references to the Arab region in its plan, although mainly Jordan and Lebanon were mentioned in the report.

510. Concerning the work of subprogramme 3, Shared economic prosperity, a question was asked as to how the implementation of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), mentioned in paragraph 22.55 of the report, would benefit the Arab region.

511. A comment was made that subprogramme 3, Shared economic prosperity, and subprogramme 4, Statistics, the information society and technology, would be increasingly valuable in the challenging economic context of the region. In that context, a question was asked as to whether more could be done by expanding projects, in particular those addressing improved social expenditure.

512. Under subprogramme 6, Governance and conflict prevention, a delegation expressed support for the general principle of increasing evidence-based

policymaking and risk management and requested specific details of where that had been done, including, specifically, how evidence-based policymaking had worked.

513. With regard to cooperation with other entities, it was recognized that the work of the Commission could only be achieved through collaboration with other regional and global development stakeholders, the United Nations country teams and other non-United Nations partners. The Commission was encouraged to continue those collaborations, and its views were sought on whether those collaborations were working with other United Nations entities in the context of United Nations development system reform.

514. With regard to the opening remarks of the Executive Secretary of the Commission that all objectives for the year 2022 had been met, concern was expressed that that statement might suggest that perhaps the objectives of the programme were not as challenging as they should have been. It was added that the Committee expected that those objectives should be not only achievable, but also challenging. Comments from the Commission were sought in that regard.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**515. The Committee commended ESCWA for promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the Arab region, in accordance with its mandate.**

**516. The Committee reiterated the need for ESCWA to continue supporting Member States in their ongoing management of and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ESCWA to continue, within its mandate, collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities at the regional, subregional and country levels.**

**517. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for 2023.**

## **Programme 20 Human rights**

518. At its 18th meeting, on 10 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 20, Human rights, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#)). 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.51/2022/13](#)).

519. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced the programme and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

### **Discussion**

520. Delegations thanked the High Commissioner for the presentation of the programme. A delegation said that it was very well written and clearly expressed, and another delegation underlined that it was a framework and a strategy that promoted human rights in many aspects.

521. Delegations expressed support for the work carried out by the programme and for the proposed programme plan for 2023. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was recognized by delegations as the leading entity of the United Nations on human rights, and the comprehensive nature



of its work was described as fundamental and important in promoting and protecting all human rights for everyone.

522. A delegation expressed support for the mandate of the High Commissioner as defined by General Assembly resolution 48/141. Support was also expressed for many of the areas of focus in the programme, in particular the work of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies, and new and renewed thematic and country-specific mandates since the programme had been addressed at the sixty-first session were welcomed. A delegation said that the work of those bodies was critical to advancing the work of the United Nations across its three pillars, as promoting and protecting all human rights of all persons in all their diversity was critical.

523. It was recalled that the Organization had been established after the trauma of the Second World War, which had been fuelled by disregard for human dignity, as phrased in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war ... and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights” and that the importance of human rights was repeatedly stressed in the Articles of the Charter and numerous subsequent resolutions. In that context, the High Commissioner was encouraged to be persistent in her realization of the programme.

524. A delegation said that there was news every day of human rights being under attack across the world, which meant that the work of OHCHR was more relevant than ever before. Another delegation was of the view that OHCHR played a key role in developing and promoting human rights and that a quality programme of work should be a strong foundation for those activities.

525. In stressing the importance of human rights, a delegation mentioned the right to a happy life as the most important human right. Delegations expressed willingness to contribute to advancing the international human rights cause and to engaging and cooperating with the programme, including on how to respond to the human rights challenges and opportunities faced around the world. A delegation said that it would work closely with the High Commissioner to ensure that the fundamental documents of the Organization, translated into programmatic activities, would be a basis for the effective promotion and preservation of human rights.

526. Mention was made of a visit by the High Commissioner to China, the first such visit in 17 years by a United Nations human rights chief, which, in the view of the delegation, had achieved positive results. A visit to Mauritania by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, was also mentioned, and it was noted that major projects had been implemented through that collaboration, in particular one that had improved the legal framework. Examples of projects undertaken in collaboration with OHCHR included the establishment of permanent cooperation structures on key human rights issues at the national level and the creation of a national prevention mechanism and a national reporting and monitoring mechanism, as well as an interministerial committee to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. It was also noted that, at the regional level, OHCHR had provided both technical support and expertise for raising awareness of the importance of respect for human rights in the Group of Five for the Sahel, headquartered in Nouakchott.

527. Several delegations expressed disappointment and concern that the Committee had not been able to provide recommendations at its sixty-first session, in 2021. A view was expressed that the leadership and consensual outcome of the Committee remained crucial for the successful translation of programmes into results. Delegations expressed hope that the Committee would agree on recommendations, and a delegation emphasized that the Committee should be able to accomplish that with hard work and effort, given the extent of the support expressed at the present meeting for the work of OHCHR. In that context, a delegation said that, at a time

when one could again witness war in many parts of the world, including Europe, it was of utmost importance that the detrimental impact of such violence on the protection of human rights be countered and it was crucial to show Member State support for one of the fundamental activities of the United Nations.

528. A delegation expressed its gratitude for the work of OHCHR to increase the transparency of its work. In that context, the delegation highlighted the practice of holding briefings on the programme at the United Nations Office at Geneva with the participation of the High Commissioner, which facilitated greater trust and cooperation between the Office and States, which in turn ramped up joint efforts to promote and protect human rights in the world. The view was expressed, however, that such a dialogue should not be limited to a mechanical collection of States' views but rather should be a basis for improving the texts being presented.

529. A delegation encouraged the programme to promote international cooperation in the area of human rights on the basis of its universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated character. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the Office's engagement with a wide range of stakeholders in executing its mission, including civil society and human rights defenders, whom it viewed as the eyes and ears on the ground and considered critical to advancing the programme and OHCHR work.

530. Noting that paragraph 24.10 of the programme referred to the close cooperation between OHCHR and a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), a delegation acknowledged the importance and the value of working with NGOs, which often assisted the Office in carrying out its functions, and said that that was a normal process when work was being carried out on the basis and within the framework of the principles of objectivity and impartiality. The delegation also recalled its objections to the Office's markedly arbitrary approach to working with NGOs, including those that had a questionable history, could be destructive and were known for biased approaches. Information was sought on how work would be carried out to select partners in such instances. The delegation noted that the programme included references to partnership, assistance and cooperation on the basis of requests from interested Member States and expressed hope that a constructive and positive approach would prevail in carrying out the proposed programme.

531. One delegation appreciated that the High Commissioner was addressing a plurality of partnerships, including the private sector and NGOs, and non-United Nations institutions. The view was expressed that the work was absolutely vital and contributed to spreading the spirit of human rights in today's world.

532. With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, a delegation noted that OHCHR, and the United Nations system as a whole, worked in 2021 under the conditions of the pandemic, which not only negatively affected the international human rights situation but also limited OHCHR and its ability to fully carry out its responsibilities.

533. Delegations observed that the challenges the world was facing undoubtedly were of concern, tested the capacities of both States and international organizations and severely affected more vulnerable populations. In the context of incessant armed conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, the delegation highlighted the efforts of and the dedication shown by OHCHR in order to comply with its mandates.

534. A delegation noted that COVID-19 was still spreading, exacerbating the health crisis, development gaps and vaccine nationalism and bringing new challenges to the protection of and full respect for human rights.

535. In the light of those challenges, delegations stressed that the international community had to strengthen solidarity and work together to respond and that a

collective response was needed to put an end to poverty and bring about an international order that was more just and equitable.

536. A delegation welcomed the programme's focus on a human rights-based approach to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. It was of the view that countries around the globe had unfortunately misused the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to violate human rights and that there had been an increase in sexual and gender-based violence during the pandemic, particularly among women and girls, who faced multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

537. Appreciation was expressed for the Office's aim to use the lessons learned and insights into how the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the delivery of its programmes and how OHCHR had responded accordingly to those challenges, which had been reflected in the proposed programme plan for 2023. Support was expressed for the increased need for United Nations institutions to build back better from the pandemic and to do so while taking account of human rights. A question was raised as to how OHCHR planned to use the COVID-19 pandemic experience over the past two years to improve its working methods.

538. A delegation noted paragraph 24.15 and, recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the activities carried out, expressed appreciation for all the efforts made to ensure their continuity, especially the use of online and/or hybrid meetings. The delegation said, however, that such modalities risked diminishing civil society participation and that it was important to consider the physical presence of NGOs and civil society insofar as health measures permitted.

539. A delegation welcomed the positive impact of new technologies and increased virtual participation, in particular the participation of delegations in the universal periodic reviews and the expanded scope for civil society participation in sessions of the Human Rights Council, which, in its view, had greatly benefited the quality of discussions. The delegation also considered it important that those defending human rights on the ground be given a voice, so that decision makers would have a full understanding of the impact of their decisions. In that connection, the views of the High Commissioner were sought on lessons learned from the way in which participation had evolved in the past year during the pandemic and how those lessons would be embedded in the work going forward.

540. With regard to the regional offices of the programme, a delegation said that regional offices were of vital importance to the full enjoyment of the activities of the Organization, given their work on the ground. In that connection, the crucial role played by those offices in the most challenging times of the pandemic was highlighted.

541. A delegation recalled that the High Commissioner had expressed her desire to continue to support human rights workers everywhere, wherever they were located, in particular in peacekeeping missions, in which there were human rights offices with dual representation: that of the head of mission, that is, the special representative, and that of the High Commissioner. The delegation also said that the backdrop of the work of many such missions had been worsening and had become more complex owing to the volatility of the local situation and the lack of security, which caused a high number of victims, sometimes including blue helmets. In that context, information was sought on a correlation between the difficulty for those missions to operate in the field and the difficulty for OHCHR to investigate human rights violations. A question was raised as to whether that situation affected the ability of OHCHR to carry out investigations.

542. With regard to the report in general, appreciation was expressed for the Office's continued commitment to mainstreaming human rights across the United Nations

system, supporting the treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council, and addressing the impacts of armed conflict inequality and racial discrimination, among the priorities for 2023. A question was raised regarding the focus chosen during the drafting of the plan to ensure that the various categories of rights – civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the rights of vulnerable groups – would be addressed.

543. Delegations expressed appreciation for the changes in the programme narrative, including that OHCHR had returned most of the programme to the previously agreed format and language. In that connection, a delegation said that there was still room to optimize and requested OHCHR to use neutral and understandable narratives that aligned with resolutions and to avoid using creative concepts or descriptions.

544. Another delegation stressed that, while it broadly welcomed the revisions to the programme plan, including in terms of wording, it was vital that OHCHR did not self-censor and that it accurately communicated what it was doing in a way that was understandable to all the stakeholders.

545. A request was made for more details on the Common Agenda and the relationship between it and the human rights programme.

546. Clarification was sought on the mandate for mainstreaming human rights across the United Nations system and how that was going to be carried out.

547. With regard to the strategy and external factors, delegations expressed the view that, in the reference to gender discrimination in paragraph 24.4, it would have been preferable to use “gender” or “sexual orientation and gender identity” instead of “sex”.

548. With regard to paragraph 24.5, it was noted that the programme would support and advise the United Nations human rights machinery, integrate all human rights into areas of work of the United Nations system, contribute to the effective realization of the right to development, increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of human rights and enhance capacities, including through assistance to requesting States.

549. With regard to paragraph 24.7, a view was expressed that the mandate of the Human Rights Council could be implemented effectively only if it was applied on the basis of the principles of non-politicization and non-selectivity, objectivity, universality and international cooperation in the context of a genuine intergovernmental dialogue to address human rights issues consistent with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), while refraining from targeting the human rights situations in several countries.

550. Strong support was expressed for the integration of disability inclusion in OHCHR operational activities, as referenced in paragraph 24.14.

551. In reference to the external factors listed under paragraph 24.12, including the planning assumptions that (a) there would be political will on the part of States to work with the programme, and (b) extrabudgetary resources would continue to be provided for the programme, a delegation expressed the view that a risk analysis needed to be carried out and, bearing in mind enterprise risk management, there was a need to map the risks and mitigate them.

552. With regard to gender equality, appreciation was expressed for the efforts towards the attainment of gender equality globally by protecting the rights of women and girls and the scaling up of action to achieve gender equality. A delegation highlighted the importance of the involvement of men and boys in reaching that goal and expressed the strong belief that, since women and girls had been

disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, they had to be actively involved in plans to recover from it.

553. Delegations also raised questions regarding the programme's consideration of a gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approach across all of its work. Information was sought on how OHCHR ensured that the human rights of all persons in all their diversity, including those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, were integrated across the programme's work.

554. With regard to the deliverables, information was sought on what generation and transfer of knowledge meant in the context of the work of the fact-finding missions under table 24.1. Clarification was also sought on the number of fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions reported. A delegation noted a discrepancy between tables 24.1 and 24.15 in terms of reporting actual and planned fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

555. A delegation welcomed the fact that the programme plan included clear references to how OHCHR had achieved against its 2021 deliverables, which was then used as a template for the 2023 goals.

556. With regard to subprogramme 1, Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, and research and analysis, information was sought regarding the role of OHCHR in evaluating countries and the Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

557. With regard to subprogramme 1 (a), Human rights mainstreaming, in particular paragraph 24.24, which states the expected results of the strategy, in particular "Member States, at their request, building and strengthening national human rights promotion and protection capacities", information was sought on how States could make use of that resource, particularly with regard to certain rights. In that connection, a delegation said that it had included human rights in its strategic institutional plans across the board to ensure that public policy had that approach.

558. A delegation expressed full support for result 3, enhanced democratic governance for stronger human rights protection, of subprogramme 1, which recalled Human Rights Council resolution 46/4 on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Another delegation, however, was of the view that the mandate had already been included in the programmatic activities of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and, in that connection, enquired how OHCHR would reduce redundancy with the other departments of the Secretariat.

559. With regard to subprogramme 1 (b), Right to development, a delegation said that the promotion and protection of human rights was the common task of the international community, calling upon all to strengthen solidarity and work together to respond, and that mutual respect and equal dialogue were of utmost importance. The delegation also said that, as the eternal theme of human society, development was the basis for and key to solving all problems and created conditions for the realization of all human rights and that only with greater development could human rights be better promoted and protected. In that context, the delegation expressed concern regarding uneven and inadequate investment in economic and social rights and the right to development, and in that connection a request was made for the programme to ensure equal investment in the right to development.

560. Another delegation expressed support for international development and the work done by international governmental organizations, such as OHCHR, on development. The delegation, however, did not recognize the right to development and did not think that a stream of work dedicated to that effort was needed, especially when there was none specifically on civil and political rights.

561. A question was raised with regard to table 24.7, which contained the deliverables under subprogramme 1 (b): it was noted that, for line 5, the Working Group on the Right to Development, there were 16 actual deliverables in 2021 compared with the planned 10, which demonstrated a growing need. Clarification was then sought as to why the planned number for 2023 was still 10.

562. A delegation noted with appreciation the enhanced efforts to advance racial justice and equality, particularly for Africans and people of African descent, and sought clarification regarding the measures adopted by the Office, as well as the measures to combat discrimination against Asians and people of Asian descent.

563. A delegation noted that part of subprogramme 1 (c), Research and analysis, was based on the promotion of the empowerment of indigenous leaders and minorities through the grant programmes. In that connection, questions were raised regarding how the initiative was going to be managed; how OHCHR was planning to select candidates and whether gender parity was a criterion in the selection process; and in which areas OHCHR was giving out grants.

564. With regard to subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights treaty bodies, support was expressed for the entities created to support the human rights treaty bodies. A delegation said that it promoted the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and it was important that that be considered in subprogramme 2, result 3, capacity of States parties to engage with treaty bodies strengthened.

565. A delegation said that OHCHR was attempting to go beyond its mandate and cited the assistance provided by OHCHR to the treaty bodies as an example thereof. The view was expressed that the role of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular OHCHR, was to provide technical support to the treaty bodies on human rights and that the Office did not have the authority to improve their methods of work or to provide expert support to them. The delegation therefore considered the approaches set out in programme 20 as interfering with the functions of the treaty bodies, in violation of the principle of their independence. An opposing view was expressed by another delegation, which did not consider the work of OHCHR to be infringing on the independence of the treaty bodies.

566. Delegations asked for an update on the review of the human rights treaty bodies and how they related to the subprogramme. The view was expressed that the treaty body framework reform process, which was initiated by the treaty bodies' Chairs themselves, in close consultation with Member States, was aimed at enabling the treaty body system to enhance the efficiency of its work.

567. With reference to table 24.12, which contains the deliverables of subprogramme 2, a delegation raised questions about the amounts planned under lines 2, Decisions on individual communications under the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and 12, Reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, including concluding observations and lists of issues. It was noted that the actual amount for 2021 was lower than the planned amount, and in that context justification was sought regarding the planned amount for 2023.

568. With regard to subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, a delegation noted that, in paragraph 24.78 (c), the deployment of human rights observers and fact-finding missions was mentioned, but not commissions of inquiry or other investigative mechanisms. In that connection, information was sought as to whether there was any substantive reason for that choice of words.

569. Appreciation was expressed for the widespread inclusion in subprogramme 3 of the universal periodic review mechanism under the Human Rights Council, which in the view of a delegation was the primary intergovernmental mechanism for considering human rights issues in all countries without exception.

570. A delegation said that it continued to oppose country-specific approaches to the work of OHCHR and that a significant number of selectively created country mandates had been on the OHCHR workplan for years, keeping valuable resources from practical and globally important projects, and that the main efforts of the Office had to be focused on providing technical and consultative support to States. The delegation expressed dissatisfaction with the programme combining that aspect under subprogramme 3 with the role of an investigator, which, in the view of the delegation, was highly unproductive.

571. With regard to subprogramme 4, Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, a delegation raised a question regarding the universal periodic review mechanism, which was going into its fourth cycle, and how OHCHR planned to use the lessons learned from its past experience.

572. With regard to unilateral coercive measures, a delegation expressed concern that universal coercive measures continued to cause additional burdens to the economic and development challenges of affected countries, and it was regrettable that a reference to such illegal acts was not included in the report. Delegations also observed that the programme made no mention of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and that there had been no mention of the resolution on its creation and extension or of its specific activities. In that connection, it was stressed that similar mandate holders were reflected in the proposed programme plan, and a view was expressed that the mandate was extremely important for the human rights system as a whole and should be included in the programme. A delegation said that the application of universal coercive measures was increasing and that the people of the affected countries were deprived of full enjoyment of their human rights.

573. A delegation recalled that the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights had expressed regret in document [A/HRC/48/59](#) and [A/HRC/48/59/Corr.1](#) that the situation noted in her previous report to the Human Rights Council on the expansion of the number, scope and grounds of unilateral sanctions had not improved. The view was expressed that unilateral coercive measures were inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations, and the importance of giving equal attention to and the same emphasis on violations of human rights was stressed by the delegation.

574. A delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the Office and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. It was observed that, during the pandemic, the impact of unilateral coercive measures had been felt even more keenly, which affected basic human rights, such as the right to health, of many people in the world. Information was sought regarding efforts employed by the High Commissioner and OHCHR to provide assistance to the Special Rapporteur, in compliance with her mandate, with regard to such unilateral coercive measures, particularly in the context of the pandemic.

575. An opposing view was expressed regarding unilateral coercive measures: a delegation was of the view that the issue of unilateral coercive measures was not relevant to human rights and that its direct inclusion in the programme was not relevant to common goals in promoting and protecting human rights across the work of the United Nations.

576. With regard to human resources, a question was raised regarding the efforts of the Office to ensure equitable geographical representation at all levels.

577. Questions were also raised with regard to the resource proposal contained in the report. A delegation noted an estimated 124 additional posts to be funded by extrabudgetary resources and raised questions with regard to that proposal and whether they were to support commissions of inquiry. The Chair reminded the Committee of its working methods and that questions on resources were for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

578. **The Committee recommended, in line with General Assembly resolution 76/236, that the Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, review the programme plan for programme 20, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

## **Programme 21**

### **International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees**

579. At its 17th meeting, on 9 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 25\)](#)).

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

### **Discussion**

581. Delegations expressed support for the work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including its efforts to assist refugees, asylum-seekers, persons with disabilities and stateless persons, which was one of the United Nations priorities under the humanitarian pillar. A number of delegations acknowledged the crucial role of UNHCR as the main international agency for the protection of those categories of persons, in particular in the context of the current crisis concerning the 84 million people who had been displaced as a result of numerous and never-ending armed conflicts. Referring to the rising number of refugees, a delegation emphasized that external factors, including unilateral coercive measures, threatened the situation of refugees and put in jeopardy the achievement of durable solutions by affecting the host countries’ capacity to protect that category of persons.

582. A delegation expressed appreciation for the presentation of the document and its content, noting that it was compact and logical. Another delegation said that the document should have taken into account the interests of Member States, their national legislation and their international obligations. Moreover, the term “responsibility-sharing”, as used in the document, should have been reflected in the context of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as the international community’s solidarity in solving the situation of refugees. The delegation added that each State should strictly abide by its obligations under international legal instruments, without shifting its responsibility for human rights-related issues on to other States. A delegation emphasized the need to adhere



to intergovernmentally agreed terms and documents in the preparation of programme plans.

583. A delegation sought clarification on the positive steps taken to work with the least developed countries and developing countries to institute reforms that would focus on social, economic and political interventions aimed at preventing the civil unrest that often followed such reforms.

584. A delegation noted that the pandemic had led to a significant protection of refugees crisis and exacerbated poverty. In that regard, it applauded the efforts of UNHCR staff to stay and deliver during the pandemic and advocate the inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern within national systems. The delegation emphasized that more needed to be done to ensure such inclusion and encouraged UNHCR to give priority to the protection of persons of concern, burden- and responsibility-sharing and the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of its work, in line with its reform efforts.

585. A delegation noted the efforts made by UNHCR to incorporate lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of its programme owing to the pandemic. It welcomed the Office's engagement with multi-stakeholder partnerships, which, in its view, was required to provide assistance to refugees. The delegation commended UNHCR on its intention to continue to cooperate with the resident coordinator system and its inclusion of a gender and disability perspective across all its activities. A reduction in the number of refugees and asylum-seekers, which had doubled between 2019 and 2021, had been observed and UNHCR was encouraged to continue on that path.

586. A delegation said that a significant number of United Nations organizations had expressed their views regarding the uneven distribution of resources to assist vulnerable persons, including refugees. It was noted that assistance provided in response to a conflict situation often resulted in a reduction in such assistance elsewhere. For that reason, the delegation asked how UNHCR structured its work so as to ensure an equitable distribution of resources to all conflict situations and areas of concern.

587. With regard to the strategy and external factors, support was expressed for the intention of UNHCR to use the global compact on refugees to guide its future work and to implement it through cooperation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, as reflected in paragraph 25.3 (c). The delegation, noting that the global compact on refugees provided the blueprint for collective action, expressed support for UNHCR in its continued endeavour, in cooperation with States and a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels, to safeguard protection and drive forward solutions, including by seeking to address the root causes of displacement. The delegation said that critical to that process would be burden- and responsibility-sharing among States and stakeholders and greater solidarity with displaced and stateless persons until a durable solution to their plight could be found. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, another delegation noted with concern the deficit in the financing of the global compact on refugees, which was due to the lack of voluntary contributions.

588. Regarding paragraph 25.4, UNHCR was asked to provide information on its experience of using its new global results framework to guide its planning and budgeting process for 2023. A delegation welcomed the Office's plan to adopt inclusive and comprehensive approaches with the aim of contributing to relevant goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensuring that persons of concern were not left behind in development processes. It also commended UNHCR on its work in that respect, noting that it involved leveraging development

partnerships, in the spirit of the global compact on refugees; collaborating with Governments and partners to promote the inclusion of persons of concern in national emergency preparedness and response plans; and responding to emergency situations, in line with its strategy on accountability to affected populations.

589. With regard to result 1 and specifically paragraph 25.21, it was asked why the planned target of 130 emergency response deployments for 2021 had not been achieved, in particular in view of the worsening refugee crisis.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

590. The Committee recommended, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/236, that the Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, review the programme plan for the programme narrative of programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.

## **Programme 22 Palestine refugees**

591. At its 4th meeting, on 1 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 (A/77/6 (Sect. 26)).

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

### **Discussion**

593. Delegations expressed continued support and appreciation for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in improving the humanitarian situation and living conditions of Palestine refugees.

594. Delegations welcomed the activities of the Agency aimed at supporting millions of people in the most vulnerable situations, and its positive efforts to provide crucial assistance and protection to registered Palestine refugees, many of whom had relied on the Agency as a key specialized body meeting the basic needs of Palestine refugees, in particular their need for food, shelter, primary health care and education. It was emphasized that the Agency’s programme remained vital to progress with regard to human development indicators, meeting the humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees across the Agency’s five fields of operations, in that: (a) Palestine refugee rights under international law were protected and promoted; (b) Palestine refugee health was protected and the disease burden reduced; (c) school-age children completed quality, equitable and inclusive basic education; (d) Palestine refugee capabilities were strengthened for increased livelihood opportunities; and (e) Palestine refugees were able to meet their basic human needs for food, shelter and environmental health, and to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

595. Several delegations expressed concern regarding the lack of funding and ongoing developmental challenges faced by UNRWA, which compromised its ability to operate effectively at a time when the needs of Palestine refugees had grown more acute, exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic. The view was expressed that the lack of funding was an impediment to achieving better living conditions for refugees.

In addition, it was noted that UNRWA had to contend with the disruption of its operations because of protracted armed conflict and civil unrest, which had led to increased demands on important protection services. In that regard, delegations expressed their commitment to supporting the Agency until a comprehensive, just and lasting solution for the Palestine refugees had been found. Delegations expressed their continued support for efforts to ensure that Palestine refugees had access to vaccination campaigns, including through voluntary contributions and the provision of COVID-19 vaccines. To that end, a delegation urged the Agency to continue to support the promotion of the rights of Palestine refugees under international law, protect their health, ensure that school-age children completed a quality basic education and train them to meet their basic needs for food, housing and environmental health. It was suggested that UNRWA take a more systematic approach to programme reforms and to modernizing the Agency so that it remained fit for purpose. It was emphasized that the international community should take concrete actions to help the State of Palestine to fight the pandemic, develop its economy and improve people's livelihoods with a view to achieving economic independence. Another delegation emphasized its position in the consultations on the financing of UNRWA, which was based on the following main elements: (a) expand the donor base, increase voluntary contributions and seek innovative financing; (b) improve the efficiency of the Agency and focus on its mandate; (c) seek synergies with other actors and United Nations system organizations; (d) introduce predictability, multi-year programming and the principle of non-assignment as management standards; and (e) strengthen the dialogue with the League of Arab States. The importance was recognized of UNRWA staff development programmes, which had contributed to the universalization of specialists and an integrated approach to resolving priority tasks. A delegation urged the Agency to be attentive to the implementation of personnel reforms, which tended to expand the staff and, accordingly, impose a greater financial burden on the Agency's budget. It was stressed that the main criteria should be efficiency, especially in the context of existing debts and the general lack of funds for the implementation of programmes.

596. A delegation noted the development of the Agency's next strategic plan, for 2023–2028, and requested the Agency to continue to pay special attention to refugee health, children's education, livelihood opportunities, food, shelter and vaccination. Another delegation noted the innovative focus of the Agency's activities, which made it possible to improve the quality and uninterrupted provision of services, as well as to respond flexibly to changing conditions. A delegation welcomed the efforts and progress made by UNRWA with regard to digitalization, in particular during the pandemic, which had limited the negative effects on the education of Palestine refugees. It was suggested that special attention be paid to the focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which were the strategic guidelines for the functioning of the entire United Nations system.

597. A delegation expressed concern regarding the severe upheaval in the Middle East, in that the Palestinians, many of whom had become refugees for the second and third time, increasingly depended on assistance from the international community, and a special burden of responsibility and work had fallen on the shoulders of the Agency. Strong emphasis was placed on the noble humanitarian mission of UNRWA, as well as on its effectiveness and neutrality, which deserved the deepest respect and full support. The same delegation observed that Israel's military operations in Gaza in the past month had further exacerbated the situation of Palestinians in the enclave. It was suggested that the long-standing blockade, which impeded development, was overlaid with the urgent need to rebuild civilian infrastructure. The view was expressed that the difficult socioeconomic situation in Lebanon and Jordan had a direct impact on Palestine refugees, as did that in the Syrian Arab Republic, where efforts continued to overcome the consequences of a devastating conflict caused by

the rise of terrorism and external interference. It was pointed out that there was a need for stable and predictable funding for the Agency, including in connection with the humanitarian appeal launched by the United Nations for Gaza.

598. The importance was highlighted of subprogramme 4, Palestine refugee capabilities are strengthened for increased livelihood opportunities, as that related to refugees' improved capabilities. A delegation noted that, in figure 26.XI, the performance measure showed that the planned target of providing 48,005 young people with microfinance products had not been met. Information was sought, as the total number of clients receiving financial services was low relative to the total population of 5.8 million registered Palestine refugees.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

599. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the essential work of UNRWA, which had maintained the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance, as well as of protection services, for the benefit of 5.8 million registered Palestine refugees, in particular women and children.

600. The Committee reiterated that, by alleviating the plight of the Palestine refugees, UNRWA played a vital role in ensuring the stability of the region and the viability of the two-State solution. The Committee commended the staff of the Agency for carrying out its invaluable work in an exceptionally difficult security, political and financial environment, as well as throughout the pandemic.

601. The Committee welcomed the proposed strategic outcomes for 2023.

602. The Committee stressed the importance of continuing to mainstream protection and to integrate a gender perspective into the Agency's work, as appropriate.

603. The Committee supported the Agency's efforts to further advance disability inclusion in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

604. The Committee supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen its partnerships and expand its donor base.

605. The Committee emphasized the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat and the need to strengthen its risk management, internal control framework, results-based management and transparency. The Committee also emphasized the importance for UNRWA of a reliable audit, investigation and evaluation system. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution [67/253](#), in which the Assembly welcomed the progress made towards the implementation of the enterprise risk management system, and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect the application of enterprise risk management in the Agency's future programme plans.

606. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme budget for 2023.

### **Programme 23 Humanitarian assistance**

607. At its 13th meeting, on 7 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 27\)](#)).

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

### **Discussion**

609. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. It was noted that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs played an indispensable role in coordinating principled humanitarian action and ensured that coherent, effective and consistent system-wide response strategies met the humanitarian needs of affected people and minimized duplication and gaps in response efforts. Some delegations expressed appreciation and firm support for the critical leadership role that the Office played in ensuring timely, coherent, coordinated and principled international responses to humanitarian emergencies and noted that effective coordination was a force multiplier and essential in the complex environments in which humanitarian responses took place. It was further noted that the proposed programme plan for 2023 was succinct and well structured and had a clear format.

610. Delegations expressed concern about the increase in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts and the climate crisis. A delegation acknowledged the significant impact of the pandemic on the substantive work and operations of the Office, expressed the view that such events could become increasingly common and, in that regard, sought clarification on how the Office planned to integrate lessons learned from the response to the pandemic into future responses. The delegation also sought clarification on how the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs intended to manage the increased demand for its services and the related impact on its proposed programme plan for 2023.

611. A delegation commended the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for coping with the “new normal” and its role in ensuring that people in need of humanitarian assistance received such assistance despite the challenges for the United Nations humanitarian response system. The delegation expressed its gratitude to the leadership of the Office for the efforts made to save lives. Another delegation acknowledged the substantial increase in the number of people needing humanitarian aid in recent years and noted the substantial increase in its Government’s contribution to the humanitarian budget in order to address the crisis. The delegation recalled that its Government had allocated 60 per cent of its humanitarian budget flexibly. Another delegation emphasized the need for strengthened international cooperation to respond to the urgency and magnitude of those challenges.

612. A delegation welcomed the progress made by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in critical areas such as the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework and the increased use of anticipatory approaches. The delegation also welcomed the continued focus on those areas, including the initiatives led by the Office to enhance the gathering, sharing and analysis of data to ensure methodologically sound, evidence-based and informed strategic decisions on humanitarian responses and the prioritization of limited humanitarian resources. Another delegation recalled the importance of establishing priorities, notably in the humanitarian response, that would allow donors to ensure that resources were tailored to the most important needs. The delegation supported the use of new technologies on the ground and the implementation of a precise methodology for assessment and analysis using lessons learned from Haiti. Another delegation welcomed the efforts made by the Office to improve its policy and analysis activity with innovative technology solutions.

613. A delegation said that, while the impact of climate change was becoming undeniable, particularly for vulnerable communities, it did not concur with the approach of linking the issues of international security and climate change. The delegation emphasized that the key link made should have been between the environment and development and that the issue of climate change should have been addressed in the context of sustainable development. The same delegation stated that the focus on the humanitarian consequences of the climate crisis throughout the proposed programme plan did not accurately reflect the fact that many of the humanitarian crises had a political origin, and the delegation sought the views of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on the issue.

614. A delegation highlighted the fact that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs led the humanitarian community, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to take early action on and contribute to community resilience to climate disasters. Delegations emphasized the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in responding to the challenges of the climate crisis.

615. Some delegations welcomed the inclusion of gender perspectives in the operational activities of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and emphasized the importance of women's participation and leadership in humanitarian assistance. A delegation acknowledged the efforts of the Office in providing protection to vulnerable people from exploitation and abuse. Another delegation welcomed the efforts of the Office in providing protection against sexual harassment and exploitation and encouraged United Nations agencies to continue such efforts.

616. A delegation expressed concern that the proposed programme plan for 2023 included terms and concepts that had not been intergovernmentally agreed, citing as examples the use of the terminology on climate and the intra-Secretariat manual on gender policy. The delegation emphasized that the regular budget was funded by Member States and that, as such, its resources should be utilized only for the implementation of the decisions agreed upon by Member States, as reflected in the documents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

617. With regard to subprogramme 1, Policy and analysis, a delegation sought clarification as to which mandate formed the basis for the use of the term "humanitarian crisis" reflected in table 27.5 of the proposed programme plan for 2023. The same delegation cited deliverable 9 in section B of table 27.6 of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and sought clarification on the relationship between the political, humanitarian assistance and human rights dimensions of the United Nations response to crises.

618. With regard to subprogramme 2, Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response, a delegation noted that the share of humanitarian response plans that were 75 per cent funded remained below target according to result 1, an enhanced Global Humanitarian Overview, and the delegation sought clarification on how the Office planned to effectively address that gap. Another delegation questioned the reference to General Assembly resolution [75/90](#), on the situation in Afghanistan, that was included under the legislative mandates and sought clarification on the significance or relevance of the resolution to the proposed programme plan. With regard to paragraph 27.37 (c) and table 27.9 of the proposed programme plan for 2023, a delegation sought clarification as to whether the term "early action" referred to an early warning system. Another delegation said that it would have appreciated the inclusion of a reference to target countries or more context in relation to the locations in which the Office was planning to develop early action and anticipatory approaches.

619. With regard to subprogramme 3, Disaster risk reduction, a delegation welcomed the progress made by the subprogramme in scaling up resilience at the local level through global partnerships and expressed hope that the progress would continue. Another delegation cited paragraph 27.83 of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and said that it would have appreciated the inclusion of a reference to the alignment of the ReliefWeb service with the International Aid Transparency Initiative. The delegation advised that it would consider submitting written proposals in that regard.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

620. **The Committee commended the work carried out by the Office in the face of increasing humanitarian needs and challenges.**

621. **The Committee appreciated the efforts of the Office and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office to continue to ensure the timely, coherent, coordinated and principled response of the international community to natural disasters and complex emergencies and to continue to facilitate the transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and sustainable development.**

622. **The Committee underlined the importance of better integrating disaster risk reduction into humanitarian response and noted that the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction would continue to strengthen its coordinating role within the United Nations system, including its support to United Nations country teams and resident coordinators in integrating disaster risk reduction and resilience into common country analyses and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.**

623. **The Committee also underlined the importance of anticipatory approaches and early warning early action systems, and the need to improve them in the humanitarian system, and of scaling up resilience in cooperation and collaboration with national Governments.**

624. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:**

#### **Overall orientation**

##### **Strategy and external factors for 2023**

##### ***Paragraph 27.5***

**Replace “to demand change” with “to actively participate in efforts aimed at disaster risk reduction”.**

**Replace “the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Global Platform, which will be hosted by Indonesia, will assess and take stock” with “the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. In the outcome of its seventh session, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction assessed progress and took stock”.**

##### ***Paragraph 27.13***

**Delete the phrase “, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee policies and standby capacities, its Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action and its Gender Standby Capacity Project”.**

***Paragraph 27.15***

Replace “In line with” with “Recalling”.

**Subprogramme 1  
Policy and analysis**

***Paragraph 27.25***

At the end of the first sentence, replace “climate disasters” with “climate and weather extremes and disasters”.

Delete “No Return to Normal: The Growing Humanitarian Climate Crises,”.

Delete “The findings covered, among others, humanitarian impacts of climate change and recommendations for addressing those challenges”.

**Planned results for 2023**

**Result 2**

***Paragraph 27.29***

After “The subprogramme’s work”, insert “, which met the planned target,”.

Before “in line with” insert “and which were also”.

After “Global Humanitarian Policy Forum”, delete “which met the planned target”.

**Result 3**

***Title***

Replace “climate change crisis” with “crisis of climate change”.

***Paragraph 27.31***

Delete “, “No return to normal: realities and opportunities of the growing humanitarian climate crisis”,,”.

***Paragraph 27.32***

In the last sentence, replace “climate crisis” with “crisis of climate change”.

***Paragraph 27.33***

In the first sentence, replace “climate crisis” with “crisis of climate change”.

***Table 27.5***

***Column “2021 (actual)”***

Replace “climate crisis” with “crisis of climate change”.

***Column “2022 (planned)”***

Replace “climate crisis” with “crisis of climate change”.



**Column “2023 (planned)”**

Replace “climate crisis” with “crisis of climate change”.

**Table 27.6****B. Generation and transfer of knowledge****Deliverable 9**

Replace “On the relation among the political, humanitarian assistance and human rights dimensions of the United Nations response to crises” with “On humanitarian assistance in the context of the multidimensional United Nations response to crises”.

**Subprogramme 2****Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response****Paragraph 27.37 (c)**

Replace “early action and anticipatory approaches” with “anticipatory approaches and early warning early action systems”.

Replace “especially to climate-related disasters” with “especially to disasters related to climate change”.

**Planned results for 2023****Result 3****Title**

Replace “early action anticipatory approaches” with “anticipatory approaches and early warning early action systems”.

**Paragraph 27.46**

Replace “climate crisis” with “crisis of climate change”.

Replace “climatic” with “environmental”.

**Paragraph 27.47**

Replace “climatic” with “environmental”.

**Table 27.9****Column “2023 (planned)”**

Replace “early action and anticipatory approaches” with “anticipatory approaches and early action early warning systems”.

Replace “especially to climate-related natural disasters” with “especially to disasters related to climate change”.

**Subprogramme 3****Disaster risk reduction****Paragraph 27.52 (d)**

Replace “prevention” with “disaster risk prevention and adaptation”.

***Paragraph 27.52 (f)***

After “climate” insert “change”.

***Paragraph 27.52 (g)***

Replace “climate emergency” with “crisis of climate change”.

Replace “climate risk-informed” with “climate change risk-informed”.

***Paragraph 27.60***

Replace “vulnerable segments of the population” with “the most vulnerable”.

***Paragraph 27.61***

Replace “climate scenarios” with “climate change scenarios”.

Replace “climate-sensitive” with “climate-change”.

**Programme 24  
Global communications**

625. At its 7th meeting, on 2 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 24, Global communications, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 28\)](#)).

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

**Discussion**

627. Delegations expressed support and appreciation for the work of the Department of Global Communications and highlighted the importance of its work, including in building global support for the work of the United Nations, promoting sustainable development, combating misinformation and publicizing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

628. A delegation reiterated its support for the Department and its efforts to improve the quality and quantity of work undertaken to disseminate accurate, objective and balanced information. The same delegation noted that such efforts had led to significant results in terms of expanding the Department’s audience base and providing high-quality and accessible content. Another delegation also expressed its support for the quality of the documentation provided during the current session. Another delegation commended the Department on its work, especially given the prevalence of misinformation, and stated that the Department’s response to that required agility and communications that were both strategic and reactive.

629. A delegation noted that programme 24 was one of the programmes on which the Committee had not been able to come to an agreement at the previous session and urged Committee members to work towards an agreement on programme 24 in the current session.

630. A delegation noted that the proposed programme plan for 2023 included the stated mandates of the Department and conveyed the main priorities of the General

Assembly. Another delegation noted that the proposed programmed plan incorporated references to the strengthened mandate of the Department, including with regard to human rights and addressing the manipulation of information, which it said were important items for the delegation.

631. With respect to evaluation activities, a delegation noted that the proposed programme plan for 2023 made reference to the evaluation being conducted in 2021 of the implementation of the global communications strategy and stated that it would welcome further information on the main lessons learned from that evaluation and how they had been applied. The same delegation expressed support for the Department's global communications strategy for the United Nations, through which it provided a data-driven and audience-focused approach to communications, in order to build awareness and generate support for the United Nations.

632. Several delegations acknowledged the effectiveness of the Department's global thematic campaigns, including ActNow and Verified, in strengthening messages concerning climate change and misinformation. A delegation expressed appreciation for the various campaigns focused on sustainable development, climate change, peace and security and human rights and for the important work of the Department in providing strategic and crisis communications guidance to resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams in their respective regions.

633. Delegations emphasized the importance of multilingualism and expressed the view that the Department should ensure equal treatment for all the official languages, including the related content tools. A delegation expressed its concern on the disparity in the quality of translation of United Nations online resources among the official languages and noted with concern that many initiatives that were undertaken in non-official languages diverted scarce resources that could otherwise be used to improve the quality of services in the official languages to mandated levels. The same delegation indicated that search functionalities on some United Nations websites were offered only in English, which ran contrary to the principles of multilingualism and equal access to information for all users of those resources. A delegation expressed the view that there was insufficient information on the work of the United Nations with respect to non-official languages and sought clarification on the type of measures being developed on the use of non-official languages. Another delegation welcomed a recent UNESCO declaration, by which 7 July was declared World Kiswahili Language Day, and asked the Secretariat to highlight some of the efforts it had made with regard to multilingualism.

634. A delegation emphasized the importance of General Assembly resolution [76/250](#), on Holocaust denial, and urged Member States and social media companies to take active measures to combat antisemitism and Holocaust denial or distortion by means of information and communications technologies and to facilitate reporting on such content. The same delegation noted that the programme plan did not include reference to the resolution and sought clarification on the reasons for its exclusion. Several delegations expressed strong support for the inclusion of the contents of the resolution on Holocaust denial into the programme plan of the Department and its work.

635. A delegation noted that the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the implementation of mandates, especially those of the United Nations information centres, and expressed the hope that the number of events would soon return to pre-pandemic levels. Another delegation encouraged the Department to continue its efforts to combat misinformation, especially in relation to COVID-19, and to combat speech relating to racism, hatred and discrimination, including targeting Asians and people of Asian descent and Africans and people of African descent.

636. A delegation stated that one issue with United Nations information centres lay in the way information was being communicated, including in the provision of information that was sometimes too general and lacked specificity. In that regard, clarification was sought on how the dissemination of information and content by United Nations information centres had changed to address those issues. Another delegation sought clarification on the role of United Nations information centres in the new reality of communicating through social media and whether there was a place for the information centres as content creators, as well as on whether the Department had any other ideas on how to amplify the messages relayed by the United Nations through social media with the help of the United Nations information centres.

637. A delegation reiterated its position that the United Nations would need to be more visible, and thus better seen and heard. The same delegation opined that, given the increase in the proportion of young people in the general population and the high rate of Internet usage among that group, adaptations to user preferences were fundamental and would need to be especially rapid. In that regard, the delegation noted that an example of such was provided in paragraph 28.43 of the proposed programme plan. The same delegation noted that the proposed programme plan contained several references to interactions with the public and sought clarification on how feedback received from different target audiences was taken into account in communications issued by the Department. Reference was also made to the digital divide, where a majority of the countries in the global South and Africa did not have access to Internet services, and clarification was sought on what the United Nations did to bridge that divide.

638. Delegations commended the Department for its full implementation of the recommendations of OIOS. A delegation highlighted the strides that the Department had made to improve strategic planning and reduce duplication and opined that that represented a welcome transformation of the work of the Department.

639. Delegations recommended and reemphasized that the Department should ensure that the news and information it provided was accurate, impartial, complete, balanced, coherent, timely and relevant and that that was reflected accordingly in the document. A delegation also recommended that those principles be embedded in the objectives and strategy of the Department, adding that it would be a positive step if the Department interacted frequently with Member States through their permanent missions.

640. A delegation acknowledged the Department's creative and innovative approach in implementing the information policy and its balanced approach to determining its necessary material needs for the next reporting period. Another delegation inquired as to the main challenges for the work of the Department in the coming year.

641. A delegation expressed its concern about the staff composition within the Department and requested that it intensify its efforts to improve equitable geographical representation within the Department and to recruit more personnel from underrepresented developing countries, and that information thereon be included in its programme activities. The delegation further clarified that geographic representation was one of the most important mandates from Member States, especially in the context of the management reform, and that the recruitment of staff and other staff-related issues should not be addressed only by the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance or the Department of Operational Support, but were relevant to all departments. In that respect, the delegation opined that the current forum was a good opportunity for dialogue with the head of the Department and to listen to ideas and plans for the future about an issue that was very important to all developing countries.

642. Although matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, a delegation cited table 28.9 of the programme plan for 2023 and requested that the Secretariat provide more specific information on the main areas of anticipated expenditure under extrabudgetary funds, including whether voluntary funding was in line with existing mandates and how it affected programme activities.

643. With respect to the future work of the Department, a delegation opined that there were three important priorities for the Department, namely: to continue to expand its reach, innovate through partnerships and mobilize wide and diverse audiences; to put accuracy and trustworthiness at the centre of its work; and to build on the insights and expertise gained in promoting media literacy skills and using innovative partnerships from the two previous years and apply them in the present context. The delegation also welcomed the Department's stated intention to strive to serve as a source of reliable, fact-based information that advanced the work, principles and purposes of the United Nations, in particular in its crisis communications.

644. With regard to subprogramme 1, Campaigns and country operations services, a delegation welcomed the way in which the subprogramme was aligned with the work of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow in 2021, with regard to climate communications. Another delegation sought clarification on result 3: increased engagement with global audience on United Nations priority themes, specifically on how those priorities were defined and who defined them.

645. With regard to subprogramme 2, News services, a delegation cited paragraph 28.33 of the programme plan for 2023 and sought clarification on the reference to the newest web-based and mobile distribution platforms. The same delegation cited figure 28.VI of the programme plan and sought clarification as to why the performance measure set for 2023 was lower than that set for 2022. Another delegation noted that paragraph 28.42 of the programme plan for 2023 contained a reference to the requirement for additional investment in enhancing and upgrading the existing UN News Reader mobile app to offer additional functionalities and preferences to users. In that regard, the delegation mentioned that services were currently provided only in English and it would therefore be more prudent for the Department to prioritize the provision of existing services in the six official languages of the United Nations, rather than dedicating resources for new functionalities.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**646. The Committee expressed appreciation for the important work carried out by the Department of Global Communications, as well as for the development of the new global communication strategy for the United Nations, including the emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage.**

**647. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in particular the Department of Global Communications, to continue contributing to the observance of international days and celebrations established by the Assembly and to play a role in raising awareness and promoting those events in accordance with respective Assembly resolutions, and in cooperation with the specialized agencies in charge of their implementation, where appropriate.**

648. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 24, Global communications, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modification:

**Overall orientation**

*Paragraph 28.2*

After “preparation of news and communications products”, insert “, including content on United Nations websites and social media accounts,”.

Replace “feasible” with “appropriate”.

**Subprogramme 2**

**News services**

*Paragraph 28.33 (a)*

Replace the existing text with the following: “Provide the timely delivery of accurate, impartial, comprehensive, balanced, coherent and objective news and information;”.

**Programme 25**

**Management and support services**

649. At its 12th and 17th meetings, on 7 and 9 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 25, Management and support services, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 29\)](#), [A/77/6 \(Sect. 29A\)](#), [A/77/6 \(Sect. 29B\)](#), [A/77/6 \(Sect. 29C\)](#), [A/77/6 \(Sect. 29E\)](#), [A/77/6 \(Sect. 29F\)](#) and [A/77/6 \(Sect. 29G\)](#)).

650. The Under-Secretary-General for Management Policy, Strategy and Compliance, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, the Assistant Secretary-General, Chief Information and 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**

651. A delegation said that the current overall structure of programme 25 meant that the programme plan was very lengthy and at times lacking in strategic direction. It was of the view that the programme plan should be focused on the programme’s intended outcomes, which might be shared across locations. The three offices away from Headquarters were asked whether it would be feasible for a more consolidated approach to be taken.

652. The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance was commended on its policy leadership in all management areas, including through the provision of a clear, integrated global management strategy and policy framework and strengthened monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms.

653. A delegation expressed appreciation for the vital role that the Department continued to play in implementing the reform agenda of the Secretary-General, including the measures contained in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda” ([A/75/982](#)), throughout the Organization and making the United Nations operational, efficient and productive during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Regarding

culture change in the context of decentralization, the delegation asked how the Department would accelerate the culture shift required to fully implement the management paradigm of increased delegation of authority, transparency and accountability and a culture of continuous learning. Another delegation noted that the Department played an important role in supporting and encouraging the Organization to enhance its working methods, including by driving forward efforts on results-based management and promoting a culture of results, thereby ensuring that the Organization built on the best practices and lessons learned from the pandemic. The delegation welcomed the continued focus of the Department on implementing the Secretary-General's management reforms and added that it was crucial to ensure that those reforms were embedded across the Organization in a sustainable manner and to realize the full benefits thereof. Information on what remained to be done to fully embed those reforms was requested. The same delegation noted with satisfaction that the reforms were already having an impact and helping the United Nations to better deliver on its mandates and programmes. The importance of constantly seeking out ways to improve was underlined and the Department's focus on continuous improvement was therefore welcomed.

654. A delegation welcomed the Department's support for Secretariat-wide efforts at disability inclusion, including with regard to the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

655. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the secretariat of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, noting that it worked with very limited human resources and under immense pressure and yet continued to provide high-quality support to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. It also welcomed the efforts of the Programme Planning and Budget Division to improve the quality of the budget reports, including by monitoring the terminology used, ensuring early engagement with Member States and adapting more tables and charts for easy readability. Several other delegations likewise welcomed the support that the Committee received from the Division and, in particular, from the Director of the Division and the Secretary of the Committee and his team, emphasizing how crucial it was to the work of the Committee. Another delegation applauded the interactions between the Department and, in particular, the Division and other programmes. It was of the view that performance was now more visible in the programmes and that the move from a resources- to a results-based approach should provide reassurance to the General Assembly with regard to opting for an annual budget and results-based management. The delegation also noted with satisfaction the quality of the documents on performance and the information they contained, despite the reduced word count. A delegation commended the Department on an extremely useful report, which, in some ways, represented the transition towards an annual budget and demonstrated the dynamism of the Secretariat, and noted the good programmatic information in subprogrammes 1 and 2, including on the activities of the special political missions.

656. A delegation, referring to the Committee's consideration of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, in which the work of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management was detailed, requested information on what the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance was doing to ensure business continuity in the United Nations and on the related mandates provided by Members States, including with reference to specific resolutions.

657. Concerning the new Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which was proposed to be established in 2022, a delegation asked which programme or subprogramme the new Office would support and requested clarification from a programmatic management perspective. Another delegation noted that, according to

the report of the Secretary-General on addressing racism and promoting dignity for all in the United Nations Secretariat ([A/76/771](#)), the main responsibility of the Office was to address discrimination, including racism and racial discrimination. The delegation, expressing its full support for tackling discrimination in all its forms, sought clarification in that regard.

658. A delegation said it strongly supported the delivery of innovations driven by business needs and based on the most recent technology road maps to contribute to the efficient functioning of processes and utilization of the Organization's resources through the Umoja governance structure and dashboards.

659. Regarding subprogramme 1, component 2, Services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation said that it placed a high value on the Department's work in that regard. It indicated that it regularly left very positive feedback for the Department in its annual surveys and commended the secretariat on its readiness to respond promptly to all its requests. It noted, in particular, the high quality of the information provided on elections, nominations and appointments, which was available on CandiWeb through the e-deleGATE portal. Recalling Assembly resolution [76/236](#), on programme planning, by which the Secretary-General was mandated to identify possible measures to support the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the delegation added that the resolution also referred to building the capacity of the secretariat of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which was also the secretariat of the Fifth Committee. More information on that point was requested.

660. The same delegation expressed its support for the content of paragraph 29A.52, concerning the commitment to the general procurement principles of the United Nations, namely fairness, integrity and transparency, effective international competition and optimal price-quality relationship, while taking into account the interests of the Organization.

661. With reference to subprogramme 2, Programme planning, finance and budget, the delegation noted with interest the plan to develop and continue to implement the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in particular with regard to the technical and financial component and the success in solving a complex task, which indicated the Secretariat's high level of professionalism.

662. Also on subprogramme 2, while expressing an understanding of the challenges of identifying appropriate metrics to measure some of the work carried out by the Department, a delegation nonetheless encouraged the Secretariat to continue to find ways of enhancing those metrics further in order to make the impact on the Organization more visible. The delegation also encouraged the Secretariat to review the overall shape and structure of programme 25, Management and support services to reduce the overlap between the sections on Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. The same should be done with programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. It was also suggested that the Secretariat should improve the structure of the next year's programme.

663. A delegation emphasized that compliance and accountability – which meant respecting regulations and rules and taking responsibility for concrete outcomes – were two fundamental principles of management. It welcomed the continuous efforts made to strengthen the system of internal controls in support of the prudent management of resources in the context of the decentralized delegation of authority framework.

664. The delegation welcomed result 3 of subprogramme 2, component 2, Field operations finance, on independent risk management for global United Nations capital construction projects. The delegation recommended that the Global Asset



Management Policy Service of the Field Operations Finance Division take on the role of main coordinator of major capital projects and enhance integrated risk management so as to better deliver projects within approved scope, budgets and timelines. With reference to figure 29A.IV, the delegation recommended that the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva also be included.

665. With regard to component 3 of subprogramme 2, Programme planning and budgeting, the same delegation noted that the Secretariat expected a final decision by Member States in 2022 on the transition to annual budgeting (table 29A.25). In that regard, the delegation recalled that the transition from a biennial budget to an annual budget, authorized on a trial basis in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/266 A](#), could only be approved by the Assembly. It expressed the hope that the Secretariat would be ready to comply with whatever decision the Assembly took in that regard with the same approach and diligence with which the transition to an annual budgeting had been proposed. Although it was outside the scope of the Committee, another delegation asked for examples of how the move to the one-year budget cycle had led to a more responsive programme plan reflecting real changes on the ground.

666. Regarding subprogramme 3, Human resources, a delegation noted with regret that, in March 2022, Member States had once again failed to agree on a resolution on human resources management. It was therefore the delegation's understanding that all reports of the Secretary-General on personnel matters that had been considered from the seventy-third to the seventy-sixth sessions of the General Assembly had been rejected by Member States. Fresh ideas were thus expected from the Secretariat, including on key aspects such as staff diversity, mobility and strategies aimed at achieving equitable geographical representation and gender parity. Another delegation likewise expressed regret that Member States had not been able to reach consensus that year and expressed the hope that an agreement could be reached the following year so as to provide the necessary guidance that would later be expressed in the programme activities of the Secretariat.

667. A delegation noted that the most recent General Assembly resolution on human resources management was resolution [72/254](#), which had been adopted in 2017, and that it was mainly of a technical nature regarding amendments to documents on raising the retirement age. Specific matters on personnel issues had last been agreed upon in resolution [71/263](#), which, the delegation noted, had not been included in the list of mandates of the programme plan for 2023. The delegation therefore requested confirmation that the Secretariat had complied with all of the mandates contained in resolution [71/263](#). The delegation also asked for confirmation that, should the Committee agree to the Department's programme plan for 2023, the Secretariat would still continue to comply with that same resolution. For example, it asked whether the Secretariat's mobility system for 2023 would still be regulated by resolution [68/265](#), which was listed among the list of mandates, and not by the new approach that had been developed by the Department but had not been supported by Member States. Another delegation noted the Secretariat's aim to implement new approaches to staff mobility and asked how the Department and, in particular, the Office of Human Resources, was working to ensure the coordination and movement of staff between field offices and central locations.

668. A delegation emphasized that geographical representation remained a core concern and welcomed the aim of the Secretary-General to have every unrepresented and underrepresented Member State reach within-range status by 2030. To realize that objective, the delegation was of the view that it was essential to examine not only the number of unrepresented or underrepresented Member States, but also, and perhaps more importantly, the extent or severity of Member State underrepresentation. The delegation looked forward to seeing more concrete key performance indicators and

outcomes in that regard. It also welcomed the proposed strategic workforce planning approach and encouraged the Office of Human Resources to enhance succession planning in its policy on staff recruitment.

669. With reference to paragraph 29A.100, the same delegation asked what was meant by the phrase “adopting new values and behaviours in talent management”, in subparagraph (f).

670. A delegation stressed that the key to the United Nations, and to any organization, was its people, and therefore welcomed the advances being made in modern human resources policies and initiatives, such as the United Nations Values and Behaviours Framework and the anti-racism strategic action plan, that supported a diverse and capable United Nations workforce and an effective and respectful workplace. Another delegation wished to echo that sentiment, expressing its strong support for the new United Nations Values and Behaviours Framework, the anti-racism strategic action plan and the establishment of the Office with regard to the latter.

671. Delegations recognized and expressed support for the work carried out by the Department of Operational Support, including with regard to the provision of advisory services, process simplification, data analytics, support for partnerships and capacity development. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the Department’s intention to redouble efforts to simplify Secretariat-wide processes, which would support a more effective and efficient Organization and more effective mandate delivery. Another delegation noted the Department’s continuing efforts to support the young professionals programme, which had been increasingly seen as a valuable resource in the development path of young professionals.

672. A delegation welcomed the information contained in the programme plan for 2023 and expressed support for the vision of the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support and the approach taken to carrying out the Department’s mandated activities, based on tasks agreed by Member States and enshrined in General Assembly resolutions. It pointed out that, in a number of resolutions adopted by the Assembly at the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, certain tasks had specifically been agreed upon for the Department of Operational Support, regarding the logistical and procurement work of the Secretariat, and expressed the hope that all mandates agreed by Member States had been included in the programme activities of the Department. Another delegation expressed its appreciation for the quality of the programme plan, which, in its view, contained objectives that were logical and clearly listed.

673. A delegation noted the Department’s effort in incorporating the lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of its programme owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, it asked whether the Department had developed more robust business continuity plans based on best practices to deal with future disruptions. Another delegation welcomed the focus on the transition from emergency operations to supporting clients’ evolving operational support needs in the post-COVID-19 era and stressed the importance of the Department leveraging the lessons learned from the pandemic and the experience of working differently to increase the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations.

674. A delegation noted the Department’s commitment, in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, to continue to upgrade the physical and digital infrastructure at Headquarters to promote inclusiveness by completing the complex-wide accessibility improvement programme for persons with disabilities. It asked what timeline was envisaged for the achievement of such a milestone.

675. A delegation welcomed the planned focus on further optimizing the use of office space and reducing the United Nations footprint, given the use of different ways of

working over the previous two years. It said that it would welcome information on the proposed timeline for the implementation of that plan in relation to the office space in New York.

676. The delegation also welcomed the Department's strategy to continue to strengthen its coordination and to liaise with other parts of the United Nations system, including at country-level with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, with a view to enhancing operational integration and collaboration on areas such as mutual recognition.

677. Regarding paragraph 29B.10, questions were raised as to what risk analysis was being conducted by the Department, how it correlated with the four external factors listed in that paragraph and to what extent the risk management analysis was oriented specifically in terms of lowering the identified risks as they applied to various objectives, strategies and modalities of the programme. Clarification was sought as to how the enterprise risk management had influenced the concept of the programme itself and its development.

678. Referring to paragraph 29B.11, a delegation asked whether, in addition to a senior women talent pipeline, a senior talent pipeline could also be established for candidates from underrepresented developing countries.

679. A delegation noted that, in table 29B.12, under "D. Communication deliverables", there was a reference to annual briefings by the Department of Operational Support to six international partners, including Member States. It requested more information on those six international partners. In the same table, under "E. Enabling deliveries", reference was also made to the Department's planned aviation security assessments, which would include an analysis of aviation service providers. The delegation agreed with the Secretariat that it was important to ensure flight safety and asked what measures it planned to take to that end.

680. Regarding paragraph 29B.73, the Department's partnership with a global NGO and UN-Women was noted and information was requested on the NGO in question.

681. Regarding the support to troop- and police-contributing countries, a delegation welcomed the continuous efforts made to maintain a single point of contact on administrative, logistical and financial support so as to ensure faster reimbursement. It likewise noted with appreciation that updated standards and reimbursement rates for contingency-owned equipment would be easily accessible to all users through the single point of contact. Another delegation, making reference to component 2, and, in particular to the reimbursement framework associated with uniformed troops, drew attention to a related report of the Secretary-General in 2022 ([A/76/676](#)) and emphasized the importance of considering the relevant General Assembly decisions in that regard, as well as of taking a closer look at the certification of troops for 2023. In addition, the delegation also said that it understood that the focal point in the Secretariat for troop- and police-contributing countries had resigned. It stressed the importance of appointing a new focal point to ensure that reimbursement could happen expeditiously and constructively for troop- and police-contributing countries.

682. With regard to subprogramme 2, Supply chain management, component 1, a delegation welcomed result 3, enhanced competition in United Nations procurement through a focus on vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and, in particular, the proposal to allow vendors to submit documents in all six official languages of the United Nations. The delegation requested that the Department of Operational Support enhance self-monitoring and self-investigation with regard to some high-risk areas, including the supply chain, in order to ensure early prevention of fraud, misconduct and corruption.

683. Regarding paragraph 29B.102, relating to result 3 of subprogramme 3, Special activities, a delegation requested further information on the robust value-for-money and resource stewardship agenda.

684. With reference to table 29B.23 and the planned performance measure for 2023, relating to the General Assembly's consideration of a strategic assessment of the real estate portfolio, clarification was sought on the roles of the Department of Operational Support and the Global Asset Management Policy Service in that regard.

685. With regard to Section 29C, on the Office of Information and Communications Technology ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 29C\)](#)), a delegation recalled the important enabling role played by the Office in helping the Organization to carry out its mandates globally. It welcomed the focus in 2023 on ensuring interoperability to enable better information-sharing and collaboration across the Organization, leveraging information and communications technology (ICT) and protecting the United Nations from cybersecurity threats. Information was sought on the main barriers to interoperability. Furthermore, the delegation welcomed the plans for a more cohesive and resilient ICT ecosystem, which would thus foster a more efficient and effective United Nations, and asked whether the Office was working with other United Nations system entities in that context, in particular in the field.

686. The delegation said that the Office played a key role in supporting the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere, in particular with regard to ensuring a more efficient and effective use of data and information to facilitate decision-making and inform strategic direction, and emphasized that that was an area in which the Office must continue to work.

687. With regard to result 1 of subprogramme 1, Strategy and technology innovation, the same delegation recognized the opportunities presented by the use of artificial intelligence and requested information on the impact of that technology on mandate delivery.

688. A delegation welcomed the work of the Office, in particular its efforts during the pandemic to ensure that the Organization had a single place to meet and collaborate, thereby fostering a mobile, digital and agile workforce. It recalled the fact that digitalization was a key element of the Secretary-General's reform agenda and recognized the essential role of the Office in promoting technology and innovation as a pillar of the ICT strategy of the Organization.

689. The delegation recalled that the proactive efforts of the Office in the area of cybersecurity had been put on hold in 2021 owing to the pandemic. The delegation asked whether the cybersecurity assessments would resume in 2022. It also sought additional information on paragraph 29C.21, regarding a planned evaluation in 2023 of compliance with established standards and procedures for ICT efficiency, interoperability and cybersecurity.

690. A delegation commended the Office on its efforts to ensure business continuity and data security and to enable collaboration through the use of technology. Regarding table 29C.3, it requested information on achievements in relation to the availability of conversational artificial intelligence and on plans to expand the use of that technology to all six official languages of the United Nations.

691. A delegation requested more information about the systems managed by the Office and its work in relation to accessibility for persons with disabilities.

692. A delegation, noting that all three offices away from Headquarters had similar objectives, including on human resources management, asked why different wording had been used and whether different approaches were being taken by those three offices.

693. The delegation welcomed the views of all three offices away from Headquarters on the concrete measures that could be taken to increase coherence, coordination and cooperation across the four duty stations with regard to the management of conference space and the provision of services such as ICT.

694. The delegation also welcomed inter-agency coordination and collaboration in areas such as procurement and digitalization. It asked how all three offices away from Headquarters were seeking to share lessons learned and best practices with other United Nations entities at the four duty stations and to explore system-wide opportunities.

695. A delegation noted with satisfaction the continual support provided by the three offices, in particular their efforts to ensure business continuity, implement statements of internal control, mainstream risk management and improve the culture of accountability.

696. A delegation welcomed the fact that the three Offices continued to incorporate lessons learned and best practices from the pandemic. It noted that all three offices had adapted and continued to work, while taking account of the COVID-19 restrictions in force in their respective locations.

697. A delegation commended the United Nations Office at Geneva on its efforts to cope with the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic and in the context of its strategic heritage plan.

698. A delegation requested confirmation that all three offices away from Headquarters would continue to respond to requests for support for virtual and hybrid meetings, including with interpretation. The delegation asked what the three offices had done to investigate, in conjunction with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and other conference service providers, the demand for and potential long-term benefit to the Organization of hybrid operations, in particular in terms of inclusivity, such as by facilitating greater participation by small islands developing States and developing countries who would no longer need to travel to attend meetings in person.

699. Another delegation expressed its support for the efforts of the United Nations Office at Geneva to ensure the uninterrupted provision of administrative and support services to the structures of the United Nations Secretariat in Geneva as well as to other organizations in the United Nations system. It indicated that Geneva remained a major conference centre for international diplomacy, and that delegations' common task was to preserve that status for that Office. The delegation noted with satisfaction the readiness of the Office to use hybrid and virtual formats with remote simultaneous interpretation for the Organization's intergovernmental meetings in the wake of the pandemic. It noted the plan for 2023 to equip nine more conference rooms for that purpose, attributing that to the need to comply with the regulations of the Swiss authorities and the recommendations of WHO regarding COVID-19. At the same time, it was noted that the situation with regard to the spread of COVID-19 was changing. For example, in New York, face-to-face meetings were already taking place. Furthermore, the Secretariat had rightfully pointed out that the further organization of hybrid and virtual meetings required a clear mandate from Member States and the availability of appropriate financial resources, both of which were required decisions on the part of the General Assembly. The United Nations Office at Geneva was asked to provide more information on the status of in-person meetings in Geneva; to confirm whether, in the event of a request from any Geneva-based intergovernmental body or entity, and given the lack of a mandate from the Assembly with regard to hybrid and virtual meetings, it had the capacity to carry out in-person meetings, taking into account all the necessary precautions; and, if that was not the case, to indicate what problems it might be encountering.

700. A delegation noted the progress made with regard to Geneva-based staff moving into flexible workspace and said that it looked forward to the report on its implementation. Delegations commended the United Nations Office at Geneva for its work under subprogramme 5, Library services, to protect the rich heritage of the League of Nations and the United Nations during the renovation of the library and surrounding premises. The delegation also noted that, in 2023, the Office would be preparing for the move of OHCHR into the Palais des Nations, and asked for more information about what the move entailed, whether there were plans for shared services with OHCHR and what particular challenges there were, if any.

701. A delegation, noting the frequent delays in the implementation of the strategic heritage plan, requested that the United Nations Office at Geneva keep a close eye on the construction works to ensure that no further delays were incurred and enhance effectiveness and efficiency in coordinating with the Global Asset Management Policy Service of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance. Updated information on the progress of the strategic heritage plan was sought.

702. The delegation requested that the three offices away from Headquarters enhance their efforts to improve geographical representation. A delegation noted with appreciation that the United Nations Office at Geneva had included that important issue, as well as external factors, in its strategy. It also welcomed the continued implementation by the United Nations Office at Vienna of initiatives to enhance geographical representation, as indicated in subprogramme 2, result 1. The delegation asked all three offices to elaborate on their efforts to improve equitable geographical representation and their related plans for 2023. Another delegation highlighted the important principle of equitable geographical representation and requested more detailed information in that regard and asked what measures were being considered to observe the principle.

703. A delegation welcomed the work done to increase civility in the workplace and highlighted the need to respect one another in the Organization, keeping in mind the values of the United Nations. The delegation noted that, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, 229 staff members had attended the “United to respect” training course. It asked whether an initial impact assessment had been carried out and whether the training would be rolled out across the system.

704. Regarding paragraph 29E.26, on upgrading risk mitigation dashboards and incorporating customized client dashboards for accounting and financial indicators, a delegation asked whether public versions of the dashboards were available.

705. With reference to table 29E.9, the delegation sought more information on the development of tools to simulate the effect of gender equality on recruitment.

706. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the simplified submission of medical insurance claims, which was highlighted under the programme performance information for 2021 in subprogramme 1, Programme planning, finance and budget, and noted that the practice was directly derived from the pandemic and was a good approach to finding solutions.

707. Delegations expressed their gratitude to the leadership of the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Office’s vital work, particularly on the use of technology to respond to clients’ needs and ensure business continuity, despite the challenges caused by the pandemic.

708. A delegation noted that, in paragraph 29F.30 on the United Nations Office at Vienna ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 29F\)](#)), the use of online examinations and test systems had reduced the administrative burden and allowed for an improved hiring process. The Office was asked how it ensured equal treatment for those candidates with limited digital access.

709. Another delegation recognized that the target for planned results 1 and 2 under subprogramme 1, Programme planning, finance and budget, had been exceeded. The Office was asked how business processes could be re-engineered, as reflected in result 3 of the same subprogramme.

710. A delegation welcomed the progress noted in paragraph 29F.32 on achieving equitable geographical representation among staff. The employment of 54 per cent of new staff of UNODC and the United Nations Office at Vienna from underrepresented countries, thus exceeding the target of 43 per cent, was commendable. The delegation noted that, in paragraph 29F.28 (d), numerous initiatives of CEB had been implemented, albeit without any specific information thereon. In that regard, it was asked whether those initiatives were being implemented on the basis of mandates issued by Member States. Information was requested on the status of face-to-face, virtual and hybrid meetings and the platforms being used for virtual and hybrid meetings, and on whether there were any plans to increase the proportion of face-to-face meetings.

711. With regard to the United Nations Office at Nairobi ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 29G\)](#)), a delegation commended the Office on its agile and collaborative efforts in response to the pandemic and on its commitment to leveraging the lessons learned from the pandemic to strengthen its approach to business continuity.

712. A delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, the good work carried out during the reporting period and the increased efforts to strengthen the work of the Office as the only regional office in the global South. Gratitude was expressed for the successful hosting of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP, the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNEP and the inaugural Committee of Permanent Representatives, which showcased the Office's remarkable strength in providing conference services. In addition, the Office was commended on the establishment of a treatment facility, which supported United Nations staff during the pandemic and on the capacity-building initiatives undertaken to train staff to effectively perform their work.

713. A delegation noted that the United Nations Office at Nairobi provided payroll and finance services and human resources administration to international staff, 131 resident coordinator offices and the geographically dispersed offices of UN-Habitat and UNEP. The Office was asked to indicate whether the United Nations designated official in Kenya was the Director-General of the Office or the Resident Coordinator. The delegation noted the presence in Nairobi of the One United Nations initiative in addition to a separate resident coordinator and asked how many representatives of the Secretary-General were needed in Nairobi. The delegation, expressing the view that the Director-General of the Office could also play that role, requested clarification on the One United Nations approach in relation to business operations support and asked how many long-term agreements the Office had entered into with the other United Nations organizations. It was of the view that the agreements would be the realization of the spirit of shared services.

714. The same delegation expressed its appreciation for the support of the Government of Kenya and the city of Nairobi as the United Nations Office at Nairobi endeavoured to modernize its office space and conference facilities. The delegation affirmed its continued commitment to supporting the work of the Office, which had been demonstrated by the recent commission of an expressway terminal and road aimed at decongesting the traffic in Nairobi so as to enable the effective use of the Office. The delegation called upon the Secretariat to consider maintaining the office blocks and upgrading the equipment used by staff. Questions were raised about upcoming partnerships with the city of Nairobi regarding upgrades to infrastructure,



in particular to improve the flow of traffic on the main road outside the Gigiri compound.

715. A delegation, referring to paragraph 29G.5, asked how the Office had optimized the level of utilization of the Gigiri compound, in particular in the context of the pandemic, and what results were anticipated and plans envisaged to further increase the occupancy rate at the compound. The delegation also said that a key performance indicator was needed to measure progress.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

716. **The Committee noted with appreciation the important work carried out under programme 25, Management and Support Services and by the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Information and Communications Technology.**

717. **The Committee expressed appreciation for the high-quality service provided to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination.**

718. **The Committee recalled resolution 76/236, by which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to identify possible measures to enhance and support more effective work of the Committee.**

719. **The Committee noted the efforts of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Information and Communications Technology to mainstream a gender perspective into their operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate.**

720. **The Committee also noted the efforts of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Information and Communications Technology to support disability inclusion, in accordance with the United Nations Disabilities Inclusion Strategy.**

721. **The Committee further noted the efforts of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Information and Communications Technology to cope with challenges brought on by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic to ensure business continuity.**

722. **The Committee commended the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance on its ongoing consultation and engagement with Member States on improving the quality of the proposed programme budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/236.**

723. **The Committee welcomed the more timely preparation of the programme plans and commended the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance on its work in facilitating that achievement.**

724. **The Committee commended the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance on its strengthening of compliance and accountability, including results-based management, internal controls and risk management, in programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.**

725. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the measurability of deliverables, wherever practical.**



726. The Committee emphasized the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat, as well as the need to strengthen risk management, internal control framework, results-based management and transparency. It also emphasized the importance for the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of a reliable audit, investigation and evaluation system. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution [67/253](#), in which progress towards the implementation of the enterprise risk management was welcomed, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect the application thereof in the future programme plans of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Information and Communications Technology.

727. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to intensify his ongoing efforts to ensure equitable geographical representation, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and to ensure as wide a geographical distribution of staff as possible in all departments and offices and at all levels, including at the Director and higher levels, of the Secretariat.

728. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to strengthen workforce planning in order to ensure the effectiveness and continuity of the workforce of the Organization.

729. The Committee recalled resolution [76/271](#) on addressing racism and promoting dignity for all in the United Nations Secretariat and further recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to address racism and racial discrimination in a direct and effective manner.

730. The Committee recalled resolution [73/273](#), in which the General Assembly approved the inclusion of the workforce diversity component in the human resources management framework, and noted the importance of embracing that diversity in decision-making so as to strengthen the performance of the Organization.

731. The Committee noted with concern the lack of quantitative performance measures for Umoja Extension 2 and, in that regard, recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the project and to provide qualitative and quantitative performance measures in his next proposed programme budget.

732. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional innovative ways to increase procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition at Headquarters and field offices and to continue to report on concrete measures taken in that regard.

733. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to improve the websites of the departments, offices and divisions and make them more user-friendly.

734. The Committee noted the efforts of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna to cope with challenges brought on by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic to ensure business continuity.

735. The Committee noted with concern the delays to the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva and, in that regard, recommended that

the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to monitor the project closely and to implement sound risk management.

736. The Committee welcomed the ongoing renovations of blocks A to J of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, including the ongoing upgrades to the ICT infrastructure and the planned project to address the deteriorating condition of the Office's conference facilities.

737. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage the United Nations Office at Nairobi to continue to operate in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [53/242](#) and [56/242](#) in honouring the headquarters rule and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Organization.

738. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 25, Management and support services, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

#### **Section 29A**

#### **Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance**

#### **Overall orientation**

#### ***Paragraph 29A.2 (g)***

Before “diversity”, insert “workforce”.

#### **Legislative mandates**

#### ***Paragraph 29A.13***

#### ***General Assembly resolutions and report of the Secretary-General***

Delete “and report of the Secretary-General”.

Delete

[76/644](#) Eleventh progress report on accountability: strengthening accountability in the United Nations Secretariat

#### **Subprogramme 3**

#### **Human resources**

#### ***General Assembly resolutions***

Insert

[71/263](#) Human resources management

#### **Subprogramme 1**

Enterprise resource planning solution, services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, and management advisory services

#### ***Paragraph 29A.52***

In the first sentence, after “procurement principles of the United Nations, namely,”, insert “best value for money”.

Also in the first sentence, after “effective international competition”, delete “best value for money”.

Also in the first sentence, after “interest of the Organization”, add “as set out in the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations”.

**Subprogramme 3**  
**Human resources**

*Table 29A.31*

**E. Enabling deliverables**

Under talent management, replace “diversity, inclusion” with “workforce diversity, inclusion”.

Under organizational learning, replace “including diversity and inclusion” with “including workforce diversity and inclusion”.

**Section 29B**  
**Department of Operational Support**

**Legislative mandates**

*Paragraph 29B.17*

*General Assembly resolutions*

Delete

**75/254 A–C Programme budget for 2021**

Insert

**76/245** Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2022

**76/246 A** Special subjects relating to the proposed programme for 2022

**76/247 A–C** Programme budget for 2022

**Subprogramme 2**  
**Supply chain management**  
**Component 1**  
**Integrated supply chain management**

*General Assembly resolutions*

Insert

**75/250 B** Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

**75/297** Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

**75/298** Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

**75/299** Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

**75/300** Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**75/301** Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

- 75/302**      **Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali**
- 75/303**      **Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force**
- 75/304**      **Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan**
- 75/305**      **Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara**
- 75/306**      **Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution **1863 (2009)****

**Subprogramme 4**  
**Administration, New York**

*General Assembly resolutions*

Replace the existing text with the following:

- 76/245**      **Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2022**
- 76/246 A**    **Special subjects relating to the proposed programme for 2022**
- 76/247 A–C**   **Programme budget for 2022**

**Programme 26**  
**Internal oversight**

739. At its 9th meeting, on 3 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 26, Internal oversight, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect.30\)](#)).

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

**Discussion**

741. Delegations expressed continued support for the work of OIOS and its leadership role in supervising the Organization and improving internal control, transparency and accountability. Several delegations welcomed the activities of the programme and stressed their commitment to strengthening the mandate of OIOS.

742. A delegation supported the scope of internal oversight coverage of United Nations activities in the area of management, as set out in paragraph 30.7 of the report ([A/77/6 \(Sect.30\)](#)).

743. Concern was expressed by another delegation that the quality of OIOS recommendations for several departments in recent years had not been satisfactory. The delegation advised that OIOS focus on its core mandates related to: (a) auditing the use of financial resources; (b) evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of the programmes and legislative mandates; (c) investigating reports of violations of United Nations regulations, rules and pertinent administrative issuances; (d) supporting self-evaluation; and (e) strengthening the programme's risk-based planning and budgeting. The same delegation requested that OIOS focus on

audit and compliance issues, especially in the areas of anti-fraud and anti-corruption, a culture of accountability and internal control. Cooperation with external audit bodies for better results was encouraged, as well as learning from the best practices of Member States with regard to anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures.

744. Another delegation expressed the need for OIOS to further enhance accountability and transparency for the achievement of its mandated results and targets across the United Nations system. In supporting the relevance of evaluation and inspection, another delegation questioned why so few entities, approximately 20 per cent, had such functions to date, and requested information as to what could be done to improve those insufficient numbers.

745. A delegation also noted with regret that the report under consideration did not refer in principle to equitable geographical representation and recalled that, at its sixty-first session, the Committee had revised paragraph 30.92 of the report to reflect equitable geographical representation among staff. Clarification was sought as to why the reference to geographical representation had been removed from the report and note was taken of continued efforts to diversify staff in terms of gender, equitable geographical representation and professional background, as well as to improve retention. Questions were also raised as to what had been done in that regard and what results were to be expected. A question was also raised by the delegation concerning the vacancies and status of recruitment as a result of the very high vacancy rates experienced in that Office in recent years.

746. With regard to subprogramme 1, Internal audit, it was observed that the performance measure from 2020 to 2021 showed a small increase in figure 30.II. Clarification was sought as to what measures should be taken to meet the planned target of 85 per cent for 2023. Another delegation noted that the target rate of implementation of recommendations within 24 months was not met. On result 2, figure 30.III of subprogramme 1, a delegation enquired as to why the percentage of all accepted audit recommendations issued by OIOS that strengthen data governance was so low and fluctuated between only 6 and 11 per cent.

747. On subprogramme 2, Inspection and evaluation, it was noted that the performance measure for the 2023 planned of result 3 in table 30.5 included outcome evaluations for OHCHR on human rights mainstreaming. Clarification was sought, as the briefing presented by the representative to the Committee indicated that the topic of OHCHR remained pending.

748. A delegation reiterated the importance of combating fraud and protecting whistle-blowers against retaliation. In that regard, on subprogramme 3, Investigations, the delegation queried the result "Increased ability of the organization to address fraud" and how, in such a large organization with significant expenditures, there were only 52 cases of fraud. The delegation also enquired as to how OIOS can better work with management on investigation outcomes to improve implementation and meet the planned target.

749. Another delegation noted that nearly half of the investigative reports on cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, and protection against retaliation, did not meet the timeline target as reflected in figure 30.VII, result 1, subprogramme 3. Similarly, another delegation expressed the view that OIOS needed to carry out its work in as timely a way as possible and sought clarification on steps to clear the backlog of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, and protection against retaliation, including through specialist training in that area for OIOS.

## Conclusions and recommendations

750. The Committee commended the work of OIOS in strengthening the internal control framework, risk management and the governance system for improved performance and transparency of the Organization.

751. The Committee commended the Office's contributions to improving the accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the Organization by providing internal audit, inspection and evaluation, and investigation services.

752. The Committee welcomed the strategy of OIOS for 2023 and the priorities focused on internal oversight coverage in the following management areas: (a) implementation of the reforms of the management, peace and security, and development pillars; (b) strengthening of organizational culture; (c) procurement and supply chain management, including management of fraud and corruption risks; (d) management of mission drawdown or transition; and (e) strengthening of the whistle-blower protection system.

753. The Committee noted with appreciation the work by OIOS in auditing and evaluating: the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; procurement; human resources; logistics; fraud; and sexual harassment.

754. The Committee welcomed the fact that the proposed programme plan for 2023 by OIOS continues to incorporate lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of the programme owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

755. The Committee emphasized the importance of close coordination of OIOS with external oversight entities of the United Nations system such as the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit.

756. The Committee noted the incidents at the United Nations Office for Project Services.

757. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the culture of accountability, the internal control framework, risk management and the governance system for sustained performance and transparency of the Organization.

758. The Committee emphasized the importance of continuing to combat fraud and corruption in high-risk areas, including but not limited to procurement, supply chain management and asset disposal.

759. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to diversify the staff of OIOS in terms of gender, equitable geographical representation and professional background, as well as to improve retention.

760. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 26, Internal oversight, of the proposed programme budget for 2023, subject to the following modifications:

### Subprogramme 1

#### Internal audit

#### *Paragraph 30.23 (d)*

Replace the existing text with the following:

Strengthen annual work planning processes by identifying and monitoring audit assignments that systematically cover United

Nations cross-cutting priorities in the management, programme and strategy areas (including reforms, organization culture, procurement and supply chain, mission drawdown or transition, Sustainable Development Goal support), and take into consideration gender, disability, racial, human rights and environmental perspectives, as appropriate;

**Subprogramme 2**  
**Inspection and evaluation**

*Table 30.5*

*Column “2023 (planned)”*

After “human rights mainstreaming” insert “(to be determined)”.

**Programme 27**  
**Jointly financed activities**

761. At its 19th meeting, on 13 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 27, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 31\)](#)).

762. The Chair of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), the Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Secretary of CEB introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

**Discussion**

763. Delegations expressed appreciation for the detailed presentation of the planned activities for 2023 and for the work under the programme to promote coherence, cooperation and coordination across the United Nations common system.

764. Several delegations expressed thanks to ICSC for its role in the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of staff of the United Nations common system organizations and for ensuring a robust compensation framework that was flexible enough to respond to changing conditions inside and outside the system.

765. Delegations noted the strategy of ICSC as outlined in the programme plan and welcomed its efforts to continue to develop and strengthen a common system of salaries, allowances and benefits in accordance with the Noblemaire and Flemming principles. In the light of the overall financial situation, the view was expressed that the objective of ICSC might not be compatible with the current financial crisis faced by many organizations of the United Nations system as a result of the unpredictability of voluntary contributions. In that connection, a delegation asked how ICSC could effectively adapt in order to meet its ambitious objective, in view of the budget constraints, while at the same time ensuring better coordination within the common system.

766. A delegation expressed support for the mandate of ICSC, which covered all aspects of the conditions of service of staff within the common system, and pointed out that those conditions must be fair at all duty stations. The delegation recognized the significant work that ICSC and its secretariat had been carrying out effectively over the years, including: (a) providing guidance and advice on the application of human resources management rules and systems, including job evaluation standards and tools; (b) lending expertise to stakeholders and cooperating with the Human Resources Network of CEB; (c) requesting feedback from organizations on conditions

of service; and (d) organizing workshops to familiarize staff with the work of ICSC and the benefits and entitlements available to common system staff.

767. Another delegation expressed thanks to ICSC for planning to review the human resources framework and standards of conduct later in 2022 and to review some field-based entitlements in 2023. It was noted that the programme plan for 2023 also incorporated the lessons learned from the pandemic, including best practices for adapting to a rapidly changing environment. With reference to the performance measure contained in table 31.1, a delegation asked why the approval by ICSC of the results of the cost-of-living surveys, and the timely and consistent implementation of the results by all headquarters duty stations, was scheduled for 2023 and not 2022. Clarification was sought on how inflation affected the approval of the surveys by ICSC, and what obstacles there were to conducting the post adjustment reviews on an annual basis.

768. Delegations expressed gratitude and support for the work of the Joint Inspection Unit, recognizing that it was the only independent external oversight body of the United Nations system tasked with conducting system-wide assessments, inspections and investigations. A delegation said that no one questioned the work of its inspectors on issues related to efficiency and the proper use of funds, as their assessments were aimed at improving leadership and methods and ensuring greater coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system. It was emphasized that the activities of the Unit to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the organizations, as well as coordination and interaction among them, were highly relevant. A delegation expressed appreciation for the focus of the Unit on lessons learned and best practices for addressing the impact of the pandemic on effectiveness and efficiency. The delegation expressed support for the efforts of the Unit to engage with the executive heads of the organizations and requested the heads' cooperation in bringing the reports of the Unit to the attention of the legislative bodies.

769. A delegation expressed thanks to the Unit for its system-wide reports on important, relevant and high-priority issues, emphasizing that the recommendations were taken very seriously. The delegation urged the participating organizations to implement all of the recommendations as part of the governance and oversight process.

770. Another delegation asked how evaluations conducted by the Unit improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the organizations. Questions were raised regarding the role of the secretariat's leadership with respect to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, and to what extent the strategy on environmental sustainability (see [JIU/REP/2020/8](#)) contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

771. Several delegations expressed thanks to CEB and its subsidiary mechanisms, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management, for their work, commenting that the foreword to part III of the report, signed by the Secretary-General, was testament to the importance of that work. A delegation noted that CEB, which was composed of the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations, was responsible for promoting coherence, cooperation and coordination in the policies, programmes and activities of the organizations, in accordance with their mandates and for the implementation of the decisions of intergovernmental bodies. The delegation pointed out that the strategy of CEB for 2023 included: (a) developing a common vision and guidance to ensure the effective and coherent implementation of mandates by the organizations; (b) continuing to promote innovative approaches to improve the efficiency and simplification of business practices; and (c) accelerating the harmonization, mutual recognition and integration of working methods. In that regard, the delegation asked whether CEB was still helping to fulfil mandates or whether it was developing



something innovative. The delegation noted that the CEB secretariat had contributed to greater responsiveness and cohesion throughout the system, in particular through the adoption by the member organizations of the High-level Committee on Management of a United Nations system model policy on flexible working arrangements, which had enabled managers to guide the adaptation of staff to the future of work in order to promote a more flexible and modern workforce that was responsive to change (para. 31.63). Questions were raised regarding what kind of workforce could be described as flexible and modern and what special features and characteristics would help staff to transition towards the future of work. Another delegation asked to be provided with the General Assembly mandate on flexible working arrangements, if any. The delegation asked what had been done to fulfil the Committee's recommendation, contained in paragraph 601 of the report of the Committee for 2021 (A/76/16), that the Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to ensure that activities and initiatives were in line with intergovernmental mandates. In addition, a concern was raised in relation to the Committee's recommendation, contained in paragraph 600 of that same report, that the Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to foster a coordinated approach to multilingualism, which was a core and fundamental value of the system, in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions, as there was no mention of multilingualism in the programme for 2023. The delegation also asked what CEB had done to promote a coordinated approach to multilingualism.

772. A delegation noted the work of CEB in expanding United Nations system initiatives to strengthen coherence and integration in the production of data and statistics that responded to system policy and operational needs. Clarification was sought on whether the statistical apparatus would support the work of the resident coordinators through the timely production of data and statistics that responded to policy and operational needs based on countries' situations on the ground. The delegation also noted from the previous year's report that CEB played a vital role in achieving the "One United Nations" approach, which was crucial for the system to effectively deliver its intergovernmental mandates and have an impact on the ground, including in relation to conflict prevention and the 2030 Agenda.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**773. The Committee commended the work carried out by ICSC, noting its key role in enabling member organizations to deliver on their mandates by creating conditions of service that helped to attract and retain staff, the most valuable resource of the United Nations common system, and stressed the need for senior legal expertise within the ICSC secretariat.**

**774. The Committee welcomed the proposed focus of ICSC for 2023 on the inclusion of the workforce diversity component in the human resources management framework, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/273 on common system organizations, as well as on standards of conduct.**

**775. The Committee commended the work carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit and underlined the importance of its long-standing commitment to strengthening transparency and accountability across the United Nations system.**

**776. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage CEB to continue its efforts to promote the system-wide delivery of mandates aimed at ensuring efficiency, in particular in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

**777. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to foster a coordinated approach to multilingualism, which was a core and fundamental**

value of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions.

778. The Committee reaffirmed the need for the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to ensure that activities and initiatives were in line with intergovernmental mandates.

779. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage CEB to continue its efforts to address sexual exploitation and abuse and all other forms of misconduct and harassment.

780. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 27, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed programme budget for 2023.

## **Programme 28**

### **Safety and security**

781. At its 13th meeting, on 7 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)).

782. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security introduced the programme and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

### **Discussion**

783. Delegations expressed appreciation for the important mandate carried out by the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat in ensuring the safety and security of all United Nations personnel, delegates, dignitaries and other visitors. It was noted that the Department performed a vital function in enabling United Nations Headquarters and the field to deliver on mandates and programmes effectively, often in environments that were very challenging and complex – and all the more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, a delegation expressed appreciation for the professionalism and expertise of the Department's team, who had helped to ensure there were no significant incidents at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Appreciation was expressed for the quality of the programme plan, which was very easy to read and precise.

784. Delegations expressed appreciation for specific activities contained in the programme plan for 2023, including the Department's plans to: maintain a constant focus on enhancing and upgrading the security risk management tools and the security advice available to decision makers; update security risk management strategies; heighten operational excellence through improved business processes, effective resource mobilization and a geographically equitable and well-trained workforce; and build an inclusive and enabling environment for mandate delivery through inter-agency partnerships and collaboration with host Governments.

785. With regard to the continued focus on operational excellence and the plan to enhance the diversity and capabilities of the Department's workforce, a delegation asked what diversity meant in the context of safety and security and how it would strengthen mandate delivery by the Department and by the United Nations as a whole. Another delegation emphasized the importance of the safety and security of peacekeepers, whose situation had become more complicated and dangerous. The delegation pointed out that peacekeepers in the United Nations Multidimensional

Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, for example, had been killed, and recommended that the Department intensify its efforts, in cooperation with the Department of Peace Operations and peacekeeping missions, to provide training, knowledge, security management and other necessary support. It was also recommended that the Department coordinate with Member States and the Group of Friends on the Safety and Security of United Nations Peacekeepers.

786. A delegation commended the Department for its efforts to improve its information and knowledge management systems and encouraged the use of public and transparent risk incident systems in cooperation with regional and non-governmental organization partners. Clarification was sought regarding the information and accessibility improvements the Department had made during the past year to facilitate data-driven decision-making. A delegation asked to what extent the Department was engaged in contingency planning for non-traditional security issues, including related to cybersecurity, the weaponization of artificial intelligence and data security.

787. A delegation underlined the Department's critical role as a humanitarian assistance partner, especially in insecure environments. It was noted that growing conflicts and insecurity around the world, coupled with the destabilizing factors they caused, and alongside the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, had increased the need for humanitarian assistance and the presence of humanitarian workers to assist those in the greatest need. In that regard, a delegation emphasized the need to protect humanitarian workers, who accounted for the majority of deaths, injuries and abductions of aid workers. Furthermore, the delegation urged the United Nations to improve internal measures for protection against and accountability for sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by United Nations or aid workers against other aid workers, and called for accountability for violence against humanitarian personnel in sub-Saharan Africa, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, the West Bank and other territories. In the light of the recent increase in difficulty in gaining humanitarian access in Ethiopia, Ukraine and other conflict-affected areas, a delegation asked what steps the Department had taken to support, facilitate and enable transportation and logistical supply lines. A delegation asked how the Department contributed to the goals of the Secretary-General related to the triple-nexus approach to crisis response (better coordination of the work of humanitarian, development and peace actors), and about efforts to forge greater complementarity with a view to achieving shared goals and more effective use of resources. Clarification was sought as to whether the Department provided humanitarian personnel, or put in place other safety measures in order to enable humanitarian access, in conflict-affected areas such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including in places where peacekeeping missions were being scaled down, but dangers continued to exist.

788. Delegations welcomed the Department's integration of a gender perspective into a gender-sensitive security management system, as well as its implementation of the disability strategy to help foster diversity, equity and inclusion. With regard to paragraph 34.11, additional information was requested on the Department's strategy for strengthening the integration of a gender perspective into security policies.

789. On enterprise risk management, a delegation asked what input the Department had provided into the corporate risk register, what its assessment of the risks was and how such work informed the 2023 proposed programme budget.

790. It was noted that the Department had received contributions from other entities and agencies that benefited from its services through the cost-sharing arrangement. Clarification was sought as to what the Department was doing to improve the quality

of reporting on contributions to the security effort by other entities or agencies in locations where it had a presence.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

791. The Committee commended the important work carried out by the Department in providing leadership, operational support and oversight to the United Nations security management system to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and premises and support the implementation of United Nations mandates, programmes and operations in an increasingly complex global security environment.

792. The Committee noted the efforts of the Department to improve the dissemination of information and the effectiveness of the security risk management process and an effective and adequate surge capacity.

793. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Department to build a diverse and well-trained workforce with the necessary multidisciplinary skills, equitable geographical representation defined as representation on as wide a geographical basis as possible in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, and a gender balance, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Department to continue its efforts in that regard.

794. The Committee emphasized the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat and the need to strengthen risk management, the internal control framework, results-based management and transparency. The Committee also emphasized the importance for the Department of a reliable audit, investigation and evaluation system. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution [67/253](#), in which the Assembly welcomed the progress made towards the implementation of the enterprise risk management system, and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect the application of enterprise risk management in the Department's future programme plans.

795. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2023.

## **B. Evaluation**

### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled "Evaluation of the Development Coordination Office: contribution of the resident coordinator system to country-level programme coherence"**

796. At its 9th meeting, on 3 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS entitled "Evaluation of the Development Coordination Office: contribution of the resident coordinator system to country-level programme coherence" ([E/AC.51/2022/2](#)).

797. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with the representative of the Development Coordination Office, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

### **Discussion**

798. Delegations welcomed and expressed thanks to OIOS for the report, which they termed interesting and of importance. They expressed appreciation for the fact that the Development Coordination Office was adopting the recommendations. A

delegation voiced interest in the upcoming evaluation report on the support provided by the Office's regional team to resident coordinators.

799. Further information was requested regarding the resident coordinator survey response rates, as reported in table 2, with a delegation terming them unsatisfactory. The delegation asked whether differences had been observed between peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping missions and whether resident coordinators encountered difficulties in terms of engaging with United Nations agencies owing to bureaucratic issues relating to hierarchy and authority. The delegation also asked how resident coordinators were formally introduced to the national authorities. Another delegation, also referring to issues relating to hierarchy and authority, asked how country teams dealt with shared services, both within the country teams themselves and regionally among other country teams.

800. One delegation welcomed further information on the planned United Nations development system reform checklist and indicators.

801. A delegation commended the alignment of the OIOS assessment of the challenges of how the system functioned with the operational reality. The delegation asked whether the reform was working, noting challenges observed relating to coordination, including the limited financial resources available to the resident coordinator system to implement its mandate and the unmanageable resident coordinator workload.

802. A delegation emphasized the need for the resident coordinator system to maintain its focus on development, with the eradication of poverty as its overarching objective. Another delegation emphasized that all efforts to reform the system must be carried out in full adherence to its mandates, concepts and notions, saying that the reforms proposed by the Secretary-General should continue to be monitored through evaluation by the Committee.

803. With regard to the coordination of programmatic activities, a delegation noted the challenge of duplication and emphasized the need to improve coordination on the ground, as well as the key role of resident coordinators in that respect. The delegation called for resident coordinators to truly coordinate the programmatic activities of United Nations agencies in the same country team. Another delegation suggested that there was room for improvement in the coordinated delivery of operational activities, developing and providing more integrated policy advice. The delegation noted with concern the moderate progress made in the development and implementation of joint workplans.

804. The view was expressed that the resident coordinator system and the Development Coordination Office must strictly follow the advice and guidance of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs when dealing with sensitive political issues.

805. Several delegations commented on the importance of resident coordinator accountability to national Governments, inclusive of reporting obligations to the national authorities. A delegation said that the resident coordinator system, including the country team, should be fully accountable to national Governments for its functions and activities in host countries and should periodically report to host countries on its implementation of the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The delegation expressed concern regarding recommendation 3, saying that any related measures should not undermine report quality and the level of information provided to Member States. Another delegation stressed that proposals should not undermine national sovereignty over internal affairs and highlighted the need for the system to strengthen governance mechanisms relating to resident coordinators and country teams with national Governments.

806. A delegation expressed concern regarding recommendation 4, asking how cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed were identified. The delegation noted that, in paragraph 44, the political sensitivity of Member States on certain issues had been highlighted. In that regard, a question was raised concerning how resident coordinators would balance recommendation 4 in diverse local and national contexts, with a comment made that the implementation of improper recommendations could be dangerous. With regard to paragraphs 49 (a) and (b), relating to the establishment of roving advisers and the recruitment of dedicated advisers under recommendation 4, another delegation asked whether there would be budgetary implications.

807. A number of delegations said that the Committee's discussion should be focused on the evaluation of the Development Coordination Office.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

808. **The Committee noted the report of OIOS entitled "Evaluation of the Development Coordination Office: contribution of the resident coordinator system to country-level programme coherence", as well as the comments received from the Development Coordination Office in response to the report.**

### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of subprogramme 1 of the Economic Commission for Africa, on macroeconomic policy and governance**

809. At its 10th meeting, on 6 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of subprogramme 1 of ECA, on macroeconomic policy and governance ([E/AC.51/2022/12](#)).

810. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with the representative of ECA, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

### **Discussion**

811. Delegations welcomed and expressed thanks to OIOS for the report and voiced appreciation for the work of the Office. A delegation expressed support for all four recommendations made by OIOS and their full implementation.

812. Emphasis was laid on implementing recommendation 2, which related to collaboration and coordination among United Nations entities, including the resident coordinator system.

813. Several delegations noted the insufficient human resources at ECA, seeking clarification on the high vacancy rates under subprogramme 1. It was suggested that ECA continue to address the high vacancy rate in the Macroeconomics and Governance Division. Concern was expressed that ECA lacked the human resources to address disability, gender and human rights considerations, as well as the ability to respond to the recommendations.

814. Questions were raised and reservations expressed with regard to recommendation 4 (result E), that ECA should "develop, disseminate and implement guidance on mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in the areas of gender, disability inclusion and human rights". A delegation sought clarification on the guidance and criteria that OIOS used to identify cross-cutting issues for inclusion in its reports. Another delegation said that addressing issues such as gender and human rights was within the purview of other dedicated subprogrammes at ECA, as well as other United Nations entities. It was noted that existing synergies between the subprogramme

evaluated and other subprogrammes at ECA had not been considered in the evaluation. In addition, the need to take into account the overall mandate of ECA, its expertise and the resources available was stressed. The delegation drew attention to the risks of potentially duplicating activities, as well as concerns that the implementation of the recommendation could divert the subprogramme from its core tasks.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

815. The Committee noted the report of OIOS on the evaluation of subprogramme 1 of ECA, on macroeconomic policy and governance, as well as the comments received from ECA in response to the report.

### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled “Evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth”**

816. At its 15th meeting, on 8 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS entitled “Evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth” (E/AC.51/2022/7).

817. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with representatives of ECLAC, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

### **Discussion**

818. Several delegations expressed appreciation for and welcomed the report, taking note of the progress made by the ECLAC Economic Development Division in beginning to implement the recommendations. A delegation, welcoming the results achieved, requested additional information on implementation, terming the recommendations significant.

819. Several delegations stressed that ECLAC had been a leader for economic and social development in the region for decades and had contributed to placing equality at the centre of the development debate. They noted the support provided by ECLAC to countries in the region, especially middle-income countries, to tackle the challenges associated with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. They welcomed the results relating to the important work done by the Division in strengthening the capacity of national stakeholders in the region in the areas of employment and labour market policies, macroeconomic policies and financing for development.

820. Several delegations said that the Division’s flagship publications, such as the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, were good examples of the analytical work carried out by the Division to inform the development of economic policies in the region. It was stated that the establishment of a COVID-19 observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean had shown the ability of ECLAC to promptly adapt and respond to emerging needs in the region. Delegations noted the support provided by ECLAC to Caribbean countries in the areas of macroeconomic development and growth, especially in the context of debt for climate swap initiatives. In addition, a delegation acknowledged having received support in the area of monetary policy.

821. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the work of ECLAC in supporting the urgent needs of Member States for access to financial resources and to

strengthen international cooperation, as well as appreciation for ECLAC engagement with the regional development banks to develop innovative financing solutions tailored to the specific needs of Member States based on their income level and vulnerability to climate change.

822. A delegation welcomed the fact that ECLAC was integrating a gender perspective into its operations, deliverables and results.

823. Another delegation said that the recommendations appeared generic, requesting further information as to what degree they could be applied to the macroeconomic policy work of other regional commissions.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

824. **The Committee considered the report of OIOS entitled “Evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth” and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 63 to 65 of the report.**

### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs**

825. At its 5th meeting, on 1 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs ([E/AC.51/2022/5](#)).

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

### **Discussion**

827. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the report and took note of the progress made by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in implementing four of the five recommendations.

828. Several delegations welcomed the development and implementation by the Office of its first strategic plan, covering the period 2021–2025, in the context of the implementation of recommendation 1, pertaining to an integrated strategic planning process.

829. A delegation further expressed appreciation for the report, noting that there was evidence of results that enabled a constructive transformation to reconfigure the Office and better reflect its workplans, including the identification of comparative advantages.

830. Several delegations noted the importance of recommendation 4, pertaining to strengthening the Office’s monitoring and self-evaluation function, with one looking forward to continued discussion of and reporting on that recommendation pending its full implementation.

831. A delegation sought clarification of the meaning of the words “financial measures” in paragraph 31 (b) of the report.

832. A delegation asked to what degree the Office and OIOS considered that the Office’s current programme reflected elements that could be found in the compacts signed by the Secretary-General with senior managers. The delegation also asked



whether that issue was relevant and whether continuity between results-based management and the compacts would be feasible.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

833. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the programme evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

834. The Committee noted the efforts of the Office to implement the recommendations.

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management**

835. At its 14th meeting, on 8 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management ([E/AC.51/2022/3](#)).

836. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with representatives of the Department, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

#### **Discussion**

837. Several delegations expressed appreciation for and welcomed the report. Appreciation was also expressed for the Department's rapid implementation of the recommendations.

838. A delegation, referencing recommendation 1, in which the Department had been asked to enhance and harmonize its information technology applications, sought information on what the Department considered to be the next steps in that respect.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

839. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the programme evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

840. The Committee noted the efforts of the Department to implement the recommendations.

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme 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**

841. At its 6th meeting, on 1 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme 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 ([E/AC.51/2022/11](#)).

842. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with other representatives, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

### **Discussion**

843. Several delegations expressed appreciation to OIOS for carrying out the review and to the offices of the Special Representatives for their collaboration.

844. A delegation expressed appreciation for the fact that evaluation was part of the reform that the Secretary-General had put in place in 2017, including the need for greater accountability as part of an increased delegation of authority when it came to programme implementation. The delegation highlighted the importance of transparency in implementing the recommendations.

845. Several delegations emphasized the vital role played by the offices in protecting children who had been afflicted by sexual violence and conflict by complementing the work carried out by other partners in the United Nations system.

846. Several delegations welcomed the steps taken to implement the recommendations and the continued work to ensure full implementation, with one welcoming the efforts to better incorporate lessons learned and risk assessment into the offices' work.

847. Several delegations encouraged the offices to continue their close cooperation in joint work planning, information sharing, coordination, reporting and joint communications. A delegation sought clarification on the impact of coordination efforts between the offices in implementing their mandates. Another sought clarification on the institutionalized coordination between the offices, noting that formalization of any coordination did not require the establishment of a new committee.

848. A delegation highlighted the enhanced communication, effective sharing of advocacy messages and joint efforts among the offices and key partners. Another noted that, in 2005, the Security Council had already recognized the role of civil society in the protection of children in armed conflict. There were 400 million children in conflict areas at risk of abuse, and children could be abducted, raped, conscripted or sold. Girls and children with disabilities were particularly vulnerable. Accordingly, communication was very important and the United Nations must be more visible in terms of achievements and actions. In that regard, clarification was sought on recommendation 1 (*ibid.*, para. 10), pertaining to the impact of the offices' presence on social media.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

849. **The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the programme 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.**

850. **The Committee noted the efforts of the offices to implement all the recommendations.**

851. **The Committee encouraged the offices to further enhance formal coordination between them in the future.**

## **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme**

852. At its 6th meeting, on 2 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of UNEP ([E/AC.51/2022/4](#)).

853. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with the representative of UNEP, responded to queries raised by the Committee during its consideration.

### **Discussion**

854. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report and the satisfactory implementation by UNEP of four of the five recommendations. Delegations welcomed the progress made by UNEP in implementing the recommendations, including strengthening strategic planning through the medium-term strategic plan and addressing the gaps identified in the report. In that regard, delegations also welcomed the further action to be taken in 2023 and encouraged UNEP to continue its efforts, especially in terms of improving accountability and programmatic performance.

855. Delegations stressed the importance of the UNEP mandate and expressed appreciation for its continued work during the pandemic.

856. A delegation enquired about the interlinkages between the programme-specific risks, the enterprise risk management of the organization and the United Nations strategic planning process to better understand how they were related or whether risk assessment was merely a pro forma exercise.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

857. **The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the programme evaluation of UNEP.**

## **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs**

858. At its 12th meeting, on 7 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs ([E/AC.51/2022/8](#)).

859. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with representatives of the Office of Legal Affairs, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

### **Discussion**

860. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the report and took note of the progress made by the Office in implementing all six recommendations endorsed by the Committee.

861. Several delegations welcomed the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation in the Office in the context of the implementation of OIOS recommendation 4, on

strengthening monitoring and self-evaluation through the establishment of a dedicated mechanism.

862. A delegation requested the Office to report on the working groups that it had formed in the context of the implementation of OIOS recommendation 6, on systematically reviewing and assessing whether it was fit for purpose in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. The delegation asked to what extent Our Common Agenda could accelerate the implementation of Goals 8, 14 and 16.

863. A delegation urged the Office to continue to operationalize the policies and frameworks related to the recommendations and sought further information on the progress in implementing the recommendations.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

864. **The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the programme evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs.**

865. **The Committee noted the Office's efforts to successfully implement the Committee's recommendations.**

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

866. At its 16th meeting, on 9 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of UNHCR ([E/AC.51/2022/6](#)).

867. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with representatives of UNHCR, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

#### **Discussion**

868. Several delegations welcomed the triennial review and expressed thanks to UNHCR for implementing all five recommendations, with one requesting an update on implementation.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

869. **The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the programme evaluation of UNHCR.**

870. **The Committee noted the efforts of UNHCR to implement all the recommendations.**

#### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the former Department of Public Information (now the Department of Global Communications)**

871. At its 7th meeting, on 2 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the

programme evaluation of the former Department of Public Information (now the Department of Global Communications) (E/AC.51/2022/10).

872. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with representatives of the Department, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

### **Discussion**

873. Several delegations expressed appreciation, welcomed the report and took note of the progress made by the Department in implementing all the recommendations made by OIOS. A delegation noted with appreciation that the recommendations had been fully implemented.

874. A delegation welcomed the efforts made by the Department to implement the recommendations, in particular the strides that it had made in improving strategic planning and reducing duplication in the Department, and added that those efforts represented a welcome transformation of the work of the Department.

875. A delegation said that, despite the Department's broad mandate and limited resources, the decisions taken by management to implement the recommendations had been generally effective. The delegation welcomed the establishment of partnerships with Lomonosov Moscow State University and the increased cooperation with partners and expressed the hope that the collaboration would increase. The delegation recalled that, in paragraph 28 of the report, OIOS had positively assessed the use of new languages in the work of the Department. The delegation, recognizing the importance of multilingualism, asked the Department to focus its current efforts on providing access to all its services in all the official languages of the United Nations before investing in providing services in other languages.

876. Another delegation welcomed the actions taken by the Department to implement the recommendations made by OIOS, but raised concern regarding the work done by the Department in the framework of the implementation of recommendation 2, on maximizing efficiencies and reducing structural constraints. The delegation asked the Department about the content that the United Nations regional information centres produced and disseminated. It was suggested that that content was too generic, especially with regard to information on international cooperation initiatives and United Nations vacancy announcements.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**877. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the programme evaluation of the Department.**

**878. The Committee noted the efforts of the Department to successfully implement the recommendations.**

### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management**

879. At its 17th meeting, on 9 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the

programme evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management (E/AC.51/2022/9).

880. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with representatives of the Office of Human Resources, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

### **Discussion**

881. Delegations expressed thanks to OIOS for the report. A delegation welcomed the advances in modern human resources management principles and the confirmation from OIOS that all the recommendations had been implemented.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**882. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the programme evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management.**

**883. The Committee noted the efforts of the Office to implement the recommendations.**

## Chapter III

### Coordination questions

#### A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2021

884. At its 19th meeting, on 13 June 2022, the Committee considered the annual overview report of CEB for 2021 ([E/2022/13](#)).

885. The Secretary of CEB and Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report and, together with other representatives of CEB, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

#### Discussion

886. Delegations expressed thanks for the presentation and for the report, which was considered to be rich in concepts, strategies and high-level objectives. The report was recognized as a good summary of the work of CEB in 2021, with a delegation voicing particular appreciation for efforts to promote multilingualism and improve transparency and accountability. Although the demanding programme of CEB was presented concisely, it was suggested that, to improve clarity, the programme would benefit from being presented in the form of a chart or a table to provide a synthesized operational overview of the entire narrative.

887. A delegation emphasized the need to ensure a balanced approach to the work of CEB based on mandates agreed upon by Member States. The view was expressed that the goal of CEB should be to maintain the harmonization and focus of the organizations of the United Nations system to implement mandates within the framework set out by Member States. Work on issues not agreed upon by consensus among Member States could undermine the authority of CEB.

888. Specifically, the same delegation expressed concern that documents and other outputs produced by the High-level Committee on Management went beyond mandates – for example, the senior leadership commitments for the future of work in the United Nations system (*ibid.*, paras. 5–6), the United Nations system-wide model policy on flexible work (*ibid.*, para. 53) and the strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations system (*ibid.*, paras. 23–26). It was noted that the Fifth Committee was continuing to discuss a set of personnel issues and procurement activities of the Secretariat, including in relation to green procurement, yet the High-level Committee had continued work on those issues. The delegation called upon CEB to return to fulfilling its main mandate, namely to build system-wide coherence and harmonization in the implementation of programmatic and managerial mandates issued by Member States, and the delegation affirmed that it was ready to participate constructively on the agenda item to ensure that CEB would have the full support of Member States.

889. Another delegation underscored its view that CEB was not in fact overstepping and that, rather, there were clear mandates for all of the work that the Board was performing. To support coordination and the functioning of the United Nations system as a whole, it was important for executive heads to be able to frankly discuss emerging issues and push parts of the United Nations system to innovate. That approach did not require a mandate from Member States, because it related to how the organizations operated.

890. With regard to specific areas of work, it was highlighted that CEB had recognized that the pandemic “continued to upend lives, creating additional uncertainty and driving back hard-won progress made towards achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals” (ibid., para. 4) and, in that context, CEB was asked to play its role in coordinating the support of the United Nations system with a focus on post-pandemic recovery and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

891. Attention was drawn to paragraph 28 of the report, on the inter-agency working group on artificial intelligence, in which it was stated that “the approach adopted by the working group towards the development and use of artificial intelligence is underpinned by ethical principles, ensuring that it is human rights-based, trustworthy, safe and sustainable, promotes peace and contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. A delegation asked why the approach should be based on human rights, given that artificial intelligence was a technology, even if created by human beings.

892. With regard to corporate-level risk management (ibid., paras. 50–52), a delegation noted that the task had become more prevalent in recent years since its inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: ensuring a better future for all” (A/72/492). Recognizing that such risk management was handled at the level of the individual organizations, the question was raised as to the extent to which United Nations system entities were pursuing a coordinated approach to enterprise risk management and sharing risk analyses and mitigation measures. It was stressed that that was a cross-cutting issue to be taken into consideration by executive heads.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

893. **The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of CEB and its high-level committees towards strengthening system-wide coordination in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

894. **The Committee reiterated its recommendations that the General Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB:**

(a) **The need to ensure that the Board’s activities and initiatives, including those related to system-wide coherence, were in line with intergovernmental mandates;**

(b) **The need to ensure continued alignment of the measures of the High-level Committee on Management with the existing United Nations legislative framework.**

895. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue his efforts towards strengthening risk management and internal controls in order to improve system-wide transparency, performance, accountability and risk management.**

896. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to foster a coordinated approach to multilingualism, which was a core and fundamental value of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions.**

897. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the annual overview report of CEB for 2021 (E/2022/13).**



## **B. United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**

898. At its 20th meeting, on 17 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want ([E/AC.51/2022/14](#)).

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

### **Discussion**

900. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the report of the Secretary-General and, in particular, to the three recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the report to endorse the approach to sustainable and renewable energy as an entry point for promoting a sustainable and inclusive recovery and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, in Africa; promote the enhancement of indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 7 and a focus on sustainable energy in the projects of all United Nations entities in Africa, in line with national priorities and leadership; and encourage the international community to support efforts to enhance access to sustainable energy in Africa to enable sustainable development on the continent to ensure a resilient and prosperous future.

901. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General, and welcomed the new focus of the report and the support of the United Nations system to sustainable energy access in Africa. In particular, a delegation underscored the role that energy played as a booster for strengthening the capacities of African countries and noted with appreciation that in the report, energy was approached as an intermediate commodity. The delegation encouraged the Secretary-General to continue efforts to promote energy access in Africa, including through coordination with the African Union. Another delegation welcomed the emphasis put in the report on the measures being taken by the United Nations to promote the implementation of Agenda 2063, in particular with regard to socioeconomic development, which was a priority for its country. The delegation highlighted the increase of its trade with African States.

902. A delegation explained some of the renewable energy projects that its country had supported in Africa and noted that the report seemed to be focused almost solely on renewable energy while providing no information on assistance to the development of cleaner traditional energy sources, such as natural gas. The delegation recalled that the Secretariat had, during a previous session of the Committee, underscored that Africa required the use of natural gas as a transitional fuel and requested that future reports and other work of the United Nations system provide for more analysis and activities on large-scale gasification in order to accelerate industrialization in Africa. The delegation expressed appreciation at the message in the report that there was a need to identify the optimal sustainable energy mix for African countries that takes into account their specific national realities.

903. A delegation took note of the resumption of official travel by the Special Adviser on Africa to the continent despite the restrictions that continued to limit the normalization of travel plans. The delegation noted the work being done on youth, as well as the request by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to provide detailed information on the resource mobilization strategy of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

904. The Committee welcomed ongoing efforts by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to support African countries in planning and defining their energy mix; developing new alternative energy sources; promoting economic growth and strengthening their human capital through investments in energy; and mobilizing financing through the use of catalytic projects.

905. The Committee also welcomed the ongoing work by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to support Member States in the development of energy policies and investment plans aimed at enabling Member States to meet their future energy needs and enhance existing energy systems.

906. The Committee further welcomed efforts by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to strengthen regional energy pools and transboundary energy connections aimed at making the supply of energy more reliable, cost-effective and sustainable and called for continued collaboration and partnership with other United Nations system entities to effectively fulfil its mandate.

907. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to continue its efforts to enhance global cooperation and advocacy in support of Agenda 2063 and the capacity of Africa in achieving renewable energy and sustainable development.

908. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 60 and 64 of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

## Chapter IV

### Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

#### Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system

909. At its 19th meeting, on 13 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system” ([A/76/286](#) and [JIU/REP/2020/8](#)) and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of CEB thereon ([A/76/286/Add.1](#)).

910. The Chair and Inspector of the Unit introduced the report and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report. The representative of the CEB secretariat introduced the report containing the comments of the Secretary-General and CEB and responded to questions raised.

#### Discussion

911. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the report of the Unit and the important and useful recommendations. A delegation reiterated its support for the Unit as the only independent system-wide body of the United Nations system, saying that the report provided a road map that set a clear path forward for mainstreaming environmental sustainability across the system.

912. Several delegations welcomed, and one strongly endorsed, the recommendations that the organizations of the United Nations system make all conferences, events and meetings organized by their respective organizations “paper smart” (recommendation 7) and develop a policy for incorporating provisions relating to environmental sustainability considerations into policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines (recommendation 8). Appreciation was expressed for other ways of supporting environmental sustainability recommended in the report, such as developing specific training modules, promoting organizational learning and incentivizing and adequately rewarding conduct and responsible behaviour at all levels. It was emphasized that it was important for the United Nations to not only set objectives and rules, but also operate in line with the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

913. Some delegations said that, from an environmental footprint reduction perspective, a recommendation on travel would have been useful. They asked what had prevented the Unit from formulating a clear recommendation on how the United Nations should address travel in terms of environmental sustainability.

914. Questions were raised on specific recommendations. With respect to mainstreaming environmental sustainability into the management function of the participating organizations (recommendations 1 and 2), a delegation referred to paragraph 23 of the report, in which it was recommended that deliberations be undertaken through relevant inter-agency platforms such as the CEB High-level Committee on Management, saying that the definition of environmental sustainability should in fact remain within the purview of the General Assembly. Another delegation asked how the Unit had factored in the report on the CEB strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations system, 2020–2030 ([CEB/2019/1/Add.1](#)), in particular phase I thereof, which covered environmental sustainability in the area of management. The delegation reiterated its concern regarding the exclusion of official travel from the scope of the report, drawing attention to the potential reduction in carbon emissions that could be brought about.

915. Concerning recommendation 3, that adequate resources be devoted in specific budget plans, including by better utilizing existing available resources, to mainstreaming environmental sustainability, some delegations pointed out that the recommendation might not be feasible given the current liquidity situation and referred to the potential impact on other programmatic activities in need of resources, if the recommendation were implemented.

916. With regard to recommendation 4, on procurement and environmental sustainability, a delegation emphasized that there was no decision by the General Assembly on the concept of sustainable procurement. Referring to the suggestion in the report to refrain from engaging with companies that dealt with fossil fuels, the delegation enquired about the feasibility and potential impact thereof. Another delegation welcomed recommendations 4 and 5, terming them concise and relevant and saying that they set out objectives with specific timelines. The delegation also expressed support for recommendation 6, on involving the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country team mechanisms in pursuing measures to reduce the environmental impact of field presences.

917. Some redundancy was noted from one recommendation to another. A delegation suggested that recommendations should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound, saying that there was little perceivable difference between the intent in recommendations 1 and 2. A delegation requested the Unit, when drafting recommendations, to see the whole picture of the United Nations and its Member States, especially those suffering from poverty, so as to make the recommendations more feasible and closer to reality and thereby enable their implementation.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

918. **The Committee noted the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system”, as well as the comments received from CEB in response to the report.**

## Chapter V

### Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Committee

919. 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 sixty-third session, together with the required documentation.

920. 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 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.

921. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-third 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 sixty-third session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
  - (a) Proposed programme budget (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [72/266 A](#), [74/251](#), [75/243](#) and [76/236](#));

#### Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (in fascicle form)  
(in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [58/269](#), [59/275](#), [62/224](#), [72/266 A](#), [74/251](#), [75/243](#) and [76/236](#))

- (b) Evaluation.

#### Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Development Coordination Office and the resident coordinator system: regional offices

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: subprogramme 3, Shared economic prosperity

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe: subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration, and subprogramme 6, Trade

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: subprogramme 4, Environment and development

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of secretariat support to the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of the youth, peace and security agenda: youth participation

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 2022 (Economic and Social Council resolution [2008 \(LX\)](#))

- (b) United Nations system support for Agenda 2063.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

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

## Annex

### List of documents before the Committee at its sixty-second session

<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/1</a>	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/L.1/Rev.1</a>	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/L.2</a>	Note by the Secretariat on the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit  Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2023: part one: plan outline and part two: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (in fascicle form) (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions <a href="#">58/269</a> , <a href="#">59/275</a> , <a href="#">62/224</a> , <a href="#">72/266 A</a> , <a href="#">74/251</a> , <a href="#">75/243</a> and <a href="#">76/236</a> )):
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Plan outline)</a>	Plan outline
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 2)</a>	Programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 3)</a>	Programme 2, Political affairs
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 4)</a>	Programme 3, Disarmament
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 5)</a>	Programme 4, Peacekeeping operations
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 6)</a>	Programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 8)</a>	Programme 6, Legal affairs
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 9)</a>	Programme 7, Economic and social affairs
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 10)</a>	Programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 11)</a>	Programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 12)</a>	Programme 10, Trade and development
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 13)</a>	Subprogramme 6 of programme 10, International Trade Centre
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 14) and <a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 14)/Corr.1</a></a>	Programme 11, Environment
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 15)</a>	Programme 12, Human settlements
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 16)</a>	Programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 17)</a>	Programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 18)</a>	Programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 19)</a>	Programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 20)</a>	Programme 17, Economic development in Europe

<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 21)</a>	Programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 22)</a>	Programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 24)</a>	Programme 20, Human rights
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 25)</a>	Programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 26)</a>	Programme 22, Palestine refugees
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 27)</a>	Programme 23, Humanitarian assistance
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 28)</a>	Programme 24, Global communications
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 29)</a>	Programme 25, Management and support services
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 29A)</a>	Programme 25, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 29B)</a>	Programme 25, Department of Operational Support
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 29C)</a>	Programme 25, Office of Information and Communications Technology
<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 29E)</a>	Programme 25, Administration, Geneva
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<a href="#">A/77/6 (Sect. 30)</a>	Programme 26, Internal oversight
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<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/13</a>	Review of the proposed programme plan for 2023 by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
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<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/11</a>	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme 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
<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/4</a>	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme
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<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/10</a>	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations in the programme evaluation of the former Department of Public Information (now the Department of Global Communications)
<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/9</a>	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management
<a href="#">E/2022/13</a>	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2021 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/14</a>	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want
<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/L.3</a>	Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
<a href="#">E/AC.51/2022/L.4</a> and addenda	Draft report of the Committee

