Compilation of key messages to the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration by the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies and forums

Contents

1. Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies of the Economic and Social Council

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

- We express grave concern about the ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic for effective crime prevention and criminal justice, and we reiterate our resolve to intensify concerted global efforts to prevent and combat crime by promoting evidence-informed crime prevention measures and by making criminal justice systems more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive as well as by facilitating and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters;

- We encourage States to mainstream crime prevention and criminal justice into their COVID-19 Recovery Plans with a view to accelerate recovery and ensure that no one is left behind, thereby retaining effective measures set up or strengthened during the pandemic, such as the use of new technologies to ensure the continuity of crime prevention and support services, and remote access to justice;

- We call on all Member States to allocate sufficient funding in national post-COVID-19 recovery budgets to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice systems and make them better prepared for future challenges, particularly through international cooperation, provision of technical assistance and capacity building to prevent and address all forms of crime; and

- We recall our commitment to implement the Kyoto Declaration on "Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2021, and encourage all Member States and all other interested stakeholders to invest in international dialogue, exchange of good practices and lessons learnt and to actively participate in the thematic discussions on the Kyoto- Declaration follow-up held under the auspices of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Commission for Social Development

- **Encourages Member States to invest** in programmes for poverty eradication, as well as **in the promotion of equitable and universal access to basic services and in quality and resilient infrastructure**, including health-care services; education infrastructure; safe drinking water and sanitation; affordable housing; affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services; sustainable transport systems; and affordable access to the Internet and connectivity, with particular attention given to the needs of those in vulnerable situations;

- **Encourages Member States to develop long-term, risk-informed, inclusive and prevention-oriented social development recovery plans** that will improve people's capacities and well-being, including through ensuring decent employment and adequate social protection coverage.

- **Encourages Member States to ensure that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic provides a policy window for the countries concerned to address their significant gaps in social protection coverage by making progress towards universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems**, by including, in accordance with their national legislations, basic income, child benefits, maternity benefits, sickness benefits, disability benefits, unemployment benefits and old-age pension, and that these social protection systems should identify and close coverage gaps, especially for those who are in vulnerable situations, including informal workers, migrants and unpaid care-givers.

- **Encourages the international community**, including the international financial institutions, to continue **to support** the resolution of challenges faced by developing countries, especially **the least developed countries, including in Africa**, to independently achieve sustainable development.

- **Encourages Member States to strengthen further the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action** and use it as a tool for building an inclusive society with intergenerational solidarity in which **older persons participate fully** and without any kind of discrimination and on the basis of equality in the implementation and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **Urges Member States to ensure that youth issues are adequately addressed** in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in consultation with and actively involving youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in its implementation.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

- We recall the need to continue implementing coordinated multidisciplinary efforts to ensure that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in efforts to mitigate the drug-related consequences of the pandemic;

- We recall the need to accelerate the implementation of all international drug policy commitments so that the progress made at the national, regional and global levels is maintained and continued in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- We encourage all States to allocate sufficient funding in national post-COVID budgets for drugrelated initiatives, including those relating to drug prevention and treatment and related health and social services, alternative development and law enforcement;

- We encourage Member States to further strengthen measures, strategies, and inter-agency and international cooperation and partnerships to ensure the access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, which may improve responses to future emergencies, including emergency medical care situations;

- We encourage all States to take into consideration in their efforts to address the world drug problem the links between drugs and the environment, including through long-term comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes;

- We encourage Member States to mainstream an age and gender perspective into all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug prevention, treatment, sustained recovery and related support services, and ensure that those services, as appropriate, are tailored to the different needs and circumstances of all people who could benefit from such services and measures, in particular women and girls;

- We refer to the thematic discussions held under the auspices of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on implementation of all our international drug policy commitments, following up to the 2019 ministerial declaration, centred on the world drug problem and how to build back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and call upon Member States and all other interested stakeholders to actively participate in upcoming thematic discussions in the lead-up to the mid-term review in 2024 and the end-of-cycle review in 2029.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

- **First, digitalization is increasingly central to all aspects of society and has proved to accelerate technological and innovative solutions for achieving all SDGs,** apart from the evidence that the world has witnessed in countries' response to the Covid 19 pandemic and their recovery from the pandemic. Policymakers in all fields need to pay close attention to digital development in their countries. Countries could exchange their good practices in fostering digital development, at platforms such as the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development as it provides a central venue for all stakeholders to learn what others are doing in respect of application of digital technology in areas within their respective mandates.

- **Second, the global community should address imperatively the persisting and continued digital divide.** The majority of the world's citizens are now connected, yet many still need access to the Internet and online services. Many of those who are connected have limited connectivity, which does not offer them the full benefits of digitalization. The lack of affordability, digital skills, and relevant content and services also constrains inclusion and equality. As a result, those already more advantaged often gain more from digital development than those in greater need. Leaving no one behind, the key message of the 2030 Agenda, is critical in this regard.

- **Third, achieving universal access to clean water and sanitation requires appropriate technological and innovative solutions.** Though advanced technological solutions have a significant role in implementing SDG6, effective and affordable seemingly low-tech tools for water and sanitation should not be ignored, as they are often more appropriate for reaching underserved populations. In doing so, countries should take affirmative action to design

policies and projects focusing on marginalized groups, particularly women, who often shoulder the burden where access to water and sanitation is limited.

- **Fourth, technological innovation to achieve the SDG 6 must be implemented with innovation in respect of policy, governance and process as well as enabling socially and culturally behavioral change.** Policymakers must develop close partnerships with local actors on water and sanitation to build technology acceptance and nurture the relevant digital and practical capacities necessary to deploy solutions.

- **Fifth, countries should develop or expand national policies with clear strategic direction and accompanied by roadmaps, regulatory and legal frameworks,** to further promote green innovation and the development, production, use, and scaling-up of green and renewable energy technologies. Furthermore, the government, private sector, and other stakeholders must cooperate closely to raise awareness of the technological development happening in green technologies. They should provide technical education and skills development training to increase firms' capacity for applying green technologies.

- **Sixth, the international community should create a cross-border open system for green innovations,** to facilitate efficient communication and collaboration between authorities, corporations, researchers, academia, and individuals and providing avenues and incentives to those who collaborate. In addition, the international community should establish, expand and strengthen international R&D and innovation support programmes (such as Horizon Europe). Such support has a vital role in advancing green technologies by supporting, promoting and financing international R&D projects on green technologies and clean production.

- Finally, **governments should take an integrated approach to policy setting for sustainable urban development.** This entails an adjustment to existing institutional frameworks to integrate urban sustainability policy settings, horizontally and vertically, and ensure the coordination needed to maximize synergies among STI actions and minimize fragmentation and trade-offs.

Commission on the Status of Women

- Take action to fully implement existing commitments and obligations with respect to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women, adolescents and girls, and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind, so as to improve progress towards women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence.

- Protect and promote the right to work and rights at work of all women and ensure the equal access of women to decent work and quality jobs in all sectors, by eliminating occupational segregation, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes and violence and sexual harassment, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, ensuring their equal pay for work of equal value, protecting against discrimination and abuse and ensuring the safety of all women in the world of work, and promoting the right to organize and bargain collectively to advance, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, including in the context of a just transition of the workforce.

- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the realization of their human rights.

- Take targeted measures to address the growing digital divides within and among countries in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, through, inter alia, strengthened enabling policy environments at all levels, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, public-private partnerships, low cost technology, universal access strategies and international cooperation to improve affordability, capacity-building, financing, investment and technology transfer.

- Deepen cooperation, including financing, to strengthen sustainable and resilient digital infrastructural development and promote knowledge sharing and technology transfer, including the development, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and strengthen digital and data capacity-building and governance, to address the gender digital divide and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, online and offline, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicides, all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as well as trafficking in persons and modern slavery and other forms of exploitation, through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence and end impunity, and take appropriate measures to create a safe, enabling and violence-free working environment for women, including by ratifying key international treaties that provide protection against gender-based violence and sexual harassment.

- Promote women's full, effective and equal participation in decision-making on water and sanitation and ensure that all WASH services and infrastructure are gender-responsive to bolster the resilience of all women and girls and take measures to reduce the time spent by women and girls on collecting household water and fuel and protect them from threats, assaults and sexual and gender-based violence while doing so and when accessing sanitation facilities outside of their home or practicing open defecation and urination, and ensure access to water and sanitation and hygiene for all women and girls, especially those in marginalized and vulnerable situations.

United Nations Forum on Forests

We welcome ongoing preparations for the midterm review of the UNSPF and the larger role of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) in advocating a key role for forests and sustainable forest management in addressing multiple environmental objectives, including through increased efforts towards forest and ecosystem restoration actions, and to mainstream and scale up forest-related actions in national development programmes. In particular:

- We note that the UN Strategic Plan for Forests is a holistic tool to promote the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable forest management;

- We recall the need to ensure synergies between the UN Strategic Plans for Forests and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and objectives such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement;

- We encourage Member States, organizations and stakeholders to continue to actively engage in the UN Forum on Forests, and reaffirm the need for forest-related international organizations and instruments to continue to work with the UN Forum on Forests, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; and

- We stress the need to better integrate the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and its Global Forest Goals to foster the full potential of forests and forest-based action, in order to accelerate progress on all the SDGs.

United Nations Statistical Commission

To stay ahead of the cascading and interconnected crises, we need to understand where we are and where we are headed, and that will require significant investment in our data and information infrastructure. Policies, programmes and resources that aim to protect people will inevitably fall short without the evidence needed to focus interventions.

Timely, high-quality and disaggregated data can help trigger more targeted responses, anticipate future needs, and hone the design of urgently needed actions. These data strategic assets are essential to not only build back better, but also accelerate implementation of the SDGs. To emerge stronger from these multiple crises and prepare for unknown challenges ahead, funding statistical development must be a priority for national governments and the international community.

International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

- Sustainability reporting is the basis for sustainable investment; and promoting the preparation of reliable and comparable sustainability or environmental, social and governance (ESG) reports will enable responsible investment and facilitate the mobilization of funds for SDG investment.

- Countries should start strengthening their sustainability reporting infrastructure as early as possible, taking into consideration that the national sustainability reporting infrastructure should be flexible and dynamic to accommodate continuous updates, to allow it to respond to international developments, new sustainability reporting standards and other requirements.

- Due to the multidimensional nature of sustainability and SDG reporting, it is critical to ensure a collaborative process based on a multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation, including key stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society.

Committee for Development Policy

- Urgent, deeper, faster and more ambitious transformative action is needed to achieve the SDGs in the context of multiple global crises.

- In the narrative and policy advice on meeting the SDGs, a stronger link should be made between production structure and human development, leaving no one behind and environmental sustainability. Developing countries need resources and policy space to implement proactive industrial policies and productive capacity development strategies that will put them on track to structural transformation, as a means to sustainable, equitable and resilient development.

- As efforts towards climate mitigation and adaptation take off, ensuring that transitions are just will enable more ambitious action and can provide impetus to meeting the SDGs. Just transition strategies should be based on structured and inclusive processes of social and political dialogue and transformative and strategic thinking that reflect the specific contexts of each country and their historical responsibility. A globally just transition requires that climate financing commitments are met; loss and damage compensated for; and mitigation undertaken in accordance with the Paris Agreement without shifting the burden to developing countries. It requires transition strategies considering the structure of global and regional supply chains, with the inclusion of relevant workers and stakeholders throughout the supply chain in dialogue and decision-making.

- The process and speed of debt relief to developing countries must be urgently improved. The process should begin with establishing a country-owned macro-fiscal framework, including an economic recovery strategy and realistic fiscal inputs. The debt relief process should be clear and agreed upon, and inclusive of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to build trust and foster creative solutions. Action is needed nationally and internationally to prevent future debt crises. An efficient allocation of different financing sources is needed, including of compensation for losses and damages and provision of concessional financing for both climate adaptation and mitigation. This should be in addition to a mechanism for developed countries to transfer resources as payment for historical carbon debt owed to developing countries.

- It is time for a new generation of Voluntary National Reviews that makes them fit for purpose as vehicles for exchange of experience and peer learning and accelerators of action towards the SDGs. Reports should provide evidence-based analysis of progress, lessons learned from implementation, discussions of policy successes and failures, identification of key challenges, and assessment of the core transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda, including the means of implementation. Reports should be framed under the concept of sustainable development as integrated and universal, with commitments to inclusion, human rights and respect for planetary limits. There should be feedback mechanisms that facilitate learning from experience and inform future policy discussion and action. National processes should be inclusive and participatory, creating space for civil society contributions to identifying priorities, obstacles, and opportunities. There should be greater space for civil society presentation of shadow reports at the HLPF and more systematic and comprehensive peer review arrangements.

Committee of Experts on Tax Matters

- Emphasize the urgent need for regular resourcing to support the UN tax function, with its distinctive integrated approach to tax policy support and capacity building.

- Highlight the need for multilateralism and collective action to ensure that the SDG targets are met.

- Reiterate the Committee's commitment towards promoting inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the United Nations and promoting the mainstreaming of tax issues into the wider work of the ECOSOC, while integrating SDG thinking into the work of the Committee and its guidance products.

Committee of Experts on Public Administration

- **The ability to respond quickly and effectively to crises is essential but insufficient for sustainable development.**
  With Governments trying to tackle a cascade of simultaneous crises, crisis governance has become part of a "new normal", resulting in relative neglect in six areas: long-term thinking, risk management, use of the best available knowledge, stakeholder participation, promotion of collaborative mindsets among public sector workers and using public financial management mechanisms and instruments to bridge the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap in light of soaring interest rates and global uncertainty. This is understandable but short-sighted. Climate change, for example, is not only a crisis in itself. It is also a wholeof-government and whole-of-society challenge that needs to be addressed in a holistic manner and considering the different contexts. Different governance approaches are needed to address different problems, mixing approaches and switching between them according to the requirements of the situation. If and where Governments focus too much of their attention on issues framed as crises, with the related emergency measures of budgetary expenditures and regulations, parliaments and societal stakeholders – civil society, business and academia – should step up and organize their role as "countervailing powers", helping to keep Governments accountable and on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with a long-term perspective and at all levels.

- **National Governments should empower subnational governments to accelerate Sustainable Development Goal implementation**.
  There is much to gain as regards effective multilevel governance between the national and subnational levels. It is in the interest of national Governments to stimulate subnational governments to regularly conduct voluntary local reviews and accelerate action to leave no one behind by supporting policymaking that takes into account the needs and aspirations of all segments of society, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and those subject to discrimination. Roles and responsibilities between governance levels should be clearly established, based on the principle of subsidiarity, with allocation of appropriate human, financial and technical resources and sufficient flexibility to collaborate across all levels in real time should the urgency of a problem require it. Strengthening of subnational government needs to be among the priorities as a key lever for the achievement of sustainable development and public service delivery. National policy outcomes also benefit from

promoting inter-municipal collaboration and partnerships. This allows the scale-up of successful innovations, increasing the level of skills and the joint purchasing power of subnational authorities for sustainable public procurement.

- **A functioning coordination mechanism for sustainable development across all ministries at the highest level is a must.**
  While clear structures are good for accountability and focussed effort, overcoming the silos of departments and sectors is still an important challenge. An essential part of improving policy coherence for sustainable development (target 17.14) is the proven good practice of establishing a coordination mechanism for sustainable development across all ministries at the highest level. This is one of the eight sub-indicators of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 17.14.1. The United Nations Environment Programme has made available a selfassessment tool for measuring policy coherence following the methodology developed for indicator 17.14.1. The results of pilots with the self-assessment suggest that the tool can deliver robust and reliable results only when stakeholders are involved. A monitoring and evaluation capacity in the centre of Government that helps to advance targets and solve bottlenecks to accelerate the achievement of the Goals can also bring to bear the power of the highest political authority to align ministerial initiatives.

- **A rapid upgrade of risk management in government and its integration into Sustainable Development Goal-related coordination mechanisms is necessary.**
  The current accumulation of global crises calls for a rapid upgrade of risk management in government and its integration into Sustainable Development Goal-related coordination mechanisms, such as centres of Government or other piloting structures. Foresight and risk prevention, mitigation, adaptation and resilience will reduce exposure to crises. They will also inform assessments of trade-offs and synergies among the Sustainable Development Goals and increase the potential for coherence of implementation.

- **The need to strengthen institutions for more integrated solutions to achieve the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda remains strong**.
  Accelerating and deepening institutional integration through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches can bring about systems thinking for transformative changes in governance and public policies in line with the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda. The challenge is to convey these systemic solutions into compelling collective action narratives that galvanize the political economy in support of lasting and evidence-informed solutions, eschewing quick palliative approaches, overcoming mis- and dis-information, and bridging social, economic and political divides within and across countries. Despite ongoing efforts to improve governance and a clear commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, progress on the Goals is more uneven than expected. Meeting the challenges of transforming institutions for a greener, more inclusive and more resilient world will depend on accelerated efforts to build a capable State at all levels and in all areas of government action relevant to the Goals. Multidimensional analyses of institutions in relation to national sustainable development priorities and an agile portfolio approach to addressing capability gaps across the whole of government are seen as part of the solution.

- **Countries should be encouraged to integrate reflections on a vision of society in 2050 in their planning, monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.**
  As sustainable development requires a long-term perspective in public policymaking, countries should be encouraged to integrate into their delivery of the 2030 Agenda reflections on a vision of society in 2050. The Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs could be adapted to incorporate this longer-term perspective in their planning, monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **Countries should exercise credible, transparent and participatory budgetary decision-making in order to speed progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.**
  Credible planning and execution of national and subnational budgets are critical pillars for achieving the sustainable development goals. Budgetary allocations and deviations have a significant impact on the efforts to "transform institutions for a greener, more inclusive and more resilient world" while guaranteeing that the core principles of fiscal discipline, legitimacy, predictability, credibility, participation, transparency, and accountability are respected as much as possible. Countries are invited to reinforce their data infrastructure and reliance on evidence-based budgetary policy making, their institutional flexibility and human capabilities, as well as mechanisms for budget coordination across levels, for enhancing transparency and participation in the budgeting process, and budget scrutiny by independent supreme audit institutions.

- **To ensure that adequate attention is paid to the governance and institution building aspects of the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 16 should be reviewed annually at the high-level political forum, alongside SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals.**
  Strong and well-functioning institutions are key to addressing the current multiple crises effectively. However, current trends point to decreasing accountability and inclusiveness and a narrowing of public space that leaves many stakeholders out of policy processes. The review of indicator 16.6.1 reflecting budget credibility points to deviations between planned and executed budgets above 5% in almost half of all countries reporting on this indicator. Such trends may further undermine the holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress towards sustainable development.

- **The effective collection, use and communication of reliable data and evidence is critical to promoting a whole-of-society approach to delivery of sustainable development.**
  A stronger case for the contribution of evidence to improved social and economic outcomes should be made while also accounting for how information is used and communicated, for example by translating ideas and evidence into issues that matter for different segments of society. Digital transformation and the use of new technologies could also help enhance the cost-effectiveness of research, providing options to study more aspects of policies and programmes, providing data and actionable findings in a more timely and cost-effective manner. Greater data and evidence generation, combined with widespread access by all stakeholders, can be expected to create a more level playing field for policymaking with a greater focus on the public good, provided the opportunities, challenges and risks of new technologies such as artificial intelligence are properly understood and managed, with an

approach anchored in respect for human rights. Researchers and evaluation practitioners, for their part, could make better use of the evidence base with evaluations seen as part of a range of complementary inquiries that support government decision-makers, the private sector and civil society actors in efforts to tailor research for practical decision-making for the greatest social impact.

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

- Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' comprehensive knowledge systems, and their participation as partners, is critical to implementing effective measures on several global issues: climate change, biodiversity, desertification, food security and sovereignty. This includes the right to food, energy transition, technological advances, the decades on ecosystem restoration, ocean sciences and water action, among others.

- This is necessary to ensure that some measures against climate change, such as the protection of land or energy transition, do not revictimize Indigenous Peoples. Multilateral and bilateral development cooperation should take strict precautions and encourage measures to recognize Indigenous Peoples and their territories.

- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for the collection of disaggregated statistical data about indigenous peoples. Where such data are available, they have shown that the pandemic has affected indigenous peoples differently than other populations, requiring culturally appropriate approaches and solutions. The Permanent Forum reiterates its recommendation to Member States to collect and disseminate disaggregated statistical data on indigenous peoples, in close cooperation with indigenous peoples themselves, to support evidence-based policymaking and programming.

UN-Nutrition

- **Key message on all SDGs: Nutrition is at the heart of sustainable development and underpins all SDGs.**
  The SDGs are interconnected and indivisible, and nutrition is a maker and marker of sustainable development. Improving nutrition is a fundamental element in the achievement of all SDGs by 2030, so all SDGs need to be explicit about their relationship with nutrition (annex 1). Action-oriented statements on nutrition improvement are essential, not just descriptions of the problem. Access to adequate food is a fundamental human right, but every country in the world remains affected by one or more forms of malnutrition. In recent years, progress in the fight against hunger and malnutrition has been backsliding. Urgent investments and actions across sectors and stakeholders are needed to address malnutrition and its root causes. Adequate data to identify malnourished populations are often lacking. Country averages tend to hide a skewed distribution affected by intersecting determinants such as gender, age, income, ethnicity, geographical location and disability, making it harder to identify those most in need. Adopting a human rights-based approach in the fight against hunger and malnutrition is necessary to protect the lives and well-being of vulnerable people. It requires the identification and prioritization of those most nutritionally at risk (including women and children during the first 1 000 days), those for whom the gap is largest (those with intersecting

vulnerabilities – age, income, ethnicity, geographical location, health status and so on) and those unable to afford to meet their nutritional needs. It will also ensure that international and national responses to the current global crisis are more effective and facilitate meaningful participation by affected communities. This involves enabling them to set their own priorities, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes, policy implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes to ensure that the benefits reach the intended targets. By adopting a human rights-based approach, the international community will clearly realize that nutrition underpins all SDGs. If the underlying determinants of nutrition are not addressed, sustainable solutions to achieving the goals will not be found (UNSCN, 2018b).

- **Key message on all SDGs: Sustainable healthy diets are the tie that binds environmental sustainability and human health and well-being.**
There is growing awareness of the daunting nutritional and environmental challenges the world faces. Though access to adequate food is a fundamental human right, billions of people around the world live with food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. Meanwhile, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is worsening, threatening both human and planetary health. Population growth, urbanization, economic growth and the unequal distribution of power in food systems are fuelling a transition to diets high in refined carbohydrates, fat, salt and ultraprocessed foods. These diets tend to have low nutritional quality and a high environmental footprint, exacerbating both environmental and nutritional challenges, making it more difficult to attain all of the SDGs. At the nexus of these challenges is what people eat, how food is produced and how it travels from farm to plate. Important shifts in what people eat, as well as a transformation of food systems, are urgently required (UN-Nutrition, forthcoming). Ensuring that healthy diets from sustainable food systems are available, affordable and sustainably consumed will bring clear co-benefits for people and planet and is a foundation for achieving all SDGs (UN-Nutrition, forthcoming). Proven policy approaches exist for national or subnational governments that can provide co-benefits for nutrition and the environment, positively affecting all SDGs. They span the entire breadth of food systems: production, storage, distribution, processing, packaging, trade and markets, food environments and consumer behaviour. Also, policies promoting innovative initiatives and partnerships between governments, farmers and businesses to reduce food loss and waste are key components of the solutions package (UNSCN, 2016a; 2016b; UN-Nutrition, forthcoming). No one strategy will fit all. Policies and interventions that provide co-benefits for nutrition and the environment are inherently context-specific and cross-sectoral, requiring collaboration between multiple government ministries and subnational authorities, as well as other food systems stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. At the same time, identifying and implementing policies that can address the massive nutritional and environmental crises that the planet faces will require a departure from business as usual at the global level. Still, through collaboration, commitment and the involvement of diverse stakeholders, food systems that support the well-being of people and the planet can become a reality. Developing and implementing policies with co-benefits for nutrition and the environment will be fundamental to achieving all SDGs.

- **Key message on SDG6: Promote close, multilevel, game-changing collaboration on and interlinkages between actions on water and nutrition.**

A complex web of pathways links water, food security and nutrition outcomes (annex 2). Progress on these issues, underpinned by a joint approach, is imperative, as there are growing inequities in food and water security, even though they are basic human rights. Progress on SDG 6 has been unsatisfactory, with several indicators worsening over time, including increases in the number of people at risk of severe water shortage. This lack of progress has been exacerbated by climate change and growing demand on water resources. The consequences of unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) on children can be deadly. More than 700 children under the age of five die every day of diarrhoeal diseases due to a lack of appropriate WASH services. In areas of conflict, children are nearly 20 times more likely to die from diarrhoeal disease than from the conflict itself. At the same time, levels of malnutrition in all its forms are increasing globally. Reversing these trends will require a much greater effort on the part of the water, food security and nutrition sectors, including stronger linkages between the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and the United Nations International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development. Enhancing the performance of the two Decades requires the systematic exploration of linkages and possibilities for joint interventions, understanding that one does not take priority over the other. Progress has been made on the interlinkages between nutrition and WASH (SUN, n.d.). However, to deal concretely with the complexity of the water–nutrition nexus and to optimize the outcomes for all SDGs, it is necessary to go much further. It is essential to implement nutrition-sensitive agricultural water management by producing food in adequate quantity and quality, while also safeguarding water and other natural resources, thus increasing the availability of healthy diets from sustainable food systems. It is also critical to address social inequities in water–nutrition linkages by proactively contemplating vulnerable groups and their needs in the design, development and use of water services (UNSCN, 2020b).

- **Key message on SDG7: Promote clean cooking, as well as the efficient distribution and storage of foods for healthy diets.**
  Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy brings fundamental gains to health, food security, nutrition, job creation, economic development, security, women's empowerment and environmental protection. Access to clean cooking energy reduces the burden on women who have to collect firewood, often in remote areas, not only increasing their security, but also the time they have available for childcare. Household air pollution accounted for more than 4 percent of all deaths in 2019 (Bennitt et al., 2021). It leads to non-communicable diseases, including stroke, ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer, with women and children bearing the greatest health burden (WHO, 2022). Indoor pollution is directly related to sickness-mediated nutritional compromise. Deforestation impacts the water-holding capacity of the soil, making agricultural land more susceptible to flooding, impacting food security and nutrition. Despite progress, the 2022 Tracking SDG7 report (IEA, IRENA, United Nations Statistics Division, World Bank and WHO, 2022) estimates that under current and planned policies (which have also been affected by the COVID-19 crisis), 670 million to 764 million people will still lack access to energy in 2030, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, some 2.4 billion people remained without access to clean cooking in 2020, one-third of the global population. Near stagnation in terms of progress since 2010 has led to millions of deaths a year from the inhalation of cooking smoke. Without rapid action to scale up clean cooking, the world will fall short of reaching

SDG7 targets for 2030. Energy is also required to transport food and produce related inputs and materials. The energy used to transport food from producers to consumers, often called "food miles", accounts for about 5 percent of food-related GHG emissions (UN-Nutrition, 2022). Emissions from transportation are higher for perishable food products, such as fruits, vegetables and animal-source foods, yet safe transport of these foods is essential to support healthy diets and food safety. Most transport emissions come from local and regional transport on roads and railways rather than international transport by ship or air. Thus, better infrastructure to improve the efficiency of local transportation networks, including those connecting rural and urban areas, as well as investments in urban and peri-urban food systems, could reduce transportrelated emissions. Eventually, the improvement of local trade, including the reduction of barriers to local trade, may also reduce food miles over longer distances, as people can rely more on locally produced foods, and increase food sovereignty (UN-Nutrition, forthcoming). Developing low-cost technologies to improve the energy efficiency of food storage, especially for nutrient-dense foods, is also essential to attain SDG7. Refrigeration contributes about 5 percent of food systems-related emissions (UN-Nutrition, forthcoming). This "cold chain" is essential to reducing food loss and waste by maintaining safe conditions while food is stored and distributed, and it is particularly important for nutritious, perishable foods, such as fruits, vegetables and animal-source foods. Better refrigeration through efficient cold chains is essential to increasing access to safe, diverse and nutritious foods, especially in areas where hunger, food insecurity and micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent. Likewise, simple preserving techniques, such as drying or fermentations, can help to maintain product quality and safety. Thus, innovations in environmentally friendly and low-cost, energy-efficient refrigeration and conservation technologies could have benefits across the SDGs (UN-Nutrition, forthcoming).

- **Key message on SDG 9: Promote, as a matter of priority, the nutrition of mothers, children and all those contributing to a healthy and productive economy through innovation capacity and sustainable industrialization.**
  Nutrition objectives should be incorporated (at all stages) into building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. A well-nourished workforce can better foster innovation in all industrial sectors, including food supply chains, for making sustainable healthy diets available and affordable, creating a virtuous circle to help achieve the SDGs. Malnutrition underlies almost half of all child deaths globally, but it also causes lifelong health and developmental challenges for the children who survive. Poor nutrition in the first 1 000 days can lead to irreversible impairment to physical growth and cognitive development, including poor foetal growth or stunting in the first two years of life. These challenges persist over time, as children affected by malnutrition in their early years are more likely to do poorly in school and earn less than their wellnourished peers as adults. Furthermore, the nutritional status of women and girls affects their own health and life opportunities, as well as that of any children they have, perpetuating a vicious cycle of vulnerability and malnutrition. The first 1 000 days of life, from conception until two years of age, are a unique window of opportunity to change lives and transform communities by building healthy minds and bodies and giving children the best opportunity to fulfil their potential as adults. Investing in nutrition in this period can generate USD 16 in returns for the economy for every USD 1 invested (IFPRI, 2015). Investments in sustainable school meals and

schools as a system to improve nutrition are also proven and cost-effective solutions to the benefit of present and future generations (UNSCN, 2018a). These are the best possible actions for building the foundation of a healthy, well-nourished and capable workforce, able to deliver innovation, productivity and sustainability.

- **Key message on SDG11: Make cities and human settlements work for healthy diets from sustainable food systems as a means of achieving all SDGs.**
  Making cities and human settlements healthy, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable is closely connected to healthy diets from sustainable food systems and improving nutrition. Strengthening the interlinkages between nutrition and these aspects of urban life can help ensure the achievement of the SDGs. All trends described in key message 4 on clean energy are particularly prominent in urban contexts. As cities worldwide already consume up to 70 percent of the world's food supply and nearly 80 percent of global energy (FAO, 2020), they must play a central role in achieving sustainable food systems that can produce positive nutritional and environmental outcomes. Rapid urbanization, accompanied by a rise in supermarkets and convenience stores, is changing the dietary habits of urban consumers, resulting in an increase in unhealthy fat consumption, associated with non-communicable diseases. The planning and implementation of efficient, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban and peri-urban food systems can improve access to nutritious foods for people who live in and near cities. These systems can also alleviate environmental degradation by reducing energy use for food distribution, limiting urban sprawl (which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss) and cutting food waste by creating circular systems in which waste is recycled into food production systems. The characteristics of cities and peri-urban areas are highly variable, so subnational and local governments should engage in the planning of context-specific urban food systems (UNSCN, 2020a; UN-Nutrition, forthcoming).

- **Key message on SDG17: Increase multistakeholder collaboration and multisector policymaking and implementation at all levels for indivisible food security, nutrition, socioeconomic and environmental outcomes.**
  Combining the efforts of multiple sectors and actors is the only way to fully implement the SDG agenda. At a global level, myriad United Nations initiatives, summits and conventions have been and will continue to be held, focusing on protecting biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and transforming food systems with a view to increased resilience and sustainability, among other development challenges. The interlinkages between these efforts should be strengthened as a matter of urgency. The humanitarian–development nexus should be bolstered in all dialogue and operations for efficiency gains to support the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind. Multisectoral policymaking at the national and subnational level must be encouraged and supported, including for sectors focused on health, agriculture, water, energy, labour, education, and women, youth and children – and in collaboration with non-governmental partners. Such multisectoral initiatives should employ an equity lens, empower women and focus on vulnerable populations with the aim of achieving indivisible food security, nutrition, socioeconomic and environmental outcomes. Multisectoral collaboration and policymaking often face many challenges, from inadequate funding to a lack of political support and expert guidance. Coordination platforms such as UN-

Nutrition and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, play a crucial role in ensuring that the United Nations acts as one to underpin effective national and subnational leadership capable of managing power imbalances and building consensus. To get back on track, collective and accelerated action to improve nutrition is required now if the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is to be achieved.

2. Regional Commissions and Bodies

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

- The international community has a duty to support developing countries in managing debt in a sustainable manner, increase access to affordable long-term financing, and align financing flows to the SDGs. The global financial system must ensure that LDCs, countries in conflict and highly indebted countries are not left behind.

- Climate finance for adaptation must be increased especially for regions that suffer water scarcity and the disproportionate impact of climate change. Energy transitions across countries must be just and inclusive.

- Policies and initiatives to leave no one behind are necessary to stem the tide of rising inequality and ensure that SDG actions and investment lead to more inclusive and just societies. In the Arab region, groups including refugees and the displaced, informal workers, persons with disabilities, women, youth, older persons and others face varying degrees of marginalization and increasing vulnerability especially, in the face of crises.

- The multilateral trade system needs urgent reform. Protectionist measures need to be revoked and recourse over the use of prohibited subsidies should be warranted. Export restrictions on the supply of food -for non-humanitarian purposes- need to be rolled-out to safeguard food security interests of net food importing developing countries.

- Tariff and non-tariff measures affecting the supply of environmental products need to be revisited and local content requirements for strategic industries and decarbonization technologies should not be maintained in a manner that impairs the trade and industrial interests of developing countries.

- The international community must exert all efforts to stop violations of international law, including occupation.

- Donor countries must operationalize the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, with a focus on long-term institution building.

- Scaling up digitization efforts and technology transfer are critical to accelerate achievement of the SDGs, support economies and job creation in developing countries.

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

- In the context of rising asymmetries between developed and developing countries regarding the capacity to mobilize resources and to open policy space for inclusive and sustainable recovery policies, the implementation of the SDGs requires enhanced international cooperation.

- The 2030 Agenda requires the consolidation of a network of alliances that include governments, the private sector, civil society and international institutions so that they collaborate and work together because it is understood that the SDGs will only be satisfactorily achieved if partnerships are established inclusive on a shared vision, principles and values, which focus on ending poverty, protecting the planet and improving people's lives and prospects.

- It must be recognized that the countries have made progress in building such alliances, and have made efforts to align their institutions and budgets to achieve the objectives of the Agenda. At the regional level, the Community of Practice on the voluntary national reports of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean has been highlighted, an informal space for the exchange of good practices and lessons learned that includes government officials, professionals, researchers and technical experts, as well as as representatives of the UN system and which sometimes invites representatives of youth, civil society, the private sector, academia, local authorities and other counterparts.

- Governments are under tremendous pressure for recent crisis cascade and many of them are undergoing relevant institutional adjustments to accomplish the 2030 Agenda. Governance styles and procedures matter: political spaces for social dialogue and for listening to and engaging with different groups will be an essential part of democratic governance under these hard crisis conditions. Institutional quality and effectiveness also matter since it is impossible to deliver results unless the relevant institutions have a minimum threshold of technical, operational and political capacities, and are transparent and accountable.

- The progress undergone by all countries in terms of capacity development in public affairs for the advancement of the SDGs has reached an institutional maturity that must be valued and serve as a basis for strengthening new capacities for the design of public policies that permeates the private sector and in society as a whole. The institutional learning and the strengthening of capacities in the framework of the path towards 2030 are valuable precedents that can lead public affairs towards long and ambitious, but realistic horizons, including the achievement of goals of sustainable development. The future must be imagined and put in the sights of politics to anticipate global megatrends that may affect the countries. The construction of possible, probable, and desirable scenarios must clarify decisions and policy actions in the present, with long-term thinking and perspective. Future starts now.

- Effective international cooperation includes innovative solutions for financing for development and rethinking development cooperation in MIC and SIDS based on multidimensional vulnerability criteria. Efforts to measure prosperity "Beyond GDP", as outlined in the United Nations Secretary- General's "Our Common Agenda", gain special relevance in this area.

3. United Nations Intergovernmental and Related Bodies

Human Rights Council

- Partnerships and means of implementation are critical to fast-tracking the SDGs and ensuring achievement of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, the SDG Summit could draw attention to the following transformative actions: developing a human rights-enhancing economy, ensuring the use of maximum available resources, such as taxes, Official Development Assistance and debt relief, for the fulfilment of human rights obligations, such as social protection, critical in addressing the socio-economic effects of COVID19 and ongoing financial, food and fuel crises. The UPR secretariat is partnering with Member States and NGOs through seminars to emphasise this nexus between human rights and the economy in its recommendations and follow-up;

- As the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) embarked on its 4th cycle from November 2022, it highlights among its successes 100% Member State participation since 2008. The HLPF and notably the SDG Summit could reinforce their own considerable political legitimacy and reach by aligning their work with UPR outcomes, notably given that 76% of supported recommendations are linked to the SDGs and can thus accelerate SDG implementation;

- Such alignment could take the form of the Political Declaration calling for, and subsequent HLPF processes delivering on, strengthening linkages between the Voluntary National Reviews and UPR outcomes. This can manifest both institutionally, on cooperation between human rights and development actors in country, as well as substantively, connecting development policy to international human rights norms referenced in the UPR process. The Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews: Operational Common Approach Guidance Note, developed by the UN System under the Call to Action for Human Rights, shares concrete practices and assistance regarding the latter. This linkage could be further reinforced through synchronising the cycles of UPR and VNR reporting and follow-up;

- Concrete connections to UPR recommendations would support and guide national efforts to achieve sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda while assuring the fulfilment of human rights obligations and leaving no one behind, including through contributing to reversing development losses from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

- To recognize the importance of multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous chemicals and wastes, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in their contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, the three planetary crises, in particular the one on pollution, and their critical role in the overarching architecture of environmental governance in building post-COVID-19 a resilient path to achieve the Agenda 2030.

- To recognize the role of the Basel Convention as the only global legally binding instrument that currently and specifically addresses plastic waste and its important contributions towards the future legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

- To accelerate efforts of Parties to implement and comply with their obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to protect human health and the environment from adverse impacts of chemicals and hazardous and other wastes.

- To mainstream the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions into plans and strategies on sustainable development, health, agriculture and other sectors and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in light of raising profile and visibility of chemicals and waste on the national level, thereby facilitating the integration of information and national reporting needs into such Frameworks and supporting implementation of the Conventions.

- To mainstream gender considerations in policies and strategies that promote the sound management of chemicals and waste.

- To emphasize the importance of data transmission in accordance with the obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to avoid non-reporting, incomplete reporting or late reporting and add value to the global indicator framework for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- To promote knowledge building and information sharing on hazardous chemicals and wastes for better management and risk reduction throughout their lifecycle.

Conference of the Parties of the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

- Last year was the 35th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol. The ozone community celebrated the global cooperation to protect life on earth, delivering concrete and tangible outcomes, which are described in this report and previous submissions to this process. In recognition of the achievements by Paul Josef Crutzen, Mario José Molina, and Frank Sherwood Rowland, winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 for their work concerning the formation and decomposition of stratospheric ozone, in 2022 the parties adopted a decision to uphold their legacy by maintaining trust in and commitment to the work of the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol and to sustainable development.

- The world is at a time of heightened concern about climate change that has already reached around 1.2°C above the pre-industrial levels. If we are to avoid potential irreversible environmental damage, we need to curb carbon emissions rates with immediate effect. The Montreal Protocol's contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation presents an important opportunity in this respect.

- Recognizing this dual positive effect of the Montreal Protocol on climate, we at all levels need to encourage countries, which have not yet ratified the Kigali Amendment, to do so. Building on the legacy of the global ozone layer protection regime, we may seek a stronger political resolve, broadened public-private partnership and coordinated efforts to implement the Kigali Amendment within a suite of other measures to address the climate crisis.

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Considering the above, the HLPF may wish to consider, as appropriate, providing further guidance on the role of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework, in presenting biodiversity-related targets as a successor to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which are reflected in the SDGs targets with endpoints of 2020. It may also wish to:

- re-emphasize the essential role of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- express its support for the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as an essential contribution to the UN Decade of Action on the SDGs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of the relationship between people and nature, and it reminds us of all the profound consequences to our own well-being and survival that can result from continued biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems.

Biodiversity continues to decline at an unprecedented rate, and the pressures driving this decline are intensifying. None of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was fully met, in turn threatening the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and undermining efforts to address climate change.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provides a pathway to a sustainable future by mapping out 2050 goals and 2030 targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, improve resilience and contribute to limiting climate change while meeting other essential goals such as improved food security. Implementing the framework requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Bold actions at all levels and by all relevant actors will be needed to implement the Framework and put biodiversity on a path to recovery in the remainder of this decade. In particular:

- Efforts to conserve and restore biodiversity need to be scaled at all levels using approaches that will depend on local contexts and the effective engagement of diverse stakeholders. These efforts need to involve major increases in the extent and effectiveness of well-connected protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, large-scale restoration of degraded habitats, and improvements in the condition of nature across farmed and urban landscapes as well as inland water bodies, coasts, and oceans.

- Effective steps need to be taken to address all direct and indirect pressures driving biodiversity loss, including land and sea use change, overexploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species.

- Transformations need to be achieved in the production of goods and services, especially food. This will include adopting agricultural methods that can meet growing global demand while imposing fewer negative impacts on the environment and reducing the pressure to convert more land to production. Transformations are similarly needed to limit the demand for increased production by adopting sustainable consumption and reducing waste.

- All relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows need to be progressively aligned with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

- Confirm the importance of partnerships to implement all sustainable development goals, including in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, recovering from the effects and in mitigating the future risks;

- Promote scientific and technological innovation as well as the mobilization of financial resources to bridge the digital divide, particularly in situations when minimizing interpersonal interactions would be beneficial to mitigate risks to human health; and

- Continue to seek new partnerships for sustainable financing for conservation and sustainable development.

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- Ensure that all actions undertaken for the SDGs are inclusive of persons with disabilities and guided by the CRPD, including through recourse to the SDG-CRPD Resource Package and the Secretary-General's Policy Brief by States Parties.

- Encourage effective international cooperation in support of national efforts to advance the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the purposes and objectives of the CRPD, including by strengthening partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations, the private sector, private philanthropy, and others to co-design inclusive, flexible, cost-effective and innovative solutions for realizing the SDGs for persons with disabilities.

- Encourage national efforts to collect high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by disability, and other relevant characteristics to mitigate the disproportionate impact that persons with disabilities have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure disability inclusive recovery programs, and to achieve 2030 Agenda.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

- When accelerating the economic recovery from COVID-19, the resilience of industry should be strengthened to prepare for economic shocks from future pandemics, natural disasters and other crises. Sustainable industrialization must be ensured and the best interests of the child must be given primary consideration when States are engaged in weighing competing priorities, such as short-term economic considerations and longer-term development decisions.

  Innovation and technological advancement should contribute to the realization of children's rights, including by increasing their access to online services and information. The expansion of the online space and use of technology should not affect the existing inequality among children. Necessary measures should be put in place to ensure protection of children from possible negative impacts of new and rapid technological development related to the digital environment.

Committee on World Food Security

At its 50th Session in 2022, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) expressed deep concern over the current global food security crisis:

- The current state of global food insecurity, with estimated 702 to 828 million people globally affected by hunger in 2021, about 150 million more since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic; the projected nearly 670 million people who will still be facing hunger in 2030 – 8 percent of the world population -which is the same as in 2015 when the 2030 Agenda was launched; the almost 3.1 billion people who could not afford a healthy diet in 2020, 112 million more people than in 2019 (Source: CFS 50/Report, para 10 c, i, ii, iii);

- The disproportionate impact of the crisis on the poor, persons with disabilities, small scale food producers and family farmers, women, youth, older persons and children, as well as those living in vulnerable situations, exacerbating humanitarian needs and increasing the risk of famine around the world; the surge and extreme volatility in international food commodity prices; the rise in fertilizer prices and the shortages caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening agricultural productivity and production; the rise in energy and fuel prices, which is further increasing food prices, narrowing fiscal space, resulting in, or exacerbating debt distress and economic downturns (Source: CFS 50/Report, para 10 c, vi); Members reaffirmed their commitment to strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines for the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (Source: CFS 50/Report, para 10 e);

- Combining short and medium-term with long-term solutions to the crisis, leading towards agriculture and food systems that are more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive, in line with the 2030 Agenda (Source: CFS 50/Report, para 10 j,ii).

The Committee welcomed:

- The determination of the international community to address the global food security crisis on the basis of unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation, recognizing the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalyzing and coordinating a comprehensive global response, under the leadership of the Secretary General (Source: CFS 50/Report, para 10 g,i);

- The progress achieved under the UN Secretary General's GCRG and encourages the Committee to continue to engage in the discussion, including by disseminating GCRG Briefs (Source: CFS 50/Report, para 10 g,iii).

Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development.

The Broadband Commission in its Manifesto 2020 (Global Goal of Universal Connectivity Manifesto) calls on the global community to recognize digital connectivity as the foundational element of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Manifesto affirms the commitment of the Broadband Commission to mobilize efforts to achieve the 'Global Goal of

Universal Connectivity' in support of the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and other connectivity initiatives. 'Building Back Better with Broadband' will help us accelerate progress towards the SDGs and re-energize the commitment of world leaders in this crucial Decade of Action. The time is now. This Broadband Commission's Manifesto is a rallying cry, calling for collaboration in:

- Establishing a baseline for universal digital connectivity

- Identifying and supporting public-private financing of universal broadband, pioneering innovative hybrid and/or complementary, replicable and sustainable financing and investment models for all types of networks, and catalyzing impactful partnerships

- Advocating for enabling ICT regulatory environments, ICT capacity building and online safety and security, especially for children, as integral to efforts to achieve the Global Broadband Targets 2025 and the SDGs.

4. United Nations System

UN Habitat

- The quality of urbanization is central to determining people's quality of life in today's urban world. Attaining truly environmentally sustainable, economically prosperous, and socially equitable and just cities is of paramount importance for present and future generations.

- People's ability to pursue healthy, productive and peaceful lives is directly tied to where they live and what those spaces have to offer, with a global majority now in urban areas.

- The risk of not achieving SDG 11 by 2030 is high without urgent scaled up policy interventions and investments. Major policy interventions are needed to enhance provision of affordable and adequate housing globally, enhance the effectiveness of urban climate adaptation and mitigation and strengthen the resilience of cities amidst global crise.

- Cities may increasingly become the grounds for global divergence, an ever more prominent feature of today's world with the gap between and within countries widening and deepening on several fronts.

- Global resilience is not possible without urban resilience. In the wake of COVID-19 and concurrent and subsequent global crises, renewed focus is on the urgent need to strengthen resilience to future shocks at all levels. In an urban world, and as shown clearly by the pandemic, impacts to shocks and crises will manifest in urban areas

- Achieving sustainable development requires addressing, through SDG11, several development challenges in cities, including poverty, inadequate infrastructure, poor health institutions, increased slum dwellings, governance, economic, political, climate change and other negative environmental impacts, as well as inadequate access to safe water and sanitation.

- The attainment of the SDGs and other global agendas is rooted firmly in the ability of countries and cities to localize them and put in place programs and mechanisms to advance towards the desired common goals.

- Multi-level governance ensuring coherence in SDG implementation at all levels is an essential foundation to not only accelerate progress, but scale impact leveraging complementary capacities and responsibilities.

United Nations Children's Fund

The systemic problems:

- At country level, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector can be fragmented, disorganized, spread across multiple ministries and levels of government, with unclear and overlapping mandates and gaps in responsibilities, and key disconnects between water management for agriculture, industry and drinking water supply purposes

- Sector assistance is fragmented, with many types of development partners involved, often driven by the imperative to increase coverage in the short term, rather than build long-term capacity, institutions and systems. A "charity" mindset predominates.

- Governments may not see the WASH sector as a "good bet" due to its poor record of sustainability and poorly understood or articulated benefits (not helped by confusing health evidence) and so is reluctant to invest to build, or even maintain, happy to leave this sector to donors and NGOs to support, with the resulting multitude of approaches and major funding gaps.

- It is politically difficult to increase tariffs, compromising sustainability, contributing to a downward spiral of under-investment, and making the sector a drain on the public purse. However, publicly funded subsidies are poorly targeted, and the poor often pay more (in both time and money) than the rich to access services. Gaps in service force users to invest in coping mechanisms, such as buying poor quality water from vendors.

- The charity mindset and decades of underfunding means that many water supply services are delivered using volunteers, and rely on amateur, not professional, operators and managers, with the result that performance is poor.

- A short-term focus on increasing coverage means that service levels are low, and systems are not necessarily climate resilient. Low levels of water and sanitation service means that users, particularly women and girls, suffer the burden of water carriage and also lack the privacy, convenience and dignity they need from sanitation facilities.

- Hygiene is often neglected and is not included as a government policy issue.

The solutions:

Governments with a track record of success in WASH (e.g., India, Thailand, Ethiopia) have strong policies, develop well-articulated plans and strategies, set the "rules of the game", and show political leadership and commitment. They are not afraid to say no to development assistance not in line with policies and plans. They invest in strengthening their institutions and systems, optimise public investment, leverage other investment, and translate political will into results.

Ten steps for governments to accelerate WASH progress and ensure sustainability could be:

1. **Have a clear policy framework.** This may not be a central policy for the entire WASH sector, but interlinked policies across the relevant ministries (water, health, rural development, housing etc.). Policies should define who does what, what levels of service and management

options are to be used, and who is accountable. Policies should cover water supply, sanitation and hygiene, and encompass both rural and urban areas. These policies should be designed to achieve high quality, sustainable, professionalized service delivery, consistent with the definition of "safely managed". Policies should reflect the government's role, as duty bearer, in meeting the human rights to water and sanitation.

2. **Be clear about financing and funding approaches**. Specify where investment will come from, including government budgetary allocations, donor support, and domestic resource mobilization through tariffs and user charges. Design efficient, well-targeted subsidies to support the most vulnerable. Allow repayable finance to play a role, both at household level (microfinance), and through borrowing by service providers.

3. **Establish mechanisms to ensure affordability for the poorest households,** but make clear that water, sanitation and hygiene are not free services, and that cost recovery is key to sustainability.

4. **Establish strong and transparent government oversight and regulation,** in line with the government's role as duty bearer. Identify leaders and mandate holders at all levels of government and make their accountability clear.

5. **Set feasible, achievable targets**. SDG targets can be inspirational but for many countries universal access by 2030 may not be attainable, and it is important to set targets on which achievable medium-term plans can be based.

6. **Use policy as a basis for a set of interlinked plans and strategies**, for instance a human resource development strategy, a sector funding and financing strategy, implementation plans for each subsector and for both rural and rural areas, and costed investment plans for each subsector

7. **Harness the private sector** as both a source of finance and expertise, but within the context of government oversight and regulation.

8. **Place a strong emphasis on building both institutional and human resource capacity**, including technical staff and skills, plus skills in administration, management and regulation etc. Strive for gender balance, bringing women into the operation and management of service provision.

9. **Seek assistance from external support agencies for well-defined parts of each plan.** Approach donors, UN agencies, development banks, NGOs to assist with the development of human resource and funding strategies, build human resource capacity, support implementation where there are gaps or in hard-to-reach areas, and fund or finance certain investments.

10. **Oversee progress, course correct and publicize results**. Establish a national monitoring system that provides transparency through publicly available information on progress against targets. Make regulators' reports publicly available. Use monitoring information to determine the success of strategies, realign investments, and identify areas for special attention.

Overall pitch to the Head of State

- **Put in place policy –** ensure transparent policy for all parts of the sector, identify who does what and who is accountable for maintaining progress.

- **Set targets** – for instance, make your country ODF by 2028, increase the number of people with at least basic services, increase the number of skilled workers, achieve gender balance in the workforce.

- **Make a clear implementation plan** – identify the priorities, plan against targets, identify funding and capacity required.

- **Invest strategically** – increase government budget allocations and leverage other investments in line with the plan.

United Nations Capital Development Fund

- Following on the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs and the Doha Programme of Action, there needs to be a **continued momentum and focus on mobilizing support for the LDCs**. The SDGs will not be achieved if the LDCs are not able to significantly accelerate progress on the Goals.

- Achieving **structural economic transformation** towards more productive, diversified, green and inclusive economies, is central to SDG achievement in LDCs. **Financing for structural economic transformation needs to be scaled up**. Strengthened domestic capital markets and financial sectors, along with reforms to the development finance architecture will be needed to enable more concessional and private finance to be channeled in support of private sector development and structural economic transformation in LDCs (including especially for infrastructure development, SME financing and development and digital transformation).

- In the current high inflation, high interest environment, the **exorbitant cost of capital** in developing countries and LDCs is prohibiting much needed private finance to flow into SDG and climate investments, including structural green economic transformation.

  - For example, investments in green technologies such as renewable energy, often require high upfront investments and are perceived as risky. Compounded with sovereign risk premiums, the resulting high cost of capital makes it extremely difficult to mobilize private SDG finance for LDCs. The Climate Policy Initiative[1] estimates that for a solar project to be financially viable in a developed country (AAA or AA rating) requires a return between 7-9%, while the return required in an LDC like Tanzania (B rating) or Zambia (CCC- rating) requires a return of 24% and 38% respectively.

- One way to reduce cost of capital, complementing other approaches to improve the investment climate, is a greater focus on expanding and **making blended finance work better for LDCs**. This would include expanding allocations of ODA and other international public finance to be used as first loss (including guarantees), concessional, and other de-risking capital that can help lower cost of capital while attracting additional resources from the private sector to SDG-aligned investments. Support could also be scaled up for existing financing mechanisms that deliver catalytic investment capital for "missing middle" SMEs and small investment projects (prevalent in LDCs) that are considered too small and risky by development finance institutions, local banks and other providers of commercial and semi-commercial finance.

- **Support for local climate adaptation and climate resilient infrastructure in LDCs and SIDS** must be scaled up. These countries have contributed the least to climate change but are suffering the worst consequences. People in LDCs are 15 times more likely to die from climate

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[1] Climate Policy Initiative, forthcoming publication.

related disasters[2] than people in developed countries. More support is needed for the full formulation, financing and implementation of national adaptation plans, including integrated and strategic adaptation action at the national and local levels, making use of existing initiatives such as the UNCDF Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility.

Food and Agriculture Organization

- In our journey to eradicate poverty, end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, and reduce inequality within and between countries through agrifood systems transformation, we have faced enormous, unprecedent challenges during the last five years and have learned hard lessons about the immensity of the task we have chosen.

- The context has been one of interconnected crises – of recurring economic upheavals, biodiversity loss, ecosystem destruction, natural resources degradation and depletion, climate change and extreme weather impacts, sharpening conflict and protracted crisis, a global pandemic with massive socioeconomic shocks, and now the war in Ukraine and a return to global economic inflation, deceleration and turbulence.

- Agrifood systems have been emmeshed as either cause or effect and often both, in each of these crises. We now recognize that transforming agrifood systems can do much more than fix these systems – it can also repair our health and our relations with each other and with our troubled planet. Transforming agrifood systems could positively influence the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

- National ownership and leadership are vital and must be fortified with data and policy discretion, with partnerships that bring science, technology, innovation, know-how and, above all, with investment. To make it viable, we need a robust Food Finance Architecture to socialize risk for a world at risk.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

- Even though there are clear improvements, we still don't have a comprehensive (?) programmatic approach, particularly in food system transformation and an approach to agriculture. Ad hoc solutions risk failure at generating larger systemic impacts. The transition requires a coordinated programmatic effort on a global scale. The Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) that have recently been undertaken with South Africa, Indonesia, and Vietnam, and funding commitments from G7 and other countries may represent a model for financing similar just transition initiatives in agriculture. There is a great need for a strong convening power that outlines coordinated actions to unite forces at local, regional and national levels specifically around a National Food Systems Agenda.

- Not forming partnerships is no longer a choice – we must form partnerships to effect change on the scale required. Free-standing development projects won't, by themselves, eradicate poverty or secure the future of food security across the world. This realization is very relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that aims for the eradication of poverty – including

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[2] https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130277

rural poverty. To achieve the SDGs, it is key to put in place the enablers of change in terms of policies, programmes and resource mobilization.

International Labour Organization

The [ILO Monitor on the World of Work](#) offers the following policy messages for coping with multiple crises in the wake of COVID 19:

- **Comprehensive, integrated and balanced policies are needed to face multiple crises:** The multiplication of crises raises the risk of another significant global labour market downturn, requiring comprehensive, integrated and balanced policies which address not only inflation in isolation but also its broader implications for employment, enterprises and poverty. Excessive policy tightening is causing undue damage to jobs and income in both advanced and developing countries.

- **The set of policy tools to combat multiple crises needs to be widened through social dialogue**, which would include: (a) interventions in setting prices for public goods; (b) rechannelling windfall profits; (c) strengthening income security through social protection; (d) increasing income support to maintain the purchasing power of labour income; and (e) targeting support to the most vulnerable people and enterprises. To support the labour markets in Ukraine and those affected by the ongoing conflict, a continued focus on decent jobs and social protection is needed, including in the ongoing discussion on reconstruction in Ukraine. Labour market integration measures for Ukrainian refugees also need to be strengthened. In order to respond at a global level to multiple economic and geographical crises, internal solidarity and coordination is even more critical, and policy coherence is key, which are also principal aims of the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.

- **Social Justice deficits must be addressed in a rebalanced and crisis-resilient 2030 Agenda:** We owe it to our future generations to coordinate efforts in realizing a fair and safe working environment without leaving anyone behind. If we want to achieve shared prosperity, inclusive growth and universal and lasting peace, we first have to achieve social justice. Social justice helps societies, economies and households become more resilient to socio-economic and environmental shocks, geopolitical instability and global health crises.

International Telecommunication Union

- The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that connectivity for all is essential for economic activity and citizen welfare, and key digital challenges cannot be overcome by one stakeholder group alone. As highlighted by the UN Secretary General António Guterres, in his launch of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, "Effective digital cooperation is instrumental in achieving the future we want and the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The increasing reliance on digital infrastructure by national economies and citizens combined with the probability of new global emergencies means regulators will need to switch focus beyond regulating within traditional sectoral frameworks to regulatory frameworks which are adaptive, collaborative, outcomes-based and technology neutral.

- In the aftermath of the COVID-19 global crisis, public and social policy realignment and regulatory repatterning may need to take place. It is important that digital regulation can boost the readiness of digital markets to face unexpected events and emergencies and deliver up to the expectations despite the odds, notably through targeted reforms. Increasing globalization of markets and blurring of traditional sectoral boundaries will mean that international and inter-governmental cooperation and collaboration are integral in ensuring ICT regulatory frameworks can adapt and respond to new and emerging regulatory challenges.

- The post-COVID digital world needs a new take on digital policy and regulation. New approaches may be needed to enhance regulatory foresight, collaboration and cooperation with other sectors, harness data to target interventions and create space for regulators and industry to experiment together. This is key in finding market solutions to new challenges as new technologies, business models and players continue to test existing regulatory paradigms. Such new approaches will build sound solutions that protects consumers while encouraging market growth and innovation.

- Access to the Internet is increasing, but not as quickly and evenly across the world as it needs to. Too many people still live in digital darkness. The global challenge is to commit the resources that would allow everyone to benefit in a meaningful way from being connected.

- With the 2030 deadline of delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals fast approaching, identifying new strategies to achieve full digital inclusion has become a matter of utmost urgency if we are to have any hope of meeting our Global Goals.

- That means working more collaboratively to solve chronic gaps in rural access, access at home and at school, digital skills training, quality and speed of connection, and equal digital opportunities for marginalized groups including women and girls, as well as striving to ensure that every country meets the affordability target set by the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development of less than 2 per cent of monthly gross national income per capita.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- Support the development and dissemination of training material on best practices through citizen science with emphasis on e-learning and open science.

- Support the development and uptake of tools for e-learning and open science and support initiatives to create open e-learning platforms.

- Raise the profile of science through establishment of Intergovernmental Science BasedPolicy Platform for Water Sustainability (ISPWAS).

- Fill the gap in capacity development for water related SDG implementation through the UN Capacity Development Initiative (CDI).

- Implementation of integrated water resources management (integrating both surface and groundwater) at all levels, including transboundary cooperation, by 2030.

- In the post-COVID world, the rapid pace of the intertwined biodiversity and climate and an increasingly complex social, economic and ecological landscape ensure that the need for user-driven knowledge and science to underpin policy and management is greater than ever.

- Relevant, timely and transformative ocean science is a prerequisite for sustainable management of the ocean, which itself is central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to the fulfilment of numerous goals including not only Goal 14, Life under water, but also Goals 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

- The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, coordinated by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, provides a global framework for diverse actors to collectively gene rate ocean science and knowledge to meet national, regional and international policy and management needs, including numerous targets of SDGs 6, 7, 9 , 11 ,
- 14 and others.

United Nations World Tourism Organization

- Prioritize innovation and data-driven decision making in Member States to find ready-to implement solutions to the most compelling challenges by including startups and innovators as part of transformation processes.

- Support and strengthen the overall innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem by creating specific programmes aimed at accelerating the flow of knowledge and funding towards new solutions.

- Promote innovative investment mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of technology and social impact solutions (startups, projects, business models) for the achievement of the SDGs.

- Prioritize rural development as a means to ensure territorial cohesion, preservation of natural and cultural resources and communities' inclusion and wellbeing. This should be done through supporting infrastructure, including digital infrastructure, skills and capacity building, entrepreneurship, access to services and financing.

- Strengthen the use of data and intelligence tools by Member States to create monitoring system for the implementation of SDGs, grow preparedness and resilience to crises and the competitiveness of Member States, businesses and communities.

International Trade Center

- Member States make a major commitment to building capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy. The goal is that individuals everywhere have the skills, access and supporting services necessary to pursue economic activities online – whether that be in the form of working online or trading – with a particular priority given to Least Developed

Countries and communities that are underserved or lagging in their adoption of digital connectivity.

- o Connectivity: extending network coverage to all populations, increasing competition and subsidies to ensure affordable access
- o Skills: This will require investments in digital skills – in some cases and in particular in Least Developed Countries from basic digital literacy to advanced skills taught in TVET and Tertiary institutions
- o Devices: affordability of smart devices and other appropriate tools
- o Supporting ecosystem of service providers
- o Policy and legislation designed to support inclusive access and the development of good jobs and opportunities
- o Innovative tax and financing mechanisms: to recoup investments made in networks, devices and the supporting ecosystem

- Member States improve connected services for SME competitiveness (from 2022 SMECO):

- o Promote fair and inclusive networks: Regulate platforms to safeguard fair competition and promote equitable treatment of SMEs. Ensure data regulations are not too cumbersome for small businesses.
- o Create an environment for ideas to flourish: Align technical regulations and standards with those used by trading partners to support the free flow of technologies, ideas and innovations.
- o Increase access to technical skills: Provide financial support to domestic connected services companies to build capacity, fund scholarships in these sectors and facilitate the short-term movement of connected services providers across borders.

- Facilitate investment and online finance: Create regulatory frameworks for electronic transactions, data protection and privacy, taxation of digital services, competition and digital intellectual property protection.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- Socioeconomic inclusion of refugees, and their inclusion in national systems (such as health or education) and social safety nets (such as health insurance), improves refugee lives, and accelerates the achievements of the SDGs for all.

- When meaningfully included, refugees contribute to solving sustainable development challenges in their host communities, as educators, entrepreneurs, climate activists and health care workers, among others.

- While refugee-hosting countries often benefit economically from the contributions of refugees in the long term, they continue to need international solidarity and support, both to respond to immediate needs, and with adaptation of their national systems to make refugee inclusion possible.

United Nations System Staff College

- Learning and **capacity building** are essential to accelerating SDG progress and achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

- The United Nations entities are expected to foster **multistakeholder dialogue** and action across sectors, levels of government and time scales. With support from the UN system and Member States, the United Nations System Staff College, as an inter-agency learning and training organization, can play a key role as a knowledge broker, learning designer, and change catalyst.

- In order to accelerate SDG implementation, **UN entities** must engage in a fundamental transformation, shifting their approaches to **leadership and programming**, in order to better connect, communicate, collaborate and co-create with other relevant societal actors. UNSSC stands ready to support this transformation.

United Nations University

- Inclusive and Goal-Driven Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that rising inequality and marginalization are serious concerns, especially in relation to climate change. The world is not on track to attain the goals of the Paris Agreement and SDG 7. Further, CO_2 emissions from fossil fuels reached an all time high in 2022. As technological innovations, such as the transition to electric mobility, proliferate in the Global North, there is an urgent need to address the growing technical and human resource demand for recycling existing energy sources, such as end-of-life batteries, which could otherwise render a "green" technology unsustainable. To accelerate the phaseout of fossil fuels in a just, sustainable, and proactive manner, significant efforts are required.

- Interdisciplinary Partnerships

An inclusive recovery can only be achieved if all stakeholders agree on measures and policies and, at best, co-create them. To do so, trust must be built as a long-term foundation for strong coalitions. Coalition building through public-private actors as well as civil society groups is critical in strategic planning for SDG achievement. To harmonise sustainable policies in heterogeneous spaces, conducive policies and governance mechanisms must be developed. Strong partnerships can also assist in connecting technological innovations to communities and facilitating implementation. There is growing recognition of the importance of involving local communities, given their unique knowledge and capacities to develop specifically tailored solutions to sustainable development challenges. Sub-national governments can also adopt SDG related approaches that support local strategies. As well as improvements in North-South and South-South collaborations, these are positive trends.

- Equity in Digitalization

Digitalization and technology are powerful tools for accelerating SDG achievement. Priority should be given to making adequate frameworks and resources available in a timely and sustainable manner in order to maximize such benefits. Additional attention should be paid to the abatement

of existing inequalities. The aftereffects of digitalization must also be addressed adequately and proactively. Given the proximity of sub-national and local governments to their communities, significant efforts should be expended to accelerate digitalization of services, in particular, in the Global South.

- Early planning and preparedness

COVID-19 highlighted how systems and risks are interconnected and how these risks can cascade and impact across multiple sectors (water, energy, infrastructure, food) and on multiple levels. This requires a comprehensive and multi-dimensional understanding of how all related factors interact and how early preparation to respond to existing and potential risks is vital. Such planning should consider not only existing risks and vulnerability drivers, but also emerging factors, and prepare for both short term and long term impacts based on rigorous scientific evidence and research.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

- The success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development rests on the ability of countries to reduce disaster risk, and that sustainable development cannot be attained while disasters continue to undermine development progress. It is critical to acknowledge that risk-informed development policies and investments in all sectors and at all levels is imperative to recover from COVID-19 and attain the 2030 Agenda, and commit to an all of-government comprehensive approach to risk management and governance informed by multi-hazard disaster risk assessments to address the complex and systemic nature of disaster risk in all sectors;

- It is also critical to acknowledge that disaster risk is created by development and investment decisions that are not risk-informed, and that there has been an increase in risk and associated social and economic losses since 2019. There is a need to recommit to reducing disaster risk and building resilience; accelerating the pursuit of policy, investment and innovation to reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals to economic, social and environmental hazards; guided by the Sendai Framework and in line with the outcomes of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework.

- It is important to emphasize the need for increased means of implementation; particularly capacity building, technology transfer and de-risked investment, to reduce disaster risk and build resilience. This includes the importance of investing in prevention and risk reduction, including applying a risk-lens across sectoral budgeting in addition to dedicated financing for disaster risk reduction. The declaration can benefit from a strong call for increased investment in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and disaster risk data and capacity, and the development of innovative approaches to financing for disaster risk reduction in accordance with national circumstances, such as risk and resilience bonds, tracking financing for risk reduction in all sectors, and incorporating disaster risk within taxonomies for sustainable and green investments.

- It is important to recognize the higher impact of disasters in countries in special situations and call upon Member States to support efforts to address the unique challenges faced by these countries to accelerate progress on disaster risk reduction;

- Disasters exacerbate gender inequalities and undermine progress towards SDG 5. We recognize the need for inclusive gender-responsive disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, informed by the collection and analysis of disaggregated data and supported by appropriate financing.

United Nations Group on Information Society – UNGIS

UNGIS members agree that harnessing the power of digital will be vital to rescuing the SDGs, and to continue to leverage on the WSIS Framework.

The WSIS Forum and the UNGIS are excellent examples of existing interagency mechanisms for digital collaboration to achieve the SDGs.

UNGIS offers a valuable knowledge and resource base that has been developed in the past decade on a multi-stakeholder basis focusing on innovative tools and approaches to tackle multiple development challenges. UNGIS can assist through:

- Consultative engagement across bodies tasked to shepherd and support SDG implementation and processes, including by providing substantive and thematic expertise in support of the Open Working Group as it starts to frame proposals to the General Assembly.

- Making experts available to Member States through their Permanent Representatives to the UN, specifically as they reflect on lessons learned in the 20 years since WSIS and how these can help guide SDG acceleration efforts.

- Making technical advisory services available to Member States, through coordinated UNGIS engagement in development and implementation of SDG roadmaps, specifically as they relate to digital development and transformation as pathway to sustainable development.

- Consultative engagement across relevant groups within the UN system, including at the regional level and within the UN Sustainable Development Group, to support the effective integration of ICT-enabled, innovative development solutions in their own frameworks.

UNGIS can play a critical role to continue linking the WSIS process to the 2030 sustainable development framework, including through the WSIS+20 review.

These links are highlighted by the WSIS Action Lines and SDG matrix produced by the UN Action Line Facilitators. This tool is developed by a number of United Nations agencies, all members of UNGIS, based on their expertise and mandate to map how ICTs contribute to the implementation of the new SDGs. The Matrix serves as an easy reference for stakeholders engaged in shaping the future of both, the SDGs and the WSIS processes towards 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum

- It is critical to continue prioritizing ICTs as a key enabler of development. The SDG Summit should reiterate the commitment to harnessing the potential of ICTs to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed development goals. It should urge all governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic

communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate ICTs into their approaches to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.[3]

- The WSIS process provides a framework for the ICT ecosystem through the WSIS Action Lines and the WSIS-SDG Matrix to align WSIS efforts with the SDGs. The interlinkage between WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs and targets can be a reference for ongoing processes, such as the UN SG's Our Common Agenda, Global Digital Compact, etc.

- The WSIS Forum is a crucial component of the WSIS process, which provides an inclusive and equitable platform to discuss, network, and share best practices on ICTs for sustainable development.

- The value and principles of the WSIS model of multistakeholder cooperation and engagement have been fundamental to the development of the information and knowledge societies, and to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs. WSIS special initiatives such as the WSIS Stocktaking Repository of Women in Technology, the WSIS Multi-stakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons, and the WSIS Generation Connect Youth Prize, embody the spirit of the WSIS Forum.

- All stakeholders should contribute to the upcoming WSIS+20 review (and beyond 2025), that will take stock the achievements of the WSIS process and identify the opportunities and challenges in implementing the WSIS Action Lines.

Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development Steering Committee.

Countries should recognize that official statistics are key inputs to digital policies for achieving the SDGs and prioritize the improvement of such statistics so that countries are able to measure progress in leveraging ICTs for development in time for the 2030 deadline.

Sustainable Development Goal Education 2030 Steering Committee

- Prioritize the most marginalized and furthest behind, and those affected by crisis and emergencies by creating learning environments and schools free from violence and discrimination and supported with comprehensive care and health services.

- Skill, re-skill and empower young people and adults for well-being and full development, for green and digital societies and the future of work, and for ensuring sustainability of the planet.

- Increase, empower and retain well-trained, well-qualified, motivated and supported teachers and education workforce.

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[3] Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 21 July 2022: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (E/RES/2022/15); available at:
https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=E%2FRES%2F2022%2F15&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop &LangRequested=False

- Ensure inclusive and equitable access to digital learning solutions supported by open educational resources as a tool for better learning. Provide all learners with free high-quality digital learning, pedagogical capacity and innovation, and safe use and data protection.

- Mobilize investments in education through bold, whole-of-government and international action, including tax reform to raise domestic resources, innovative financing and debt relief, and promoting public-private partnership. Ensure the equitable allocation as well as effective and efficient use of all education investments.

- The urgent and effective implementation of these actions are essential for transforming education and contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. By organizing national consultations and participating in the Transforming Education Summit processes, Member States committed to take action to transform their education systems, and to increase financing of education to achieve this transformation. Going forward, continuous and collective efforts are need to spur "tangible actions where it matters most: on the ground, in the classroom, and in the experience of teachers and learners alike". xxvi Education transformation must be a key component of the 2023 SDG Summit and the 2024 Summit of the Future.

SDG 4 High-Level Steering Committee – Global Education Cooperation Mechanism

Education transforms lives and drives sustainable development

Education is a fundamental human right that enables and advances other human rights. Quality education drives and accelerates progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals: it is vital for every aspect of a country's progress, enhancing productivity and employment, driving economic prosperity and competitiveness, raising women and men out of poverty, reducing inequalities, and helping people adapt to the rapidly changing world. Education holds the key to gender equality and can empower people to become active and responsible citizens who contribute to social equity and justice, peace, climate resilience and environmental sustainability in their communities and societies.

We need stronger global cooperation and increased investment in people, linking humanitarian response, development assistance and peacebuilding efforts – and education is an indispensable ingredient.

Transforming education requires a collective commitment and action

We commend that 163 Member States convened national consultations and prepared national statements of commitment leading up to the 2022 Transforming Education Summit. Education transformation requires actions in the following areas, in which we urge you to commit tangible actions and engage youth and students for decision-making:

- Ensure inclusive, safe, healthy and stimulating learning environments that enable all learners to achieve their full potential and physical, mental and emotional well-being, prioritizing the most vulnerable, marginalized and furthest behind, including those affected by crises and emergencies.
- Ensure quality education that equips individuals, from early childhood to adulthood, with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to become active agents of change; this requires foundational learning skills, as well as continuous reskilling and upskilling of

young people and adults for rapidly changing labour markets with increased digitization and greening economies.

- Address the global teacher shortage, and support, empower and retain qualified, well-trained and motivated teachers and education workforce.
- Harness the digital revolution to provide quality education as a public good and transform teaching and learning by ensuring open, high-quality digital content; teachers' and learners' capacity to leverage digital tools; and universal educational connectivity for schools and learners of all levels.

Invest more, invest mor equitably and invest more efficiently in education

The SDG High-Level Steering Committee reiterates its conviction that transforming education is the best investment a country can make for its future and that it requires bold, whole-of-government, whole-of-society and international action. We urge all Member States to increase resources for education including via tax reforms, innovative financing, debt relief and public-private cooperation. We also urge Member States to make equitable allocation and efficient use of education investments to ensure that education transforms the future of societies, leaving no one behind.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- Land resources – soil, water, and biodiversity – provide the foundation for the wealth of our societies and economies. They meet the growing needs and desires for food, water, fuel, and other raw materials that shape our livelihoods and lifestyles. However, the way we currently manage and use these natural resources is threatening the health and continued survival of many species on Earth, including our own.

- Land is the operative link between biodiversity loss and climate change, and therefore must be the primary focus of any meaningful intervention to tackle these intertwined crises. Restoring degraded land and soil provides the most fertile ground on which to take immediate and concerted action.

- Land and ecosystem restoration will help slow global warming, reduce the risk, scale, frequency, and intensity of disasters (e.g., pandemics, drought, floods), and facilitate the recovery of critical biodiversity habitat and ecological connectivity to avoid extinctions and restore the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth.

- Restoration is needed in the right places and at the right scales to better manage interconnected global emergencies. Responsible governance and land use planning will be key to protecting healthy and productive land and recuperating biodiverse, carbon-rich ecosystems to avoid dangerous tipping points.

- The deep inequalities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other cascading crises highlight the importance of sustainable urban development. Thus, land and ecosystem restoration of urban and peri urban areas is essential and urgently needed to strengthen the resilience of cities and its surrounding spaces in responding to current and future crises.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- The increasingly complex and challenging global geopolitical situation and its impact on the energy, food and economic situations, as well as the additional challenges associated with the

socioeconomic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, should not be used as a pretext for backtracking, backsliding or de-prioritizing climate action.

- The conclusion of the first global Stocktake at COP 28 is a major opportunity for "correcting the course" and for scaling up climate action, taking onboard the outcomes of the technical part of the Stocktake, which will conclude in June. This opportunity must not be missed. The political outcome from the Stocktake needs to send political signals on enhancing action across all areas – mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, means of implementation including finance, and action by non-Party stakeholders. These political signals need to be complemented by specific milestones for going forward and recommendations on making climate action more ambitious and effective. Work on laying ground for achieving such outcomes started early this year, in close collaboration with the incoming Presidency, and it is a key piece of UNFCCC work in 2023.

- COP 27 formally decided to establish a work programme on just transition this programme but its substantive content, like scope, modalities, timelines etc., still need to be developed. The growing importance of just transition reflects the understanding that it is critical to engage whole society in climate action and that no one should be "left behind" in this process. It is time to move the deliberations on just transition to a different level in the UNFCCC process, with a view to facilitating the whole transition process to a low-emission and climate resilient world. COP 28 should deliver on this, with a clear, tangible outcome.

- The COVID-19 crisis has transformed the economic landscape, posing both threats and opportunities for the climate resilience and adaptation agenda. The imperative to invest ineconomic responses may put at risk a focus on longer-term climate resilience building. But if well targeted, the vast sums of fiscal stimulus may offer an opportunity to boost flows towards new resilient infrastructure and more sustainable cities and communities.

- New and strengthened partnerships and coalitions will be vital to translate ambition and finance into effective action on the ground. With an accelerating climate emergency, the world will continue to struggle to keep pace with worsening impacts, and every benefit from collective action, innovative and public-private partnerships, global and regional experiences exchanges, among others, will be vital to ensure that mitigation and adaptation efforts are matched with needs.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

In addition to generating strong political messaging recommitting nations of the world to the 2030 Agenda and reaffirming its central place in guiding the response to the multiple global crises we face, the 2030 SDG Summit provides a key opportunity to **spotlight human rights as game-changers and problem- solving tools that will help safeguard lives and livelihoods** and are central to sustainable development by providing fundamental levers for rescuing the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. This was also recognized in the Human Rights Council resolution 52/14 adopted by consensus on 3 April 2023.

With 7 years left on the clock before 2030 and with too many of the SDG targets moving further away from reach, we know that a re-set of the development trajectory is vital. In the year we mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this re-set should firmly internalize the value and importance of human rights norms and standards as effective policy guardrails as we strive to leave no one behind and reach those furthest behind first.

The 2023 SDG Summit needs to define in concrete terms the meaning of 'moving away from business as usual' and to prioritize reaching those furthest behind first by prioritizing work along all three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental. Below are six areas OHCHR considers pivotal in reenergizing and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

- **Building economies that advance equality and sustainability**: Integrating human rights principles and obligations alongside SDG commitments in economic decision-making to achieve enhanced outcomes for all, including through introducing guardrails for fiscal and monetary policies aiming to expand social investment and achieve an adequate standard of living for everyone.

- **Placing human rights at the heart of care and support systems**: Establish care and support systems that are human rights -based, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and age-sensitive.

- **Creating a more equitable international financial architecture**: Realizing the right to development by committing to reform the international financial architecture in support of a sustainable, equitable and inclusive development, stepping up international cooperation and global partnership, amplifying the voice and strengthening representation of developing countries.

- **Enhancing environmental action through implementation of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment:** Committing to concrete steps to make this right a reality for all people, with a particular focus on the needs of the people and countries disproportionately affected by environmental degradation including climate change.

- **Anchoring LNOB action in the principles of equality and non-discrimination**: Prioritizing and maximizing investment in people and countries furthest behind, in more granular data, while ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment are fully integrated in all interventions.

- **Empowering people as active agents of sustainable development**: Committing to meaningful, inclusive, and safe participation as a key accelerator of the 2030 Agenda implementation.

OHCHR wishes in particular to draw the attention of the High-level Political Forum to the following game-changers with deeply transformative potential[4]:

- Reforming the global financial architecture to allow States to expand the fiscal space for sustainable development which leaves no one behind rather than limiting their ability to do so, in effect operationalizing the right to development.

- Centering people in economic decision making - ensuring decisions related to business models, economic policies, trade and investment, consumption, and production patterns, are guided by existing human rights and labour standards.

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[4] Please note that the first three points can also be seen as falling under the scope of the 2023 GSDR entry point 'Sustainable and just economies', the point on care and support agenda falls under the scope of the 'Human well-being and capabilities' GSDR entry point, the right to a healthy environment is linked to the 'Global environmental commons', while the equitable phase out of fossil fuels speaks to the 'Energy decarbonization with universal access' entry point. Investment in people and countries further behind and empowering people as active agents of sustainable development are crosscutting across all GSDR entry points.

- Prioritizing identification of alternatives to additional fiscal austerity measures and taking steps to ring-fence social spending and increased investment in public services.

- Recognizing the support and care agenda and universal social protection as key levers for achieving sustainable development and leaving no one behind, while committing to taking steps to transform care and support systems to ensure they protect the rights of caregivers and care receivers and are responsive to their ability, age, and gender, and to accelerate establishing comprehensive social protection systems.

- Commitment to making the right to a healthy environment a reality for all, with a particular focus on the needs of the people and countries disproportionately affected by environmental degradation including climate change.

- Commitment to an equitable phase out of all fossil fuels aligned with a sustainable pathway to limit global heating to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius and to taking immediate steps to ensure that the transition towards a green economy would benefit all without harming people or the environment.

- Prioritizing and maximizing investment in people and countries furthest behind, and in more granular data, while ensuring full integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in all interventions.

- Empowering people as active agents of sustainable development: Committing to meaningful, inclusive, and safe participation as a key accelerator of the 2030 Agenda implementation. To build back better, we need more participation, not less.

Finally, please also consult relevant OHCHR inputs on transformative policies and initiatives for the 2023 ECOSOC Coordination segment and the Office's inputs to the UN System SDG Implementation database.

5. Other Intergovernmental Bodies and Related Organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency

Science and technology help to understand and overcome many challenges, whether it's a deadly pandemic or the existential threat of climate change. However, science and technology are unequally instituted across the world, with those who need them most, having the least access. Among the sciences, nuclear science is unique in the scale and breadth of its application: scientists have unlocked the power of the atom to deliver reliable low-carbon energy, to fight diseases, to study scarce water resources, to develop hardier crops and to monitor pollution in the oceans and on earth. Science, technology and innovation should unite by virtue of its capacity to provide objective data for decision making and to be transformational when combined together. Nuclear technologies can play a part in tackling the world's global crisis and in supporting countries towards the achievement of the SDGs.

International Organization for Migration

- Affirm that speaking of migrants and displaced persons means speaking about the people who have been a cornerstone of development, innovation and progress since the dawn of time. At the same time, these are the very people who too often have suffered, been stranded and

excluded and exposed to abuse, exploitation and discrimination solely on the basis of their movements.

- Recognize and advance the role of human mobility as an opportunity for the future and comprehensive strategy that can help reduce inequalities, adapt to the climate crisis; and that is an integral component of the renewed social contract needed to secure our future. Everyone matters and makes a difference in our achievement of global prosperity, including people on the move.

- Reiterate that global development will not be achieved without safe, orderly and regular human mobility. Multilateralism and whole-of-society partnerships have the power to maximize the potential of human mobility. The GCM is central in our efforts to harness human mobility for inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and well-managed human mobility can accelerate the attainment of the SDGs in what remains of the Decade of Action.

- Acknowledge that major global transformations such as digitalization, the climate crisis and urbanization impact and are impacted by human mobility in increasingly complex and intertwined ways. More transformational change is needed to strengthen the positive impact of human mobility, building on the progress since 2015 and the landmark IMRF Progress Declaration.

Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

- **Realizing the 2030 Agenda and driving the Decade of Action will require political will and urgent additional efforts, especially revitalizing SDG17.** In an evolving development landscape, the effectiveness principles – country ownership, participation of all stakeholders, transparency and accountability, and a focus on results – have proven to be a unique, shared compass that countries can use to orient multistakeholder dialogue and action on priorities and needs. Strengthened efforts are needed to contextualize and define their applicability to new development co-operation trends, varying country contexts and emerging challenges. The "effectiveness agenda" remains a priority at the country level; monitoring country efforts is critical for evidence-based policy and decision making, and for supporting behavior change at all levels towards stronger and more sustainable development outcomes.

- **Achieving sustainable, country-led development based on these principles requires cementing and revitalizing collective political commitments and mutual trust – and turning these into actions.** With trust eroding in the face of increasingly worrying trends, inclusive and evidence-based dialogues at the country level as part of existing national structures and mechanisms are essential to build stronger and inclusive partnerships. These partnerships are vital to translate political commitments into practical steps which engage and incentivize all relevant constituencies, including at the international, national and regional levels, ensuring that no one is left behind.

- **Without addressing the causes and effects of climate change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be unattainable.** With regard to delivery, as the climate change

agenda increasingly focuses on action, developing countries raise the same issues they did in the effectiveness agenda. Their priorities relate to supply driven approaches, rather than responding to and aligning behind country owned strategies and approaches; fragmented delivery, through complex parallel systems and processes of climate finance, comes with high transaction costs and burden that further strain their already stretched capacities. Addressing these concerns requires proactively connecting the effectiveness and climate agenda and bringing the learnings and principles of the effectiveness agenda to climate action, taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

- **Quality – not just quantity – financing yields quality results. Strengthening 'effective' partnerships is a way to help leverage local, national and global resources to achieve impact quickly and sustainably.** Today's global challenges require scaled-up international, multilateral, multistakeholder co-operation in the interest of global stability – including through good multilateral donorship. Interconnected global challenges have complex implications when it comes to reconciling the increased need for investment in global public goods with maintaining direct support to partner country priorities, in line with the country ownership principle. The UN Development System is critical to achieving the SDGs and needs to be adequately equipped with quality, flexible and predictable development funding. It is instrumental to preserve and increase core resources to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience to shocks. In a more complex, fragmented global aid architecture where access to development finance remains a major challenge, answering the United Nations Secretary General's call for global solidarity and leaving no one behind, through an "SDG Stimulus package" among others, requires additional multilateral support that is targeted and harmonized to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.

International Development Law Organization

- SDG 16 and the rule of law is a critical enabler for all SDGs and an important instrument to address the interlinked crises that the world is facing, which should be reflected in the political declaration.

- Fair and effective laws and institutions that work to address people's priority needs can have a catalytic effect across the SDGs. They are key to ensuring the delivery of public services and strengthen resilience against global crises [and a vital tool in our arsenal to accelerate progress on implementation. Providing clear guidance and concrete steps for Member States and other actors on how to bolster action around SDG 16 can revitalize action on all the SDGs.

- To achieve this, the political declaration of the SDG Summit should include a reference to the need for greater political and financial support for the rule of law and access to justice, as enablers of the 2030 Agenda.

- It would be important to reference, the need to put people and their needs at the center of justice systems, promote rule of law's catalytic role as a driver of peace and sustainable development, and address complex transnational challenges through fair and equitable processes grounded in the rule of law and human rights.

- The Declaration should also incorporate findings and recommendations from upcoming events and summits that will bring together a wide range of actors. The HLPF in 2023 will be one such event.

- One such event is IDLO's annual SDG 16 Conference, organized in partnership with UN DESA and Italy, which will explore interlinked crises and the catalytic contribution that SDG 16 and the rule of law can make in addressing them. While providing a platform for Member States to discuss key themes related to Goal 16, the Conference will also provide space for diverse voices and thought leadership through the participation of civil society, academia, women, youth and marginalized groups. Outcomes from gatherings such as these should be used to create a declaration that reflects the transformative and innovative conversations that are taking place outside of the UN.

International Renewable Energy Agency

The successful achievement of the objectives set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Agreement requires a rapid transformation of energy systems across the globe towards high shares and eventually 100% renewable energy. As a growing number of countries announce ambitious pledges and actions to phase out fossil fuels and enact policies in line with achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 or earlier, renewable energy will need to play a dominant role across all sectors.

- Promote investments in access and transition to renewable energy which leaves no one behind

- Strengthen the interlinkages between SDG7 and other SDGs, while defining multi-dimensional advantages of upscaling renewables to strengthen the 2030 Agenda

- Pursue the development path that is most likely to drive down energy emissions in the coming decade and put the world on a 1.5°C trajectory

- Support emerging technologies, such as marine energy, most likely to become competitive in the short-term and most effective in achieving emissions reductions in the long-term

- Limit investments in oil and gas to fast-track the energy transition, which ensures the energy security

- Phase out coal and fossil fuel subsidies

- Invest in a set of policies to promote resilience, inclusion, and equity and protect workers and communities affected by the energy transition

- Ensure all countries, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, have an opportunity to participate in and realise the benefits of the global energy transition, including mobilization of the adequate finance to LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and African countries to support both the access and transition to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy making it inclusive and just

- Promote the dialogue on critical materials necessary for energy transition, while ensuring that the most vulnerable countries are not left behind.

Pacific Islands Forum

The overall key message from the Pacific is for our global collective family to do all that is necessary to achieve our climate change target of 1.5 degrees Celsius. Pacific Island challenges are intensifying and accelerating because we as a global collective are still unable to limit global

warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. On that note, Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific are not on track with an urgent need for sustained financial and technical support to improve statistical data and capacity. The current data suggest that the Pacific will only achieve 20% of SDG targets by 2030.

On the specific goals 6, 7, 9, 11, 17.

The following is a summary of our Pacific key message

- Increased investment in clean water and sanitation.

- Exploration of the sustainable energy transition.

- Strengthened local governance and urban management.

- Development of financial inclusion strategies and tailored technology-led services.

- Improvements to the availability of data and statistics and regional guidelines.

- Climate action and ambition.