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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report is submitted to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution [1823 \(XVII\)](#), Council resolution [1817 \(LV\)](#) and annex III to Council resolution 1998/46. The world economy is facing multiple headwinds, notably from rising debt, slow growth, the rising cost of living, the climate crisis, deepening inequalities, increasing geopolitical tensions and conflicts, and declining trust and global solidarity. These cascading and interlinked challenges are jeopardizing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and putting the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in danger. In this context, the regional commissions continued to work in evolving and innovative ways to support member States in countering the interlocking and complex crises and advancing the 2030 Agenda.

The first part of the report provides information on the state of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda across the five regions. It also serves to illustrate the work of the regional commissions in four broad priority areas, thus demonstrating the added value of action at the regional, subregional, cross-border and country levels to effectively support countries and territories to get back on track with their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The second part of the report provides an overview of the regional and interregional initiatives spearheaded by the regional commissions to accelerate the transformations required to achieve the Goals. It also outlines other policy matters addressed by the regional commissions, including through the regional forums on sustainable development, as well as actions taken to fully implement the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in particular the regional reform.

* The present report was submitted for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.



I. Policy and analysis

A. From risk to resilience: accelerating actions to achieve a more sustainable and equitable future through regional cooperation

1. State of the journey to 2030

1. The global economy is experiencing a slowdown in activity and high inflation, while facing multiple shocks and elevated uncertainty. The confluence of challenges, which include the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, pollution and other forms of environmental degradation, deepening inequalities, rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts, and the erosion of global norms and institutions, is undermining global solidarity and trust and jeopardizing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The impact thereof and the lingering effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic are being felt across all regions.

2. The regional commissions are working to address priorities such as reforming global finance, strengthening climate action, reducing inequalities, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the impact of the war in Ukraine on crucial areas such as energy and food security. Guided by the outcomes of key global and regional conferences, the regional commissions will continue to leverage their role in terms of thought leadership and as convening platforms to advance regional action on the Sustainable Development Goals and increase political momentum towards the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023 (Sustainable Development Goals Summit).

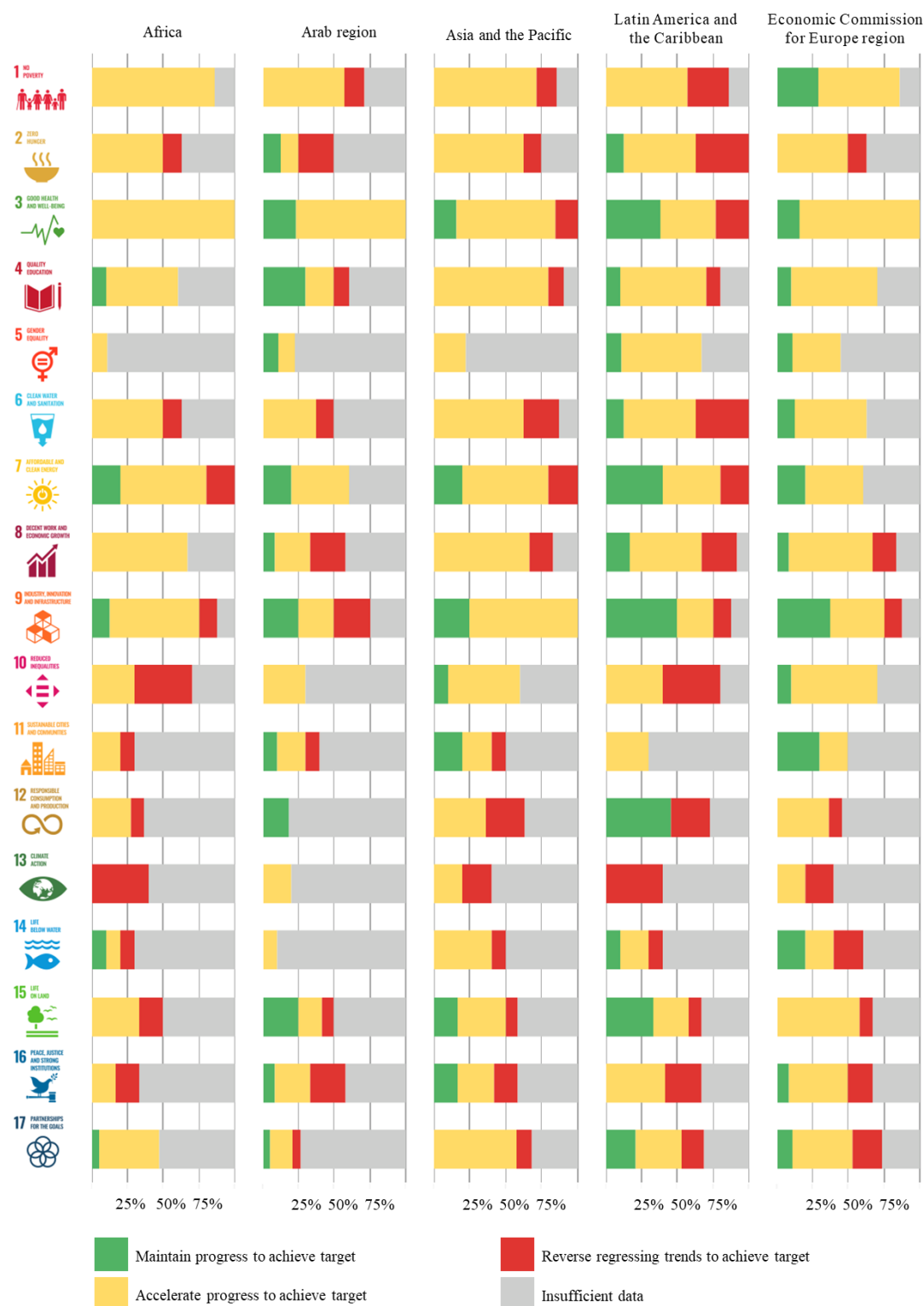
2. Regional dashboard on the status of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

3. The world is significantly off track and likely to miss most of the Sustainable Development Goal targets by 2030. However, with effective leadership, renewed solidarity and ambitious efforts to drive transformations and accelerated actions in key areas, the world can still reverse the negative trends and deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

4. The present section provides an overview of the status of progress towards the Goals across the five regions (see figure below), followed by a snapshot of progress at the midpoint towards 2030, by highlighting areas in which progress has been made and where it falls short.

5. Gaps in data on the Goals across the regions, in particular on Goals 5, 11 and 13, are hampering evidence-based policymaking and the monitoring of progress.

Percentage of Sustainable Development Goal targets by progress status, 2023



Sources: Data platforms of the regional commissions on progress towards the Goals, available at:

<https://ecastats.uneca.org/africaundata/SDGs>; <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/>; <https://data.unescap.org/>; <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/index.html>; and <https://w3.unece.org/sdg2023>.

Notes: When comparing the results across the five regions, it is important to consider that: different sets of indicators may have been used for each Goal, depending on data availability in each region; progress is assessed against a set of target values specific to each region; and some countries are members of more than one regional commission.

An updated regional progress chart using the most recent available data is available at https://www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice/sites/www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice/files/rc_sdgprogress.pdf.

Economic Commission for Africa region

6. According to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) report on progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, published in 2022 ([E/ECA/STATCOM/8/2022/7](#)), the current pace of progress is insufficient to achieve the Goals by 2030. In 2020, Africa recorded moderate progress towards Goals 3, 4 and 15, while slow progress was registered on Goals 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14 and 17. Progress on Goals 2, 8, 10, 11 and 12 stagnated and a reversal of progress was observed for Goals 13 and 16. With respect to Goal 13, while the continent accounts for only 2 to 3 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, it is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. There are still insufficient data for Goals 5, 13, 14 and 16. Overall, the region is on track to achieve only 5 of 169 Sustainable Development Goal targets, but has regressed on 17 targets and will require accelerated progress for targets falling largely under Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 15 and 17. In addition, there are distinct subregional disparities, with West Africa regressing on Goals 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16, compared with other subregions.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region

7. The limited data available indicate that the region is on track to achieve only 20 of the 169 targets,¹ mostly concentrated under Goals 3, 4 and 15. The region is furthest behind on targets related to Goals 2, 8 and 16. Poverty increased in 2022, with 35.3 per cent of the population living under the national poverty threshold. The gender equality indicators have not changed much for the region since 2021, with the 2022 Global Gender Gap Index showing that the region's share of the worst-performing countries and territories on the Index continues to be higher than any other region in the world. Only 5 per cent of firms in the region have top female managers. The female labour force participation rate was estimated at 19.9 per cent in 2022, which is well below the world's average of 46.6 per cent. In addition, the region's ability to leave no one behind is hindered by the unavailability of data on Goal 10 indicators, which is further exacerbated by the weak disaggregation of data.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific region

8. At the midpoint of advancing towards the 2030 target year, the region should have made 50 per cent of the progress needed to achieve the Goals, yet overall progress has reached only 14.4 per cent.² The strongest progress in the region has been on affordable and clean energy (Goal 7) and industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9). The other Goals will be missed unless progress accelerates, and a reversal of trend is needed for Goal 13 on climate action. The region also needs to address the large inequalities between and within countries, in order to leave no one behind. While overall progress is slow, there are many reasons to celebrate achievements at the country level across the 17 Goals. Efforts by countries that have demonstrated commitment and progress towards the Goals provide a road map for accelerating progress to achieve the Goals in the years ahead.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean region

9. Of the 126 Sustainable Development Goal targets for which data are available, efforts with respect to 48 per cent of targets are moving in the right direction, but increased effort will be required to accelerate progress over the next seven years in order to meet the targets set for 2030. Meanwhile, efforts with respect to 27 per cent

¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Arab Sustainable Development Goal Monitor, available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org>.

² Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023: Championing Sustainability Despite Adversities* (United Nations publication, 2023).

of the targets are moving in the wrong direction and only 25 per cent of targets are likely to be met by 2030. Overall, there is a negative trend in progress towards the Goals compared with previous years.

10. Goals 1, 10, 11, 13 and 16 are at the greatest risk of not being achieved by 2030, whereas efforts towards Goals 3, 7, 9, 12, 15 and 17 have shown better trajectories. As for subregional differences, there have been setbacks in the efforts to attain 31 per cent of the targets in South America and 40 per cent of the targets in both Central America and the Caribbean, while efforts in relation to 30 per cent, 29 per cent and 23 per cent of the targets have shown positive trajectories in Central America, South America and the Caribbean, respectively.

Economic Commission for Europe region

11. The latest Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) assessment shows that the region will achieve only 21 targets by 2030, down from 26 targets assessed as being on track in 2022. For 79 of the targets, progress needs to be accelerated, up from 64 last year, and for 15 of the targets, current trends need to be reversed, as in 2022. The region is not on track to reduce poverty by half by 2030. Progress on food security and diversity has been uneven. Data for targets on health and well-being show that most areas must accelerate progress. The region must address disparities to achieve targets on education. Data gaps continue to limit the assessment of progress towards gender equality. Most efforts to meet water and energy targets are progressing too slowly. The region must work to overcome setbacks on inclusive economic growth and decent work for all. Further investment is required to meet targets on infrastructure, industrialization and innovation. Urgent action is required to reduce inequalities within and between countries, as well as to achieve climate and environmental targets.

B. Policies advanced and results achieved through regional cooperation

12. The present section, organized around four broad thematic areas, serves to summarize the work of the regional commissions during the reporting period and the results achieved.

1. Financing sustainable recovery and resilience

13. The war in Ukraine has fuelled a cost-of-living crisis across the regions while exerting significant financing pressures on developing countries and further widening the Sustainable Development Goals financing gap. Rising interest rates across the globe, coupled with the increasing risk of debt distress, are also jeopardizing countries' abilities to invest in sustainable development. Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals financing challenge and building back better from the pandemic with inclusivity, resilience and sustainability will require innovative approaches to finance.

14. The regional commissions are actively contributing to advancing the financing for development agenda, including through cutting-edge policy and data analysis, innovative tools and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

15. In the Africa region, ECA coordinated the work of the high-level working group on the global financial architecture, comprising African ministers of finance, planning and economic development, the African Union, key regional banks, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The group has called on the Group of 20 to urgently overhaul the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, provide a debt service standstill to applicants, commit

higher special drawing rights allocations for African countries and reform the mechanism for rechanneling special drawing rights.

16. ECA supported the operationalization of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, with the first \$100 million transaction concluded in November 2022, covering sovereign Eurobonds issued by Angola, Egypt and Kenya.

17. In the area of taxation, with ECA support, the national capacity to improve tax regulation and administration was strengthened in Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

18. Illicit financial flows remain a major roadblock to domestic resource mobilization. In this regard, ECA contributed to strengthening institutional architecture for tackling illicit financial flows in 12 pilot countries.³ ECA also supported Burkina Faso and Zambia to implement integrated national financing frameworks and improve transparency in public financial management.

19. In the area of climate finance, ECA, together with the Government of Egypt, convened the meeting of African ministers of finance, economy, development and environment in September 2022 to ensure coherence between African climate finance positions ahead of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Furthermore, ECA launched the regional carbon registry and a harmonized protocol⁴ on the issuance of carbon credits for countries of the Congo Basin. In partnership with high-level champions for climate action, Sustainable Energy for All and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, ECA co-launched the Africa Carbon Markets Initiative at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to better connect project owners with potential investors.⁵ ECA also convened the sixth Africa Business Forum, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and African Export-Import Bank, to raise awareness and foster dialogue among investors, developers and policymakers on the value of a high-integrity carbon market in Africa. In addition, in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development, ECA supported Cabo Verde and Senegal in the development of potential debt for climate investment swap offers.⁶

20. In the Arab region, the Climate/Sustainable Development Goals Debt Swap Mechanism, launched by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in 2020, is aimed at reducing external debt service burdens and generating fiscal space for countries in the region to invest in climate action while accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. The initiative looks beyond traditional approaches to debt-for-nature swaps and has the potential to make a transformative impact. Since its launch, ESCWA has assisted Jordan, in close consultation with a national interministerial debt swap task force convened in 2021 and 2022 and other stakeholders, in developing a national proposal for a debt swap programme, which is ready for consideration by creditors. Egypt and Tunisia have also expressed interest in joining the initiative.

21. In the Asia-Pacific region, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) provided technical assistance to Governments for developing a green bond framework, green bonds issuance and other climate finance instruments.

³ Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia.

⁴ See <https://www.uneca.org/stories/eca-and-un-climate-champions-host-expert-group-meeting-on-developing-a-high-integrity-carbon>.

⁵ See <https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/africa-carbon-markets-initiative/>.

⁶ See <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/portugal-agrees-swap-cape-verdes-debt-environmental-investment-2023-01-23/>.

This includes ongoing support for the development of the Green Bond Framework of Bhutan and the sustainable and green finance strategy and guidelines on thematic bond issuance of the National Bank of Cambodia. ESCAP is also exploring innovative financing mechanisms for the Goals, such as a debt-for-climate adaptation swap in Sri Lanka.

22. ESCAP provided support to member States in the use of data analytics and digital technologies in tax administration to combat tax avoidance and tax evasion and improve tax compliance. This has included a regional dialogue on the digitalization of tax administrations for policymakers and experts from the region, technical and capacity support to tax officials in Bhutan and the preparation of a policy manual on the use of digital tools for enhancing tax administration effectiveness. Technical assistance was also delivered to help countries explore policy options for taxing the booming digital economy. This has included a regional dialogue for policymakers on the taxation of the digital economy and a capacity-building exercise for the National Board of Revenue of Bangladesh.

23. ESCAP also provided support to investment promotion agencies in the region to facilitate more and better quality investments in green technology and the digital economy in Bhutan and to channel foreign direct investment into promoting gender equality and women's entrepreneurship in Bangladesh and Fiji. The Commission also helped promote innovations in digital finance, including through the creation of a financial technology (fintech) app in Bangladesh for rural farm entrepreneurs, the promotion of digital tokens in Nepal and the facilitation of access to finance through technology-based solutions for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

24. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has continued to refine its Caribbean Resilience Fund proposal in response to the high levels of debt, which are exacerbated by the extreme vulnerability of Caribbean countries to climate change and the impacts thereof. In July 2022, ECLAC convened a high-level meeting in Antigua and Barbuda that brought together key stakeholders to agree on the structure of the Fund. The Fund would serve as a special purpose financing vehicle intended to leverage long-term low-cost development financing and would be housed in the Caribbean Community Development Fund and be managed jointly by a consortium of regional agencies, including ECLAC and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. At the meeting of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held in Suriname in October 2022, a resolution was adopted to approve a road map towards its establishment.

25. In the ECE region, ECE launched a Public-Private Partnerships Evaluation Methodology for the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2022 to evaluate infrastructure projects against the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure not only value for money but also for people and the planet. Building on its statistical work on measuring human capital, education and training, unpaid household service work and the informal economy, ECE has also developed guidance notes for countries on updates to the 2008 System of National Accounts. In addition, ECE maintains an online inventory of national satellite accounts within the System of National Accounts, which currently includes data from 80 countries around the world and complements traditional national accounts.

2. Addressing the energy crisis in the regions: ensuring energy security, equitable access and sustainability

26. In the Africa region, ECA supported member States in developing policy frameworks for private sector investment in energy and infrastructure. In May 2022, 14 African ministers of energy, environment and development and high-level

representatives of 10 countries endorsed seven transformative actions, known as the Kigali Communiqué, towards achieving Goal 7 in Africa. In July 2022, ECA also supported the formulation and adoption of the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Energy Transition by the Executive Council of the African Union.

27. In 2022, ECA, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations country team in Namibia, supported the capacity development of 15 policymakers on integrated climate, land, energy and water systems modelling for the integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and nationally determined contributions in Namibia.⁷

28. In the Arab region, recognizing the transformative potential of extractive industries as a driver of sustainable development, ESCWA member States established, in 2021, the regional group of experts on extractive industries to foster collaboration at the regional level to implement the measures⁸ put forward by the Secretary-General to transform the sector. The work of ESCWA in advancing net-zero targets resulted, for example, in the development of a strategic framework and road map for enabling a just, inclusive, equitable and secure transition of the energy sector in Kuwait.

29. In the Asia-Pacific region, with a view to accelerating energy transition, ESCAP has supported countries in developing national road maps for Goal 7 in Bhutan, Kiribati and Pakistan using the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning. In addition, ESCAP supported the Provinces of Surat Thani, Udon Thani and Chiang Rai in Thailand and the cities of Borongan and Ormoc in the Philippines to develop energy transition road maps at the subnational level.

30. In order to strengthen energy security in the region, ESCAP is working with member States to implement the regional road map on power system connectivity, which focuses on integrating renewable energy into the grid. Ongoing work includes supporting regulatory harmonization and capacity-building, developing a green power corridor road map for North-East Asia and establishing a set of principles for sustainable connectivity in the form of a green power corridor framework.

31. ESCAP is also working towards increasing energy efficiency in the transport sector through capacity-building for policymakers, including on improving vehicle efficiency and the use of advanced energy-efficient technology and sustainable alternative fuels in transport.

32. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, considerable progress in universalizing access to energy has been achieved. However, over 16 million people, predominantly in rural areas, still lack access to electricity. The regional energy mix remains fossil fuel-dependent and vulnerable to geopolitical shocks. ECLAC advocates clean and renewable energy production as a catalyst for growth and for generating linkages with other strategic sectors, including electromobility.⁹ The region is well-positioned to establish green hydrogen industries and develop value chains for critical minerals in renewable energy and storage technologies. In this regard, ECLAC has been carrying out thematic studies and technical cooperation activities with the countries of the “lithium triangle”, comprising Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Chile, including on fiscal regimes and the governance of sustainable production.

⁷ United Nations (Namibia), “CLEWS to strengthen agriculture sector’s potential for economic transformation”, 7 February 2022.

⁸ United Nations, “Transforming extractive industries for sustainable development”, policy brief, May 2021.

⁹ *Towards Transformation of the Development Model in Latin America and the Caribbean: Production, Inclusion and Sustainability* (United Nations publication, 2022).

33. In the ECE region, the Committee on Sustainable Energy, at its thirty-first session, held in 2022, considered strategies to achieve greater energy security and affordability while adhering to the net-zero principle and affirmed that energy efficiency must be an essential component of any solution that is intended to overcome the current energy crisis in the region.

34. ECE has analysed the gap between the performance objectives set forth in the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and the current energy efficiency standards in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, while providing options to bridge this gap in ways that reflect national circumstances. Besides increasing energy efficiency, digitalization is also being embedded in the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

3. Promoting environmental protection and food systems transformation

35. In the Africa region, working with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA organized the Africa Dialogue Series in May 2022 on the African Union theme of the year “Strengthening resilience in nutrition and food security on the African continent: strengthening agro-food systems, health and social protection systems for the acceleration of human, social and economic capital development”.

36. In May 2022, ECA and the African Export-Import Bank, in collaboration with the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area secretariat, launched a digital business-to-business and business-to-government platform known as the African Trade Exchange Platform. The Platform enables the trade of the main agricultural commodities and inputs imported by the continent from the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

37. ECA assisted the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa in building satellite-based modelling tools to monitor desert locust distribution and density and in integrating green pesticides into national plans to reduce the impact of locusts on food security in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Sudan.

38. In the Arab region, ESCWA, in partnership with the League of Arab States, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supported the high-level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee in advancing regional water and food security policies. In 2022, guidelines on improved allocation of water resources for agriculture in the Arab region, which were endorsed at the joint ministerial meeting, were piloted on a voluntary basis in Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Tunisia and in the State of Palestine. The guidelines provide a framework for optimizing water allocation practices in the agricultural sector, thus increasing water-use efficiency, social equity and environmental sustainability.

39. In the Asia-Pacific region, member States reiterated their commitments for cooperation to advance climate action, sustainable urban development, the protection of ecosystems and oceans and the implementation of environmental rights principles at the seventh session of the Committee on Environment and Development. Countries also agreed on the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution as a comprehensive framework for cooperation to improve air quality management.

40. ESCAP partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) and FAO to develop a framework for assessing multidimensional risks in food systems in the region and to help member States to share good practices and knowledge in combating soil degradation, climate-smart agriculture, support for smallholder farming and the application of smart technologies. Drawing from the country risk profiles developed using the Risk and Resilience Portal, ESCAP and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretariat supported member States in establishing a community of practice

on drought risk management and developing national action plans to strengthen adaptation to drought in Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand.

41. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, ECLAC developed a joint policy brief with FAO and WFP with proposals to strengthen regional food security and address the region's import dependency and vulnerability to supply chain disruptions. The brief seeks to reinforce the Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 adopted by the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States and to support the regional follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit.

42. In the ECE region, to further advance cooperation under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, ECE launched the publication entitled *Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* in January 2023. The publication provides strategic guidance for policymakers and decision makers and for water managers involved in establishing and carrying out cooperation between riparian countries.

4. Digital cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

43. In the Africa region, ECA supported initiatives to develop digital public goods for a digital economy-led transformation in Africa, such as the data policy framework of the African Union,¹⁰ which was endorsed by the African Union in February 2022. With the support of ECA, Ethiopia and Nigeria aligned their national digital transformation strategies with the digital identity principles recommended by ECA. In Botswana, ECA is developing a governance framework to guide the creation of a SmartBots Lab centre of excellence. ECA also launched the guideline for a model cybersecurity law for African member States in November 2022.¹¹ With respect to population censuses, ECA supported Liberia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe in deploying information technology applications for conducting censuses.

44. In the Arab region, ESCWA developed, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and with the engagement of all Arab countries and several United Nations system entities, the Arab Digital Agenda 2023–2033. Adopted as the official Arab strategy for information and communication technology and digital development for the next decade, the Agenda represents a long-term frame of action with 35 strategic goals covering various aspects of digital development.

45. ESCWA organized the Arab Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Summit, held in Beirut in 2022, in cooperation with the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation. The Summit aimed to provide opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to expand and grow through partnerships, targeted capacity-building programmes for government actors and improved small and medium-sized enterprise policy frameworks. At the end of the Summit, ESCWA announced that its partners had committed \$130 million to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the region in the form of funding and through the digitization of 100 enterprises, training for 40,000 young men and women on digital skills, technical assistance for over 400 small and medium-sized enterprises and the launch of two centres for entrepreneurship in Morocco and Saudi Arabia. The partners also committed to

¹⁰ Available at <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/42078-doc-AU-DATA-POLICY-FRAMEWORK-ENG1.pdf>.

¹¹ See <https://www.uneca.org/stories/eca-launches-the-guideline-for-a-model-law-on-cybersecurity-during-the-17th-igf>.

supporting the upscaling of more than 50 small and medium-sized enterprises to gain access to external markets.

46. In the Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP supported member States to bridge the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative and the newly endorsed action plan for the period 2022–2026 with 25 actions for multi-stakeholder cooperation. ESCAP member States reiterated their high-level commitment on digital cooperation in the region at the first Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference in November 2022. At the fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, member States adopted the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which provides a basis for regional cooperation on integrating digital technologies and innovations into traditional space applications and advancing geospatial information applications. ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs are working with Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Maldives to develop regulatory sandboxes that can be used to test frontier technologies for sustainable development. Furthermore, ESCAP is supporting national capacities to adopt digital applications for environment management, such as an early warning system in the lower Mekong basin to improve climate-resilient agricultural practices and the air pollution management system. The implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific is also under way following the first session of the Paperless Trade Council, which is supported by ESCAP.

47. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, ECLAC convened the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Uruguay in November 2022, during which member States approved the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2022–2024. The Agenda contains 31 goals organized around four pillars that incorporate a cross-cutting gender perspective. It establishes priorities for digital development to boost digital inclusion and transformation and emphasizes partnerships and actions that promote trade integration, the regional digital market and international cooperation.

48. In the ECE region, the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, held in April 2023 on the theme of digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region, deliberated on the role of international cooperation in advancing the positive impact of these transformations and on adapting regulations and other normative work to the new context defined by digital transformation.

C. Other key policy issues covered by the regional commissions

Regional forums on sustainable development and the road to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit

49. As the primary multi-stakeholder platforms for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the regions, the five regional forums on sustainable development held in 2023¹² were an opportunity to take stock of progress on work towards the Goals in the regions and to discuss challenges and policy options to advance key transitions at

¹² Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 28 February–2 March 2023; Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, 25–28 April 2023; Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the Economic Commission for Europe Region, 29 and 30 March 2023; Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, 27–30 March 2023; and Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, 14–16 March 2023.

the regional and country levels and turn the tide of stalled efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

50. During the five regional forums, member States and stakeholders renewed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda as the blueprint for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery in the regions. The forums contributed to reigniting action and reinvigorating a spirit of partnership towards the high-level political forum and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit. The forums addressed how to reinforce regional cooperation and partnerships and continue nurturing regional frameworks that catalyse just transitions in the areas of food, energy, social development and finance. Member States, regional organizations and stakeholders reiterated the importance of unlocking finance flows, through targeted national stimulus measures and the mobilization of innovative public and private finance for green and inclusive development, and advancing regional solutions for debt sustainability and fairer global financial architecture. Capacity-building, in particular for young people and women, and leveraging science, technology and innovation for green entrepreneurship and industrialization were also identified as accelerators across the five regions. The annual meetings of the regional collaborative platforms, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, were held prior to the regional forums on sustainable development to ensure that action at the regional level responds to regional demands and needs and supports transformative action at the country level.

Ministerial and other high-level meetings convened by the regional commissions, 2022–2023

<i>Regional commission</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
ESCWA	16 and 17 November 2022	Fifteenth session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee
ESCWA	20 and 21 December 2022	Seventh special session of ESCWA
ESCWA	7 and 8 March 2023	Third session of the Committee on Trade Policies in the States members of ESCWA
ESCAP	23–27 May 2022	Seventy-eighth session of ESCAP
ESCAP	19–21 October 2022	High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022
ESCAP	26 October 2022	Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
ESCAP	9 and 10 November 2022	Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference on the theme “Shaping our common future” and the Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum
ECA	7–9 September 2022	Second edition of the Egypt International Cooperation Forum and meeting of African ministers of finance, economy and environment
ECA	15–21 March 2023	Fifty-fifth session of ECA on the theme “Fostering recovery and transformation in Africa to reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities”
ECLAC	24–26 October 2022	Thirty-ninth session of ECLAC
ECLAC	7–11 November 2022	Fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

<i>Regional commission</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
ECLAC	16–18 November 2022	Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean
ECLAC	13–15 December 2022	Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean
ECE	16–17 June 2022	Fifth Ministerial Conference on Ageing
ECE	5–7 October 2022	Ninth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference
ECE	21–24 February 2023	Eighty-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee

Abbreviations: ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

II. Developments and outcomes in selected areas of regional and interregional cooperation, including in the context of the repositioning of the United Nations development system

51. The present section serves to highlight progress in the implementation of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including items on the checklist for governing bodies, prepared by the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group in accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/4](#), to facilitate their oversight role as well as monitoring of alignment with and entity adherence to the dual reporting model of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#), under which United Nations entities report both on their individual mandates and to the resident coordinator on their respective contributions to the collective results.

52. Since 2018, regional commissions, which are driven primarily by transboundary mandates, have strengthened their engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, through enhanced collaboration at the regional, subregional and national levels. To ensure systematic consultation with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, the regional commissions have implemented the management and accountability framework by reviewing, and where necessary revising, their approach to engaging with resident coordinators, including their contributions to performance appraisals.

53. The regional commissions provide inputs, data-driven analysis, advocacy and guidance for country-level programming through their participation, upon request, in common country analyses and the formulation and review of cooperation frameworks, which involves leveraging cross-sectoral expertise and ensuring a more in-depth analysis of regional and transboundary issues. As members of peer support groups, the regional commissions also provide quality assurance for all common country analyses, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and joint work plans in their respective regions.

54. The system-wide results to which the regional commissions contribute at the country level are reported in the United Nations country team annual country results and are presented on an annual basis to the Economic and Social Council in the report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on the Development Coordination Office ([E/2023/62](#)). The regional system-wide results

report of the issue-based coalitions of the regional collaborative platforms are issued in preparation for the regional forums for sustainable development.

55. Within the new regional architecture, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the regional commissions have been actively advancing efforts to promote collaboration and foster joined-up action for the 2030 Agenda (see [E/2023/62](#)), as described below.

A. Promoting policy coherence and joined-up action at the regional level

1. Driving collaborative delivery through issue-based coalitions and support for United Nations country teams

56. Issue-based coalitions are vehicles established under the auspices of the regional collaborative platforms for inter-agency collaboration. The coalitions address the regional and subregional dimensions of pressing development challenges by deploying regional assets in support of integrated action at the country level. Across the regions, the regional commissions co-lead and participate in the work of the coalitions in areas where they have comparative advantage and provide integrated policy support to United Nations country teams to address cross-border development issues. The mobilization of stakeholders in preparation for and as a follow-up to global high-level events, such as the Transforming Education Summit and twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is one example.

57. All the regional commissions help to facilitate the channelling of requests for support by resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to the relevant coalitions and inter-agency groups. Through the coalitions, they also provide the necessary expertise, upon request, to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to fill capacity gaps that emerge before or during the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

58. The commitment to successfully implement the workplans of the regional collaborative platforms with demonstrable progress on the roll-out of the regional reform is also anchored in the performance compacts of all the executive secretaries with the Secretary-General.

59. In the Africa region, ECA continues to play a key role within the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa, as a member of the joint secretariat, issue-based coalitions and task forces, by offering support at the country level in advancing regional priorities relating to data and statistics, climate action, macroeconomic transformation and energy and digital transitions. In collaboration with the African Union, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa, through its issue-based coalitions, supported member States in the adoption of the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Energy Transition and the follow-up to the Transforming Education Summit. In consideration of the unique institutional and political realities of Africa and the need to translate United Nations global strategies into actions at the regional and national levels, the Regional Collaborative Platform recognized that transformation in Africa requires close alignment with the focus of the African Union to ensure well-connected actions, transitioning to a blend of horizontal and vertical functionalities to enhance impact and accountability at the country and regional levels.

60. ECA responded to United Nations country team requests by providing strategic and advisory support to regional economic communities and African countries.¹³

¹³ Chad, Comoros, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda and Tunisia in 2022.

Examples include support for five countries in the implementation of national strategies relating to the African Continental Free Trade Area, training for climate negotiators in the lead-up to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the provision of technical assistance in conducting digital censuses for eight countries.¹⁴

61. In the Arab region, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Arab States continues to provide value-added support for the 2030 Agenda. In 2022, through its eight issue-based coalitions, the Platform delivered 12 policy briefs and multi-stakeholder regional dialogues, three capacity-building workshops and two major analytical reports. Those deliverables covered a wide range of themes, including climate, migration, energy, food security, social protection, youth and digitalization, and responded to 29 of the requests flagged by resident coordinators throughout the year. Furthermore, significant advances were made on the functionality of Manara (“lighthouse” in Arabic), the knowledge and data hub through which all United Nations knowledge products and data are made available to member States on an interactive platform. In addition to serving as a member of the joint secretariat of the Regional Collaborative Platform, ESCWA also co-convenes the issue-based coalitions on migration and economic management.

62. In the Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP co-chairs the issue-based coalition on raising ambitions on climate action and the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals Data and Statistics. ESCAP is also a member of the issue-based coalition on inclusive economic growth and COVID-19 recovery and other inter-agency groups under the auspices of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific. These issue-based coalitions and working groups form the regional roster of expertise for support at the country level. They supported capacity-building exercises for United Nations country teams, such as integrating disaster risk reduction and climate risks into common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, as well as a dialogue on climate ambitions in the lead-up to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in-depth technical assessments of specific Sustainable Development Goal indicators. In response to the multi-country office review, ESCAP revised the setting of its subregional office in Fiji and has deployed a regional adviser to support the newly established multi-country office in the Federated States of Micronesia. Going forward, ESCAP will continue to support the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat in the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. With limited physical presence in the form of subregional offices, ESCAP is a member of United Nations country teams in countries where it undertakes substantive country-level projects at the request of member States or the resident coordinator and is a signatory of cooperation frameworks that support countries in special situations.

63. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, ECLAC provides support, upon request, for the development of common country analyses and the formulation and review of cooperation frameworks. The Commission leverages its cross-sectoral expertise and ensures a more in-depth analysis of regional and transboundary issues, including country-level approaches to the increasing intensity of wildfires, and a coordinated response to human mobility. As a member of the regional Peer Support Group, ECLAC provides quality assurance for common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. There have also been increased issue-based coalition efforts to support cross-border and subregional

¹⁴ In relation to the African Continental Free Trade Area, support for Burkina Faso, Congo, Guinea, the Niger and Togo; in relation to the digital censuses, support for Liberia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

initiatives that work across the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and human rights pillars in the region.

64. Country discussions with resident coordinators were organized as part of the agenda of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, including on Haiti and Peru, as well as on shared challenges in the subregions of the Caribbean and Central America. In response to feedback received from stakeholders, an enhanced Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean was launched in April 2023, with simplified operating procedures and a sharper thematic focus in terms of country-level support. In August 2022, the Regional Collaborative Platform completed its roster of expertise, which is organized according to the thematic focus of the issue-based coalitions and working groups to facilitate access to residents coordinators and United Nations country teams.

65. In the ECE region, since its establishment, the Regional Collaborative Platform has scaled up joined-up regional support for several cross-cutting issues. The issue-based coalitions, Regional United Nations Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia and the Peer Support Group have been able to provide more targeted substantive policy, analytical and operational support to meet the demands at the country level. ECE is co-leading the issue-based coalition on environment and climate change, the United Nations Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia and the Regional United Nations Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia, and participating in other issue-based coalitions and groups. The issue-based coalition on environment and climate change provided support to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams for transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia. In 2022, a new website for Europe and Central Asia was launched to facilitate regional collaboration and serve as a consolidated entry point for issue-based coalition expertise and resources, including a mapping of projects to support inter-agency coordination.

2. Efforts towards leveraging knowledge to support economic and social transformation and closing Sustainable Development Goal data gaps

66. The regional commissions have made significant contributions in their respective regions in terms of positioning the knowledge management hubs as the go-to online space for member States and United Nations system entities to obtain access to regional expertise, data and knowledge resources. Notable progress has been made in bringing coherence to the regional data ecosystem to support evidence-based policymaking, monitoring and reporting on the Goals.

67. In the Africa region, progress has focused on two flagship initiatives related to the development and operationalization of knowledge hubs and the cross-agency expertise location tool and communities of practice platform. In relation to the knowledge hubs, there was continuous development and maintenance of the Africa United Nations Regional Knowledge Hub on COVID-19, which provides access to regional United Nations knowledge assets on the 2030 Agenda. A cross-agency expertise location tool, which facilitates the mapping and identification of expertise across the Goals, was also developed. Meanwhile the communities of practice platform will provide a space for peer-to-peer knowledge facilitation and networking services, promoting collaboration between regional United Nations entities.

68. In the Arab region, ESCWA led the efforts of the Regional Collaborative Platform to develop an online regional knowledge management and data hub known as Manara. Launched in March 2023, Manara is a comprehensive, interactive platform and a “one-stop shop” for knowledge, information and data from United Nations sources, member States and other partners on the 2030 Agenda. Manara communicates with other relevant regional platforms and leverages the latest

developments in artificial intelligence, machine learning and natural language processing to include real time news and social media content of relevance to the area of interest, as well as interactive maps and charts.

69. In the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Knowledge Management Hub has seen the number of users increase by 150 per cent and a 70 per cent increase in page views compared with 2021. The Hub now welcomes over 9,200 users and has registered more than 32,000 page views. It also hosts over 250 knowledge resources, which include flagship reports, policy guidance and research by 14 United Nations entities. The Hub has expanded its solutions to include tailored, demand-driven services with an issue-based coalitions repository for the Asia-Pacific region, as a dedicated inter-agency collaboration space for issue-based coalitions.

70. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, ECLAC collaborates at the regional and global levels on data and statistics, including with the Statistics Division, other regional commissions, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, resident coordinators and the network of data management officers of the Development Coordination Office as well as the group on data and statistics of the Regional Collaborative Platform. Within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, new working groups were created to produce regional guidelines and collections of best practices in 11 different subject areas. ECLAC has also reinforced the dissemination and use of regionally comparable statistics, including through its CEPALSTAT platform, adding new capabilities and a geoportal. Complementary tools have also been developed, including a dedicated portal for data on social and economic inequalities, a repository of economic survey microdata, input-output matrices and a tool for household survey microdata processing.

71. The Regional Knowledge Management Platform for the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean (also known as the SDG Gateway), consolidates and displays the regional work of the United Nations development system related to the 2030 Agenda, including information on how the United Nations system is supporting countries in monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. With a decentralized system that enables members of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean to upload information, the platform has enhanced the visibility and accessibility of United Nations regional assets.

72. In the ECE region, the Regional United Nations Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia, established to provide support in closing the data gaps in economic, social, demographic and environment statistics and to promote the modernization of statistical production, has continued to coordinate statistical and capacity-building activities and to connect data processes at the national, regional and global levels.

3. Delivering efficiencies at the regional level

73. Enhancing efficiencies through joint business operations and streamlined business practices at the country and regional levels is one of the objectives of the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

74. Across all the regions, progress has been made in mobilizing regional business operations strategies to support efficiency initiatives. The regional commissions are co-leads or part of a regional operations management team and have contributed to the development of regional business operations strategies with common service areas prioritized for achieving efficiency gains. Within the framework of the Business Operations Strategy, all the regional commissions, except ECE, are service providers for United Nations system entities in areas including human resources, travel, procurement, information and communications technology, finance, facilities

management, general services, conference, security, protocol, legal and medical services. ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA provide common premises services to co-locating United Nations entities in Bangkok, Addis Ababa and Beirut.

75. In the Latin American and Caribbean and Arab regions, the delivery of common services is projected to generate a total cost avoidance of \$4.0 million and \$1.9 million, respectively, as a net benefit over the period 2022–2024. In the Africa region, a total cost avoidance of \$2.7 million is expected over the next five years as a result of inter-agency collaboration on 11 common services.

76. More details on the implementation of the reform are available in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system ([A/78/72-E/2023/59](#)) and the report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on the Development Coordination Office ([E/2023/62](#)).

B. Promoting interregional cooperation: joint initiatives undertaken by the regional commissions

77. During the reporting period, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions coordinated their positions on policy matters and advanced collaboration around joint projects and other areas of common interest.

78. Under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General and in the lead-up to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the regional commissions collaborated with the Egyptian presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties and the high-level champions for climate action to organize five regional round tables to accelerate public and private investment in mature and scalable projects that are in line with the Paris Agreement. The outcome of the round tables included policy measures that are needed to unlock finance flows and a compendium¹⁵ featuring a pipeline of investment-ready climate-related initiatives that respond to country-driven priorities and plans. Published in mid-November 2022, the compendium serves as a key tool for attracting investments to ramp up climate action with long-term resilience and adaptation measures that also help drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

79. In the context of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, held in March 2023, the regional commissions organized a joint high-level event to showcase the outcomes of regional consultations held to assess progress and mobilize water action ahead of the Conference. During the Conference, the regional commissions issued a joint policy brief outlining key messages and forward-looking recommendations emanating from the regional consultations.

80. On the margins of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up held in April 2023, the regional commissions organized a joint high-level event on addressing public debt challenges to pursue the Goals and issued a joint policy brief calling for a shift in thinking about leveraging public debt for development gains. The regional commissions continue to step up their support for efforts towards common international debt resolution mechanisms and

¹⁵ Available at <https://www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice/news/compendium>.

restructuring frameworks. They are also collaborating in the areas of measuring illicit financial flows, asset recovery and taxing the digital economy.

81. Leveraging opportunities offered by the United Nations Development Account, the regional commissions are implementing several joint projects. Under the leadership of ESCWA and working closely with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the regional commissions implemented a project aimed at strengthening national innovation and technological capacities for the use of blockchain technology to boost trade in support of sustainable development. ESCWA and ECA are collaborating on a project aimed at developing an interactive digital knowledge platform that provides access to resources on groundwater in the League of Arab States. Under the leadership of ECLAC, the regional commissions are also jointly implementing a project with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) aimed at improving capacities to implement, monitor and report on the New Urban Agenda.

82. With a view to advancing resilient energy systems in Central Asia, ECE, together with ESCAP and other organizations, organized the second Almaty Energy Forum in November 2022 on modernizing regional infrastructure through innovation and investments that deliver on net-zero targets and increase the efficiency, affordability and resilience of the energy system. In collaboration with ECE and ECLAC, ESCAP is implementing a project aimed at strengthening the energy policies of countries in special situations.

83. In cooperation with UNCTAD, the regional commissions launched the fifth United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in January 2023. Together with UNCTAD, they developed and periodically updated an analysis of the impacts of the war in Ukraine to monitor vulnerabilities in financing, food and energy security at the country level in each of the five regions and put forward policy recommendations.

84. Ahead of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the regional commissions issued a joint statement calling for the mainstreaming of biodiversity into policies and programmes and the strengthening of knowledge exchange on biodiversity.

III. Looking ahead: preview of regional commission plans to advance 2023 priorities

85. The regional commissions continue to work in evolving and innovative ways to support member States in countering the interlocking and complex crises and advance efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. In the year ahead, they will continue to advance joint action around four shared priority areas, namely the midpoint review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, financing for development, climate action and the implementation of the relevant proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” (A/75/982).

86. In preparation for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the regional commissions are mobilizing regional stakeholders and facilitating the coordination of regional inputs towards shaping the outcome of the Summit. They are also making joint substantive contributions to the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future, to be held in 2024, with the emphasis on key transitions for accelerating progress on the Goals. The regional commissions will continue preparatory work ahead of the first annual meeting with the heads of regional organizations, convened by the Secretary-General, as proposed in Our Common Agenda.

87. In advancing the financing for development agenda, the regional commissions seek to undertake coordinated action to support advocacy efforts around the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus to scale up affordable, long-term financing for development. They will also contribute to developing solutions and mobilizing actors to overhaul the global financial architecture.

88. In the lead-up to the Climate Ambition Summit to be held in September 2023 and the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the regional commissions will support preparatory events at the regional level to foster specific and credible climate action. They will also continue to support member States in advancing their climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience goals.

IV. Conclusion

89. The regional commissions have further strengthened their role as thought leaders, knowledge generators and conveners of intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder policy dialogue to foster regional and interregional cooperation in the context of cascading crises. Their work has enhanced the translation of global agreements and recommendations in regional settings and provided a bridge to support effective country-level action in key areas such as financing, the digital and energy transition and climate action. In keeping with the reform of the United Nations development system, their endeavours to support the follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda have been geared towards both member States and the United Nations country teams through enhanced coordination at the regional level.
