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Text of Article 58

The Organization shall make recommendations for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies.

Introductory Note

1. The following study pertains to significant matters as well as crucial issues arising in the authority of the main organs of the United Nations system, as stipulated in Article 58 of the Charter of the United Nations, to make recommendations for the coordination of both the policies and the activities of its specialized agencies throughout the period under examination.¹
2. The organization and presentation of this study remain comparable to those of prior studies of this Article in the *Repertory of Practice, Supplement No. 10*. Hereof the Organization and administrative elements of the coordination of specialized agencies will be considered, and thereafter the coordination of specialized agencies with regards to substantive areas will be provided.
3. Firstly, the General Survey ensuing the present Introductory Note examines the subject in its entirety, by presenting a succinct synopsis of the trends in the approach to the coordination of policies and activities of specialized agencies during the concerned period.
4. Subsequently, the Analytical Summary of Practice will give an overview of issues regarding the application of Article 58 *per se*, with a more extensive overview of decisions and matters of concern by entities of the United Nations system in this area. The main purpose of this section is the presentation of the primary areas of development in the timeframe under consideration.
5. Further to the practice established in the study of Article 58 in the original *Repertory*², with regards to matters such as the characterization or amendments to the terms of agreement between the United Nations and its specialized agencies, or the recommendations made by entities of the United Nations system on the coordination of the Economic and Social Council activities, both are considered in connection with the Study of Article 63 of the Charter in the following document, with the exception of matter for which the mention thereof would clarify the issues raised under Article 58. Regarding the substantive questions linked to Article 58, several may be examined in the Studies of other Articles of the Charter. Financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies as well as the review of their administrative budgets are considered in the Study of Article 17(3); the institution of relations between the United Nations and its specialized agencies under Article 57; the initiation of negotiations for the establishment of new specialized agencies under Article 59; recommendations to the specialized agencies in connection with studies and reports initiated by the Economic and Social Council under Article 62(1) and 55; obtaining of reports from specialized agencies by the Council under Article 64; relations with subsidiary bodies established by the Council under Article 68; and arrangements for representation of the specialized agencies in the deliberations of the Council under Article 70.

¹ For the purposes of Article 58, the term "Organization" has been taken to include the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat. See generally repertory of practice under this article, especially the discussion of the joint committee of the second and third committee, para. 57. For an examination of the process by which organizations are brought into specialized relationship with the united nations, see the studies of Articles 57 and 63 in this and previous supplements.

² See *Repertory*, para. 3.

I. General Survey

A. Overall Trends

6. The period under consideration saw a concentration of efforts from the entire United Nations system to ensure the achievement of the agreed goals and development commitments, as set in the Millennium Declaration, ahead of the target year of 2015.³ Building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and to address their unfinished business, the Organization worked towards defining the UN Development Agenda beyond 2015, including through the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)⁴, which led to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals at the 2015 UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.⁵

7. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) - also known as Rio+20 – was convened in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). In the outcome document of Rio+20, entitled “The Future We Want”, Member States agreed to develop a set of targets that would build on the success of the MDGs, covering the sustainability agenda in its entirety, including poverty eradication, food security and sustainable agriculture, energy, sustainable transport, sustainable cities, health and population and promoting full and productive employment – tasking the Organization to determine them through coordination and consultations with its entities and bodies.⁶ The Rio+20 outcome also included measures for the implementation of sustainable development, including mandates for future programmes of work in development financing, small island developing states, *inter alia*.⁷ The Future We Want further called for the establishment of an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals, and to this end an Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would be constituted.⁸ The Working Group held a wide range of consultations and negotiations to develop a proposal for the post-2015 Development Agenda to overcome the gaps and shortcomings of the MDGs.

8. The aforementioned consultation and negotiation processes culminated in the convening in September 2015 of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, during which all Member States adopted the document entitled “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”⁹ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a common blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, for the present and the future. The Agenda includes seventeen universally applicable, integrated objectives, namely the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supported by 169 specific targets and indicators, which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership. In the 2030 Agenda, Member States acknowledged that the fight against poverty and other deprivations was interrelated with strategies to improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while addressing climate change and working to preserve the world’s oceans and forests.¹⁰

9. During this period, the General Assembly continued to acknowledge the need for a strengthened and revitalized United Nations system through reforms, and supported an increased

³ See Millennium Declaration, GA resolution 55/2.

⁴ See A/RES/66/288 - Rio+20 Outcome Document

⁵ A/RES/70/1

⁶ See the General Assembly, recalling its resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009, in which it decided to organize the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level in 2012, as well as its resolution 66/197 of 22 December 2011; A/RES/66/288 - The Future We Want

⁷ See “The Future We Want”, GA resolution 66/288.

⁸ See “The Future We Want”, GA resolution 66/288.

⁹ See GA resolution 70/1, “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

¹⁰ See GA resolution 70/1, “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

coordination among entities and bodies of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, so as to ensure greater policy coherence and urged the Secretariat to maximize the utilization of resources, that should be delivered in a timely and predictable manner.¹¹ In light of the approaching deadline for MDGs and the new impetus to pursue a sustainable development path, the Assembly regularly recognized the need for a coordinated approach of all United Nations system entities, including specialized agencies, if the Organization was to meet the Millennium Development Goals by the target date 2015, and continue its efforts to design and thereafter achieve the post-2015 Development Agenda objectives. The coordination of activities and programmes within the United Nations system, and especially with specialized agencies, was consistently highlighted as essential in recommendations made by the main organs of the United Nations system, in particular in the context of follow-up actions to major conferences and summits.¹²

10. Coordination among the United Nations system - the United Nations, its funds and programmes, specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and related organizations – continued to be supported within the structure of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB, formerly ACC)¹³.

B. Organizational and Administrative Trends

11. During the period under consideration, the Organization continued to focus on ensuring an integrated implementation of the mandates and activities of its entities, to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts. In 2010, the General Assembly adopted the landmark resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence. Efforts continued to be made to improve how the United Nations delivers as one. An independent evaluation was conducted on lessons learned from pilot countries.¹⁴

12. Concerning the main organs of the United Nations system, efforts to strengthen the Economic and Social Council continued during this period.¹⁵ In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council was called upon to continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for coordination of activities of the United Nations system and its

¹¹ See GA resolution 64/301 without vote [agenda item 118] on Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, A/64/903; GA resolution 64/301; Report of the Secretary-General submitted, A/65/712, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 58/316; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/902, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 65/315 without vote [agenda item 118] on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; GA resolution 65/315; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/730, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 58/316; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/861, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 66/294 without vote [agenda item 121] on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; GA resolution 67/297 without vote [agenda item 116] on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; GA resolution 66/294; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/710, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 68/307 without vote [agenda item 122] on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; GA resolution 67/297; Report of Secretary-General, A/68/774, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; Report of Secretary-General A/69/793; Report of Secretary-General A/69/972 & Add.1 H; Ad Hoc Working Group report A/69/1007; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/852.

¹² See GA decision 65/544; Economic and Social Council decision 2011/216; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/30 without vote [agenda items 6, 8] on the Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16.

¹³ For background information on the Chief Executives Board, formerly called the Administrative Committee on Coordination, please refer to the previous study “Supplement No.10 (2000-2009) of Article 58) available at https://legal.un.org/repertory/art58/english/rep_supp10_vol4_art58.pdf and see CEB annual overview report for 2010–2011, E/2011/104; CEB annual overview report for 2012, E/2013/60

¹⁴ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/84-E/2010/90, on the Council’s role in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/82- E/2012/64, on the periodicity and scope of future reports on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

¹⁵ See GA resolution 61/16; GA resolution 68/1 [without vote [agenda item 14 & 118] on the Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields.¹⁶

13. With regards administrative and budgetary issues, as was the case in the prior reporting period, issues of personnel were the main concern regularly assessed by entities of the United Nations system. The Assembly, through the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), repeatedly evaluated the conditions of service of the staff of the United Nations common system, and adopted various ICSC recommendations amending the conditions of service, on the enhancement of the international civil service and on pay and benefits.¹⁷ The Assembly encouraged the ICSC to continue to coordinate and regulate the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the UN common system, bearing in mind the limitations imposed by Member States on their national civil services.¹⁸ During this period, the ICSC reviewed and proposed a new UN system compensation package, later approved by the General Assembly. The Assembly requested ICSC to monitor how the new compensation package contributed to the strengthening of gender balance and geographical diversity.¹⁹ In view of the complex and challenging global security environment, the Secretary-General and other bodies of the United Nations system underscored the importance of the consideration of issues related to their privileges and immunities.²⁰ The Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) has taken measures to strengthen security operations worldwide and developed an integrated capacity for policy, standards, coordination, communications, compliance and threat and risk assessment.²¹

14. The recently established system of administration of justice at the United Nations, including a two-tier formal system comprising a first instance, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and an appellate instance, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, was acknowledged by the Secretary-General as a substantially improved and better resourced system for the administration of justice.²² Nevertheless the success of the system had led to strains upon the financial and human resources of the entities servicing it, which entailed the need to alter, enhance or further consider a number of its components, on which he made a series of recommendations, including proposed amendments to certain articles of the statute.

C. Trends in Substantive Areas

15. The Millennium Declaration was a commitment made in the prior period by Member States to a new global partnership, given the leading challenge of globalization, to coordinate their activities and programmes for the reduction of extreme poverty, and laid out eight targets to be

¹⁶ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/29; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/84-E/2010/90, on the Council's role in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits; Economic and Social Council decision 2011/216; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/82-E/2012/64, on the periodicity and scope of future reports on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/30; Report the Secretary-General, A/67/736-E/2013/7, on strengthening the Council.

¹⁷ See GA resolution 44/198; GA resolution 68/244 without vote [agenda item 133] on Managing after-service health insurance liabilities; Report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), A/69/30; Report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), A/65/30; Report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), A/65/30.

¹⁸ A/RES/65/248

¹⁹ A/RES/70/244

²⁰ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/344 & Corr.1, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel; GA resolution 68/101; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/406; Report of the Secretary-General, A/70/383, on the safety and security of UN and associated personnel; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/345, on the safety and security of UN and associated personnel; Report of Secretary-General, A/70/383, on the safety and security of UN and associated personnel.

²¹ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel; GA resolution 67/85; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/489.

²² See GA resolution 63/253; GA resolution 64/233; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/373 & Corr.1, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/275 & Corr.1, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/275, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; GA resolution 66/237; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/265 & Corr.1, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; GA resolution 68/254; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/227, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; Report of the Secretary-General, A/70/187, on the administration of justice at the United Nations.

reached by the year 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, with the aim of realizing them at all levels.²³ The global commitment to the MDGs with a combination of economic growth and better policies contributed to progress in poverty reduction, child mortality and malaria.

16. The outcomes of the 2010 Summit on the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20) paved the way for the establishment of goals and targets to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and to set the path for a sustainable future. Member States' deliberations, including through the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on SDGs, established by the GA decision 67/555, contributed to the discussions around the post-2015 development agenda.

17. The new development agenda - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – laid out the blueprint, through its seventeen interconnected and integrated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to reach a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030, addressing the ongoing and emerging global challenges, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.²⁴ The SDGs recognized that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development should balance social, economic and environmental sustainability, and Member States committed to accelerated progress for the least developed countries through the pledge to leave no one behind, to ensure the world reaches zero poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls. This was a universal agenda that called for transformative and integrated actions. It recognized that the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries.

18. During this period, the Economic and Social Council, through its annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum, continued to assess the progress made in the implementation of the MDGs and other goals and targets agreed at major UN conferences and summits. It provided a platform for Member States to exchange lessons learned in implementing national development strategies with a particular focus on gender equality in 2010, education in 2011, employment and productive capacity in 2012, science and technology in 2013, addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2014 and managing the transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in 2015.²⁵ Subsidiary bodies and governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies were invited to contribute, as appropriate, to the work of the Economic and Social Council in keeping with its agreed theme.²⁶ The Secretary-General submitted regular progress reports on the MDGs to the General Assembly.

19. The Council called for enhanced coordination and cooperation with specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including in the context of operational activities for development, emergency humanitarian assistance, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), crime prevention and criminal justice, tobacco control, prevention and control

²³ See Millennium Declaration, GA resolution 55/2.

²⁴ See GA resolution 70/1, "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

²⁵ See Report of the Secretary-General A/67/88-E/2012/75 & Corr.1 on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action; General Assembly in resolution 65/171; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/88-E/2012/75 & Corr.1 on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action; GA resolution 66/213; Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/9; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/88-E/2012/75 & Corr.1; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/26 [draft: E/2012/L.29] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)]; GA resolution 67/220; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/217 on the technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to LDCs; GA resolution 67/220; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/26; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/88-E/2013/81 & Corr.1 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020; GA resolution 68/224; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/46; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/95-E/2014/81 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

²⁶ A/RES/68/1

of non-communicable diseases, and world drug problem.²⁷ OIOS noted that collaboration within the United Nations system was essential to a comprehensive, multi-sectoral and coordinated approach to poverty eradication, and recommended means to strengthen the collaboration among inter-agency coordinating bodies and enhancing management practices and the resident coordinator (RC) system.²⁸ Further to United Nations Conferences and successive Programmes of Action on the matter, the coordination of the specialized agencies activities concerning human settlements as well as youth and children was studied by the United Nations system.²⁹

20. As part of the system-wide coherence, the General Assembly established in 2010 the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (“UN-Women”), which merged the mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, reporting to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council and led by an Under-Secretary-General.³⁰ The new entity’s mandate was to enhance the focus and impact of the gender equality activities of the United Nations system by ensuring that functions and responsibilities remained clear, and by securing support for a more coherent and scaled-up response.³¹

21. In the context of environmental protection and further to the Millennium Declaration, the Organization concentrated its efforts on a cooperative approach to sustainable development, and the protection of the marine environment.³² The Assembly continued to call for coordination and follow-up mechanisms to the outcomes of the major United Nations summits and conferences, and encouraged greater collaboration with the specialized agencies.³³

²⁷ E/RES/2012/3, E/RES/2012/26, E/RES/2012/17, E/2012/4, E/2013/5, E/2013/12, E/2014/24.

²⁸ See Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/65/271 (Part I) & Corr.1; Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/65/271 (Part I)/Add.1 & Corr.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/66/286 (Part I); Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/66/286 (Part I)/Add.1; Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/67/297 (Part I)/Add.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/68/337(Part I); Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/68/337 (Part I)/Add.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/69/308(Part I); Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/69/308 (Part I)/Add.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/70/318 (Part I) & Add.1 & Corr.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/70/318 (Part II).

²⁹ See GA resolution 59/261; Report of the Secretary-General A/65/226; GA resolutions 58/157 and 58/282; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/258 on the follow-up to the Assembly’s twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/229; GA resolutions 61/272; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/269; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/258; GA resolution 66/139; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/253, providing an overview of collaboration among different actors in the UN system in the area of child protection; *inter alia*.

³⁰ See Assembly resolution 63/311; Report of the Secretary-General, A/64/588.

³¹ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/120, on strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

³² See GA resolution 65/161; Note by the Secretary-General, A/67/295, on the Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions; GA resolution 66/202; Note by the Secretary-General, A/68/260 on the Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions; GA resolution 67/212; Note by the Secretary-General, A/69/317 on the Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions; GA resolution 68/214; ; Note by the Secretary-General, A/70/230 on the Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions; GA resolution 69/222.

³³ See GA resolution 64/251 without vote [agenda item 70 (a)] on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; GA resolution 65/264 without vote [agenda item 69 (a)] on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; GA resolution 66/227 without vote [agenda item 70 (a)] on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; GA resolution 67/231 without vote [agenda item 70 (a)] on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; GA resolution 68/103 without vote [agenda item 70 (a)] on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; GA resolution 69/243 without vote [agenda item 69 (a)] on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; GA resolution 66/199 without vote [agenda item 19 (c)] on International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; GA resolution 67/209 without vote [agenda item 20 (c)] on International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; GA resolution 69/219 without vote [agenda item 19 (c)] on International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; GA resolution 70/204 (i); Report of the Second Committee, A/70/472/Add.3, on Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

II. Analytical summary of practice

A. The Making of Recommendations for Co-ordination in the Administrative and Organizational Machinery

1. Recommendations in the Machinery of Coordination

22. During the review period, the Organization placed a particular emphasis on the importance of strengthening policy coherence and the coordination of the activities and programmes of the United Nations system entities, including specialized agencies, notably in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, and the outcomes of major conferences and summits. Member States focused on reforming the United Nations system and reallocating, revitalizing and strengthening the roles and functions of its main organs, namely the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.³⁴ The Assembly, the Secretary-General, as well as other relevant entities and bodies of the United Nations system took concerted actions for the strengthening and streamlining of institutional arrangements for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women system-wide.³⁵

23. At the High-level Tripartite Conference of the eight “Delivering as one” pilot countries in 2010, participants assessed the lessons learned while advancing proposals for paving the way forward. To this end, and further to the recommendation made by the Assembly to support efforts to improve coherence, coordination and harmonization in the UN development system³⁶, the Secretary-General appointed in 2011 nine experts to the Evaluation Management Group for the independent evaluation of the latter lessons learned.³⁷ The Evaluation Management Group oversaw and managed the conduct of the evaluation process so as to ensure its independence and compliance with the highest evaluation standards.³⁸ In 2012, the Secretary-General transmitted the Evaluation Management Group’s evaluation of the lessons learned from “Delivering as one”, covering the period from 2006-2011.³⁹ The latter report was based on the concept of the Four Ones and found that little progress in reality had been made towards the “Delivering as one” target. The Group found that, as the pilot countries had to face challenges restricting development efforts, and the One Programme – a fundamental component of the results chain - was a significant and difficult learning exercise, concluding that governments had managed to ensure that their national priorities were the drivers of UN Programming, nevertheless progress remained modest concerning the UN system deliverance of better support to countries, with a reduced efficiency with regards to decreased transaction costs, as well as mostly absent coherent and consolidated management information systems. The Group laid out twelve recommendations for the bolstering of national ownership and leadership, an improved delivery of UN system support to programme countries, as well as a simplification and harmonization of business practices to decrease transaction costs. The evaluation further supported the principle of the voluntary adoption of “Delivering as one”, while

³⁴ See GA resolution 64/289 without vote [agenda item 114] on System-wide coherence; GA resolution 66/256 without vote [agenda item 123 (b)] on The United Nations in global governance; GA resolution 67/289 without vote [agenda item 118 (b)] on The United Nations in global economic governance.

³⁵ See GA resolution 63/311; Report of the Secretary-General, A/64/588, on presenting a comprehensive proposal for a composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women; GA resolution 66/256 without vote [agenda item 123 (b)] on The United Nations in global governance; GA resolution 66/256; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/769, on global economic governance and development; GA resolution 67/289 without vote [agenda item 118 (b)], on The United Nations in global economic governance; GA resolution 69/272 (i); Report of the Fifth Committee, A/69/702/Add.1, on Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

³⁶ See GA resolution 62/208.

³⁷ See GA resolution 64/289; Note of the Secretary-General, A/65/737 & Add.1.

³⁸ See GA resolution 64/289; Note by the Secretariat, A/66/384, on Independent evaluation of lessons learned from “delivering as one”.

³⁹ See Note of the Secretary-General, A/66/859, on the Report by the nine experts of the Evaluation Management Group; GA resolution 62/208; GA resolution 64/289.

recommending the consolidation of functions under the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) at the headquarters level to tackle its various dimensions, and the bolstering of the functional firewall and mutual accountability across the Development Group. Lastly, the UNDG should further improve the horizontal accountability of RCs and United Nations country teams (UNCTS), while bolder measures would be necessary for a more comprehensive track of reform.

24. Following the commitments made by governments and the strengthening of coordination and global partnership needed for their attainment, the Secretary-General laid out a series of recommendations, through an annual report and a comprehensive report every five years on advancement made towards the millennium commitments and those of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, on means by which the main bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system could realize their mandates and improve the effectiveness of their activities and programmes. His recommendations included the regular call for considering potential action plans, identifying gaps, overlaps and areas of inter-agency cooperation, strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development, monitoring of advancement made in the implementation of United Nations system actions and constructing a more robust relationship between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions as well as the World Trade Organization.

25. Throughout the period under consideration, the Assembly, the Council and the Secretary-General underlined the significance of ensuring the implementation of major United Nations conferences and summits outcomes in the economic and social fields, notably by the subsequent translation into operational guidelines and programmes of the aforementioned outcomes, in the operational work and country frameworks of United Nations system (see below).⁴⁰

26. The General Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing overall coordination and guidance for operational development programmes and funds on a system-wide basis, as well as in concentrating on cross-cutting issues and coordination issues related to operational activities, in accordance with relevant Assembly resolutions.⁴¹

a. Principal Organs

i. *The General Assembly*

27. Throughout the review period, the General Assembly's resolutions and decisions placed a particular emphasis on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields, and on an integrated, coordinated, comprehensive and balanced approach to the implementation of the MDGs at the national, regional and international levels. The General Assembly underscored that existing structures and mechanisms as well as upcoming and special sessions of the General Assembly needed to be utilized in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. The Assembly reiterated its commitment to arrange and organize major thematic debates so as to develop a wider international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States.

28. The Assembly's policy guidance role was reaffirmed within the framework of the implementation and integrated follow-up to major international conferences, and particularly in the context of the Millennium Declaration and the post-2015 sustainable development Agenda. The Assembly emphasized the need to prioritize the coherence and visibility of the implementation of

⁴⁰ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/84-E/2010/90, on the Council's role in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/82-E/2012/64, on the periodicity and scope of future reports on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

⁴¹ See GA resolution 61/16.

the MDGs, as well as their review process. So as to further advance coherence, notably between its Second and Third Committees, the Assembly continued the practice of holding a dialogue, when considering an agenda item, with the heads of substantive departments, offices or agencies in charge of reporting requirements in the context of said item, as well as bolstered cooperation between both Committees, via the holding of joint panels on mutual issues and recommendations for increased complementarity.⁴² Moreover, the Second Committee's Bureau further assessed provisional agendas so as to streamline the methods of work of the Committee, by clustering agenda items, decreasing the number of meetings, and adopting an increased number of omnibus or integrated resolutions.⁴³

29. The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to continue to inform the Assembly of progress made as part of the triennial and quadrennial comprehensive policy review reporting process.⁴⁴ Concerning the revitalization and strengthening of the Organization, the Assembly reiterated that regular meetings should be held with the Presidents of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General in order to discuss revitalization measures.

30. Further to the Assembly's decision, in the period prior to the one under examination, to continue and further advance its intergovernmental work on system-wide coherence, concentrating solely and in an integrated manner on "Delivering as one" at both the country and regional levels, and a harmonization of business practices, funding, governance, gender equality and the empowerment of women. Such efforts led to largely positive results, with activities a net improvement of the degree of alignment at a policy-level for Member States, United Nations specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, established by resolution 67/297 the period prior, made regular recommendations on advancing efforts to revitalize the Assembly, identified issues of concern and of possible consensus, as well as supported the implementation of Assembly resolutions on its revitalization.⁴⁵

31. The General Assembly unanimously adopted in 2010 the landmark resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, which established a composite gender entity, while initiating a new approach to determine the level of "critical mass" of core funding for funds and programmes. In the aforementioned resolution, the Assembly further strengthened the participation of national policymakers of programme countries in meetings of the executive boards of the funds and programmes as well as in the operational activities segment of the Council, while inviting the President and the Bureau of the Council to hold informal coordination meetings with the governing bodies responsible for UN operational activities for development, and requesting the Secretary-General to commission a comprehensive review of the existing institutional framework for the system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development, *inter alia*. In the same resolution, the Assembly approved a system for Member States to submit a common country programme

⁴² See GA resolution 60/286; GA resolution 64/301.

⁴³ See GA resolution 60/286; GA resolution 64/301.

⁴⁴ See Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, GA resolution 67/226

⁴⁵ See GA resolution 64/301 without vote [agenda item 118] on Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, A/64/903; GA resolution 64/301; Report of the Secretary-General submitted, A/65/712, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 58/316; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/902, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 65/315 without vote [agenda item 118] on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; GA resolution 65/315; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/730, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 58/316; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/861, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 66/294 without vote [agenda item 121] on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; GA resolution 67/297 without vote [agenda item 116] on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; GA resolution 66/294; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/710, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; GA resolution 68/307 without vote [agenda item 122] on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; GA resolution 67/297; Report of Secretary-General, A/68/774, on the Revitalization of the work of the Assembly; Report of Secretary-General A/69/793; Report of Secretary-General A/69/972 & Add.1 H; Ad Hoc Working Group report A/69/1007.

document on a voluntary basis, in addition to encouraging the Secretary-General to independently assess the lessons learned from the “Delivering as one” pilots.

32. The General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 (The Future We Want, July 2012) established the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which replaced ECOSOC’s functional Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Resolution 67/290 defined the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Resolution 70/1) established the Forum as the overarching UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda that will carry out both the thematic reviews and voluntary national reviews. The HLPF was given “a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates” (paragraph 82). The HLPF would meet annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days. The Assembly further decided on the themes of the HLPF for the years 2017-19 as well as on the groups of SDGs to be reviewed in those years. It also defined the VNRs as central to facilitate the sharing of experiences, “including successes, challenges and lessons learned” in the implementation of the 2020 Agenda.⁴⁶ In accordance with 67/290, the President of the General Assembly convened the inaugural meeting of the HLPF on “Building the future we want: from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda” in 2013, which resulted in a summary by the President of the General Assembly⁴⁷.

ii. The Economic and Social Council

33. In 2013, the General Assembly reviewed the implementation of GA resolution 61/16 on strengthening the Economic and Social Council, which led to the adoption of resolution 68/1. The review took place in the context of the follow up to the Rio+20 Conference outcome and the discussions on the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. In the Rio+20 outcome document, Member States recognized the key role the Economic and Social Council should play in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development and established the high-level political forum on sustainable to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, with the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies.

34. The General Assembly continued to emphasize the need for a strengthened Economic and Social Council, notably in its coordination role under the Charter of activities of specialized agencies.⁴⁸ The General Assembly reiterated the key role the Council played in overall activities in development pursuant to the Charter and relevant resolutions.⁴⁹ The Economic and Social Council focused on coordination in the context of inter-agency and inter-governmental bodies, as well as in relation to the implementation and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences.⁵⁰

35. The Council regularly invited both the Bretton Woods institutions as well as the WTO to contribute - as per their mandates - to its work on the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits. Further to the

⁴⁶ See GA resolution 70/299

⁴⁷ See A/68/588

⁴⁸ See GA resolution 68/1.

⁴⁹ See GA resolution 61/16; GA resolution 68/1 [without vote [agenda item 14 & 118] on the Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

⁵⁰ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/30 without vote [agenda items 6, 8] on the Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 68/1.

reiteration in the prior period by the Council that the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits should be integrated in the operational work and country frameworks of UN system organizations, the heads of funds and programmes focused their efforts on translating the policy guidance from the Assembly and the Council into operational guidelines and programmes, overseen by the Council.⁵¹

36. In 2011, the General Assembly convened informal consultations on the review of the implementation of resolution 61/16. During the consultations, it was proposed that the Council be requested to enhance its coordination role vis-à-vis the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, while respecting legislative provisions, including the Charter of the United Nations.⁵²

37. Further consultations were convened in 2012 and 2013 to discuss proposals for strengthening the Council. The final report and recommendations of the co-facilitators on the further review on the implementation of Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council noted that the Council should act as a convening hub for debates between the United Nations development system, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and other stakeholders, and proactively support the implementation and follow-up of sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.⁵³ The report further recommended that the Assembly, the Council, the Council Bureau and the Secretariat take steps to revise the segment structure so as to include a coherence session, a humanitarian session and an integration session, while holding as separate dedicated sessions the reviews and discussions of the reports of subsidiary bodies, functional and regional commissions, and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.⁵⁴

38. Throughout the period under examination, the Council concentrated its efforts on supporting the harmonization, coordination and coherence of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by the promotion of an effective allocation of work and the deliverance of policy guidance so as to operate as a coherent system for assessing progress, along with its subsidiary machinery. The President of the Council requested its functional commissions to offer succinct, action-oriented contributions to its annual high-level and/or coordination sessions, namely via their standing agenda item on new trends and emerging issues affecting the overall aims within their respective mandates.⁵⁵ The Council reiterated that, whenever mandated, the functional commissions were to continue to find means to engage agencies, funds and programmes and have the chief responsibility to assess progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. The Secretary-General, for his part, recommended that the Council enhance its relations with other bodies by convening an annual meeting of the Bureaux of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly with the Bureau of the Council.⁵⁶ Moreover, the Economic and Social Council encouraged its functional commissions to deliver contributions to the Council's own activities on way to implement the

⁵¹ See Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2012/30 without vote [agenda items 6, 8] on the Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16.

⁵² See GA resolution 65/285 without vote [agenda items 13 & 115] on the Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council; Note of the General Assembly President, A/65/866, transmitting to the Assembly the final report and recommendations on the review of the implementation of Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

⁵³ See Note of the President of the General Assembly, A/67/975, transmitting the final report and recommendations of the co-facilitators on the further review.

⁵⁴ See Note of the President of the General Assembly, A/67/975, transmitting the final report and recommendations of the co-facilitators on the further review.

⁵⁵ See Economic and Social Council Decision 2012/207), on the theme for the thematic discussion of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012: "Macroeconomic policies for productive capacity, employment creation, sustainable development, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in pursuit of poverty eradication".

⁵⁶ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/30; Report of the Secretary-General submitted, A/67/736-E/2013/7, on strengthening the Council.

outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, notably concentrating on impact, gaps, good practices and lessons learned. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization were also invited to address the issues of coherence, coordination and cooperation, as a follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and in relation to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

39. The Council's Annual Ministerial Reviews (AMR) of progress towards the development goals and the Development Cooperation Forum, established in the prior period, put the Council at the centre of efforts at the global level to monitor and advance implementation of the UN Development Agenda in a unified and coherent way.⁵⁷ The AMR concentrated principally on "Gender equality and the empowerment of women" in 2010, and on "Education" at its 2011 session. The AMR continued to take an in-depth look at cross-cutting themes common to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits and to assess the advancement towards the implementation of the objectives and commitments in the context of sustainable development, as set out in the Millennium Declaration.⁵⁸

40. At the intergovernmental level, the follow-up to UN conferences and summits was subject to a three-tiered review, namely with: a lead functional commission or another intergovernmental body, such as the executive boards of the funds and programmes or the governing bodies of specialized agencies; the Economic and Social Council, for overall guidance and coordination; and the General Assembly, for high-level policy reviews.⁵⁹ The structure for such follow-up by the United Nations system at the country, regional, inter-agency and intergovernmental levels should therefore include the scope of future reporting in its entirety, with a particular emphasis on the role of the Council machinery.⁶⁰ In 2012, the Secretary-General further stated that future reports should be submitted when intergovernmental decisions call for the renewed consideration of the integrated follow-up to conferences by the Council.⁶¹

41. Following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, ECOSOC was tasked to become a more issues-oriented body capable of overseeing implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among other changes, the Council was mandated to provide greater leadership and guidance on substantive priorities by convening a separate segment on integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. With the establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to be convened under the auspices of ECOSOC every year and under the General Assembly every four years, Member States underscored the centrality of the Council and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

42. With its resolution 68/1, the General Assembly asserted that in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for coordination of the UN system and its specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields. Furthermore, the General Assembly mandated the Council to provide substantive leadership to the ECOSOC system through adoption of an annual theme; immediately stagger the segments of the Council throughout the year with a work programme cycle beginning in July; and convene a new integration segment to monitor and promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the ECOSOC system. The General Assembly also decided

⁵⁷ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/30; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/736-E/2013/7, on strengthening the Council.

⁵⁸ See Note of the President of the General Assembly, A/67/975, transmitting the final report and recommendations of the co-facilitators on the further review, at the sixty-seventh session, of the implementation of Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

⁵⁹ See Economic and Social Council decision 2011/216; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/82- E/2012/64.

⁶⁰ See Economic and Social Council decision 2011/216; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/82- E/2012/64.

⁶¹ See Economic and Social Council decision 2011/216; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/82- E/2012/64.

that the Council would convene its meetings in New York, with the Humanitarian Affairs Segment alternating between New York and Geneva.

43. During the period under review, Member States also gave ECOSOC the task to address the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes of past conferences and summits and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda by creating the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development. The creation of this new Forum as part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted in July 2015, strengthened the previous arrangements for the follow-up to the financing development agenda. A Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, mandated by the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, was placed under the authority of the Presidency of ECOSOC.

iii. The Secretary-General

44. The Secretary-General continued to make recommendation on actions to strengthen coordination among the main organs, and to enhance the Economic and Social Council's impact through its operational activities and humanitarian affairs segments, in order to increase the effectiveness of the organization in the work of its functional commissions. As proposed in the period prior, the Secretary-General submitted a quadrennial report to the Council and the Assembly, assessing advancement made for the integration and coordination of the implementation of outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, which allowed both organs to establish which areas required further oversight, and thereafter to assess how follow-up mechanisms had supported such an integration, and the effectiveness of the policy guidance provided by the United Nations system in support of national policies.⁶² The Secretary-General established an Evaluation Management Group that carried out an independent evaluation of lessons learned from "Delivering as one". The Group noted that mandates, policies, regulations and practices among vertically organized UN system entities were diverse. In this regard, they added that strengthening horizontal accountability might require a review of intergovernmental guidance and oversight of all aspects of "Delivering as one", which could include assessing the relationship between ECOSOC and the executive boards of the funds and programmes as well as between the Council and specialized and non-resident agencies not accountable to the General Assembly.⁶³

45. The CEB, chaired by the Secretary-General, continued to serve as an internal coordination mechanism that provides high-level system-wide strategic guidance, promotes coherent leadership, shared vision and enhanced consideration.

46. In an effort to strengthen the Organization, the Secretary-General adopted a number of policies designed to empower and promote women within the Secretariat, complementing the initiatives established to empower women in the context of war and internal conflict, namely through the appointment of a Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁶⁴ He oversaw a gender balance strategy and action plan within the Secretariat to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets.

47. Finally, the Secretary-General stressed that multi-stakeholder initiatives such as Sustainable Energy for All, Every Woman, Every Child, Global Education First Initiative, the Zero Hunger

⁶² See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/84-E/2010/90, on the Council's role in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/82-E/2012/64, on the periodicity and scope of future reports on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/736-E/2013/7, on strengthening the Council.

⁶³ See Note of the Secretary-General, A/65/737 & Add.1; Note by the Secretariat, A/66/384, on Independent evaluation of lessons learned from "delivering as one"; Note of the Secretary-General, A/66/859, on the Report by the nine experts of the Evaluation Management Group.

⁶⁴ See Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), S/2009/362.

Challenge and Global Pulse, showed the significant potential in partnerships to coordinate the various stakeholders involved in the advancement towards realizing the internationally agreed goals of the United Nations, while ensuring oversight and accountability.

b. Subsidiary Organs

i. *The Chief Executives Board for Coordination*

48. During the reporting period, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) continued to work towards coordination and coherence of the United Nations system on system-wide issues.⁶⁵ CEB's efforts to implement an effective coordination and coherence on a wide range of programmatic, operational and management issues that entities and bodies of the United Nations system faced, were supported by the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) as the main mechanism for system-wide coordination and policy coherence in the programme field; by the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) in ensuring the coordination in administrative and management areas; and, since 2007, by the UN Development Group (UNDG) in trying to enhance the coordination and effectiveness of operational activities.

49. The global financial and economic crisis remained a priority in the CEB agenda in 2010. The Joint Crisis Initiatives, launched by CEB in spring 2009 as an immediate response to the global financial and economic crisis, have enhanced the role of the United Nations system in dealing with the crisis and its impact on development.⁶⁶ In 2010, CEB also intensified its efforts for a coordinated and effective United Nations system delivery on climate change.

50. The Secretary-General and CEB members welcomed the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, with CEB initiating measures to strengthen accountability and support country efforts in meeting the MDGs targets through an integration implementation framework and through the MDGs acceleration framework.⁶⁷ To assist with system-wide preparation and follow-up to UN conferences and summits, CEB launched in 2013 a periodic review of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. CEB further expressed its support to the United Nations Conference on the LDCs, while stressing its commitment to an efficient system-wide response to assist with the full implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the outcome of the Conference at all levels.⁶⁸ HLCP followed up on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, assessing advancement made by UN-Energy, UN-Water and UN-Oceans, while bolstering its work on climate change through the CEB climate change action framework and by expanding ongoing initiatives and establishing two new initiatives.⁶⁹

51. In the context of enhancing policy coherence and coordination, the CEB firstly invited the United Nations Population Fund and the International Organization for Migration, in coordination with the Global Migration Group, to submit inputs to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and secondly the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development to establish a United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, *inter alia*.⁷⁰ CEB further collected contributions system-wide for the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and assessed elements of the broader global development agenda, namely key aspects of a greener, more equitable and sustainable globalization.⁷¹

⁶⁵ See CEB annual overview report for 2010–2011, E/2011/104; CEB annual overview report for 2012, E/2013/60.

⁶⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General E/2010/69

⁶⁷ See CEB annual overview report for 2011–2012, E/2012/67.

⁶⁸ See CEB annual overview report for 2013, E/2014/69; CEB annual overview report for 2013, E/2014/69.

⁶⁹ See CEB annual overview report for 2013, E/2014/69.

⁷⁰ See CEB annual overview report for 2013, E/2014/69.

⁷¹ See CEB annual overview report for 2011–2012, E/2012/67.

52. During the period under review, CEB also pursued a number of initiatives for advancing policy coherence and programmatic coordination in the following areas: supporting the transition to and future implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; youth employment; and the data revolution.⁷²

53. Through its subsidiary machinery, CEB considered fundamental management and administrative issues for the improvement of the coordination and compatibility of administrative procedures throughout the UN system organizations, while taking further steps to strengthen its subsidiary machinery's coherence and coordination by bolstering information exchanges, enhancing thematic collaboration and deepening joint programmatic activities.⁷³

54. The High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), in its support to the CEB as well as acting on its behalf, focused on promoting coordinated action within the United Nations system in several areas of mutual concern.⁷⁴ The HLCM and the HLCP also studied the cross-cutting issues of gender mainstreaming and knowledge management. Deliberations on management issues in a more integrated manner continued with the support of the HLCM, together with its networks, concentrated on activities for the harmonization and reform of management within the competency of UN system executive heads, so as to share information, avoid duplication, and identify effective practices.

55. Through the HLCM, CEB addressed key administrative issues of system-wide concern and focused its efforts on developing the harmonization and simplification of business practices in the areas of procurement, financial management, information and communications technology, human resources, and safety and security of staff, *inter alia*.⁷⁵

56. The Chief Executives Board also devoted increasing attention to operational issues at the country level and to alignment of the work of the United Nations system at the global, regional and country levels. In the context of UN development system activities - and on behalf of CEB - the United Nations Development Group further supported country activities for the acceleration of the realization of the MDGs via the implementation of the Acceleration Framework – for the design and implementation of national strategies aimed at achieving the MDGs - and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in response to Assembly resolution 62/208.⁷⁶ Furthermore, the Chairs of the HLCM and the UNDG organized in 2010 a joint high-level mission to a number of countries to determine and address bottle-necks at a country level with regards to business practice harmonization.

57. Across the United Nations Development Group, CEB assisted with enhancing the resident coordinator system, and improved the responsiveness of UN activities to national priorities, strategies and systems.⁷⁷ With a view to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the United Nations system's operational activities, CEB, through the United Nations Development Group, conferred a high priority to the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations throughout the system.⁷⁸ In the same vein, UNDG approved an action plan for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, while establishing standard operating procedures as guidelines for UN country teams; initiating the “Delivering Results Together” Fund in support of high-performing UN programmes in low and lower-middle

⁷² See Report of the Secretary-General E/2016/56

⁷³ See CEB annual overview report for 2011–2012, E/2012/67; CEB annual overview report for 2011–2012, E/2012/67.

⁷⁴ See CEB annual overview report for 2013, E/2014/69.

⁷⁵ See CEB annual overview report for 2012, E/2013/60.

⁷⁶ See CEB annual overview report for 2011–2012, E/2012/67; CEB annual overview report for 2011–2012, E/2012/67.

⁷⁷ See CEB annual overview report for 2012, E/2013/60.

⁷⁸ See CEB annual overview report for 2014, E/2015/71; Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), A/69/16; Economic and Social Council decision 2014/238, taking note of the annual overview report of CEB for 2013.

income countries in the context of the “Delivering as one” approach; and developing guidance on gender equality marker systems for all UN country teams.⁷⁹

58. In 2010 and 2013, the General Assembly, in its resolutions 64/289 and 67/226, encouraged the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to ensure a transparent approach in priority-setting, and to include appropriate information on the work of the Board in its annual overview report to the Economic and Social Council. In 2014, the General Assembly, in its resolution 69/231, reiterated its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the CEB, to include the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board, to finalize a toolkit for mainstreaming the Programme of Action into the work programmes of the organizations of the UN system.

59. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/8, through its endorsement of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, recognized the increasingly important role of CEB in promoting system-wide coherence and coordination, the elimination of duplication, greater effectiveness and a more efficient use of resources. In particular, it welcomed the Board’s efforts to promote policy coordination and coherence, support United Nations conferences and summits, foster the harmonization and simplification of business practices and improve the effectiveness and impact of operational activities of the United Nations system. The Assembly also emphasized the key role played by CEB in ensuring coordinated United Nations system-wide support in the preparation of and follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda.

ii. *The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC)*

60. Throughout the reporting period, the ICSC further assessed the conditions of service of the staff of the United Nations common system including the base/floor salary scale, the common staff assessment scale, dependency allowances and the education grant, *inter alia*. Regarding the program for the revitalization and reform of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General continued to underscore the need to bolster the effectiveness of the management of human resources in the United Nations system and to enhance the international civil service. The Commission took steps towards harmonizing the conditions of service of the United Nations common system, including through the establishment in 2010 of a New General Service Job Evaluation Standard; a comprehensive assessment of the methodologies for determining and adjusting pensionable remuneration; a revision of the Standards of Conduct in 2013, as well of the Compensation Package in 2015.

61. The High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) assessed ICSC’s activities, underscoring that a continued area concern was that of an effective and flexible management of human resources. ICSC further reported to HLCM on progress made in the aforementioned review of the UN Compensation Package, as provided by the HR Network.⁸⁰ Following the two-year process, with the support of HLCM, the latter took note of the Review of the UN Compensation Package submitted by ICSC to the General Assembly, underlining the importance of the new Package as an essential facilitator for an effective response from organization of the United Nations system to the mandates as laid out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. HLCM further placed a particular emphasis on the need for all UN common system organizations to reach jointly agreed positions on the ICSC’s proposals, while welcoming the recommendations of the Compensation Review that implemented streamlining, simplification, transparency and cost efficiencies; and stressing three areas in which the proposed package could be further improved -

⁷⁹ See CEB annual overview report for 2013, E/2014/69.

⁸⁰ See Conclusions of the Twenty-eighth Session of the High Level Committee on Management, CEB/2014/5; Conclusions of the Thirtieth Session of the High Level Committee on Management, CEB/2015/5.

namely service in difficult field duty stations, geographic mobility of UN staff, and single parents and modern family concepts.⁸¹

62. The Assembly, for its part, encouraged the ICSC to continue to monitor future progress in achieving gender balance, including the aspect of regional representation if it deems it appropriate, and to make recommendations on practical steps that should be taken to improve the representation of women in the organizations of the common system.⁸² The Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board, further urged the heads of the organizations of the common system to offer their full support to the Commission's work, namely by delivering to the latter relevant information in a timely manner for studies that it launches under its statutory responsibilities for the common system.⁸³

iii. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

63. Throughout the reporting period, the Unit bolstered the focus of its programme of work on matters of system-wide relevance by incorporating in its programme of work reports, when relevant, on issues of system-wide interest, value and relevance to the efficient and effective functioning of all organizations to which the Unit provides services.⁸⁴ In the same vein, the Assembly regularly asked the secretariats of the UN and all participating organizations to support the Unit's activities, namely by providing full and timely access to the information it requests pursuant to article 6.2 of the Unit's statute.⁸⁵ Thus, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for the Unit to place a particular emphasis on well-defined and timely items of high priority, aiming for tangible managerial, administrative and programming issues so as to provide concrete and action-oriented recommendations, including those of the development of new tools and processes for the adoption of effective results-based methods to implement and monitor the MDGs.⁸⁶ The General Assembly also reiterated that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, should ensure the appropriate support to and involvement of the Unit, while underlining that JIU should stress prioritization and timeliness in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions providing practical and action-oriented recommendations - recognizing the Unit's efforts to apply results-base management in its work.⁸⁷

64. In the prior reporting period, JIU had developed a results-based Strategic Framework for 2010-2019, according to the priority areas relevant to its mandate, consequently offering a roadmap for increased oversight in response to stakeholders' demands, thereafter recognized by General Assembly Resolution 63/272.⁸⁸ The Unit continued to focus its efforts on the medium- and long-term strategy approach for 2010-2019, which encompassed the dynamics and challenges of the environment in which it operated.⁸⁹

⁸¹ See Conclusions of the Twenty-eighth Session of the High Level Committee on Management, CEB/2014/5; Conclusions of the Thirtieth Session of the High Level Committee on Management, CEB/2015/5.

⁸² See GA resolution 64/231 on the United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2009.

⁸³ See GA resolution 65/248 on the United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission.

⁸⁴ See GA resolution 64/262 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010.

⁸⁵ See GA resolution 64/262 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010; GA resolution 65/270 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011; GA resolution 66/259 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 67/256 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 68/266 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 69/275 on the Joint Inspection Unit.

⁸⁶ See GA resolution 64/262 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010; GA resolution 65/270 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011; GA resolution 66/259 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 68/266 on the Joint Inspection Unit.

⁸⁷ See GA resolution 64/262 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010; GA resolution 65/270 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011; GA resolution 66/259 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 68/266 on the Joint Inspection Unit.

⁸⁸ See GA resolution 64/262 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010; GA resolution 65/270 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011; GA resolution 66/259 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 66/259 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 67/256 on the Joint Inspection Unit.

⁸⁹ See GA resolution 69/275 on the Joint Inspection Unit.

65. The Assembly welcomed JIU's efforts - in coordination with external and internal oversight bodies of the United Nations system - to expand their interaction and bolster their relations, aiming for an enhanced coordination among them regarding the oversight coverage and sharing of best practices, which led to an increased impact of oversight activities, preventing duplication.⁹⁰ The Assembly also noted the need to enhance the effectiveness of the Unit and its system-wide oversight capability.⁹¹ JIU assessed the coordination and cooperation among UN oversight bodies so as to support their improved synergy and mutual complementarity in joint activities - bolstering of the effectiveness of the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization.⁹² The Unit enhanced its coordination with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of the Secretariat, by sharing experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.⁹³

66. During the period under consideration, JIU also evaluated accountability frameworks, transparency in the selection and appointment of senior managers⁹⁴ and risk management within the United Nations.⁹⁵ The Unit concentrated on issues such as the best practices in developing and implementing accountability frameworks - based on transparency and a culture of accountability, while recommending to organizations without stand-alone accountability systems to develop them as a matter of priority. JIU further examined enterprise risk management policies, practices and experience in the UN system, and identified best practices and lessons learned. JIU found that progress across entities of the United Nations system remained slow and dependent on ad hoc decisions rather than a formal process. JIU attributed such slow advancement to the lack of formal implementation plans; of governance structures to support such implementation; and the pressure of competing reform initiatives, *inter alia*. Additionally, JIU underlined the need for a common approach to ensure system-wide coherence, as well as an optimal use of the limited resources available, finally identifying ten benchmarks for their successful implementation by UN organizations.⁹⁶

67. In line with the Unit's conclusions, the Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly endorse a proposal for the establishment of a dedicated enterprise risk management and internal control framework within the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, that would enhance performance against targets; support a more efficient utilization of resources; bolster the Secretariat's internal control system; and lastly improve accountability and performance management at all levels.⁹⁷ CEB further consolidated the inputs of its member organizations, that mostly expressed their support of the JIU report's recommendations, particularly that of the strong focus on the political compact (covenant) with Member States. The latter member organizations stressed the need for legislative bodies' to continue advancing on results-based management and

⁹⁰ See GA resolution 64/262 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010; GA resolution 65/270 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011; GA resolution 66/259 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 66/259 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 67/256 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 69/275 on the Joint Inspection Unit.

⁹¹ See GA resolution 67/256 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 68/266 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 69/275 on the Joint Inspection Unit.

⁹² See GA resolution 64/262 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010; GA resolution 66/259 on the Joint Inspection Unit; GA resolution 67/256 on the Joint Inspection Unit.

⁹³ See GA resolution 64/262 on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010.

⁹⁴ See JIU report, A/66/380, on transparency in the selection and appointment of senior managers in the UN Secretariat.

⁹⁵ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/788, transmitting to the General Assembly a JIU report (JIU/REP/2010/4) entitled "Review of enterprise risk management in the United Nations system: benchmarking framework"; GA resolution 64/259; Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), JIU/REP/2011/5, on accountability frameworks in the UN system.

⁹⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/788, transmitting to the General Assembly a JIU report (JIU/REP/2010/4) entitled "Review of enterprise risk management in the United Nations system: benchmarking framework"; Note by the Secretary-General, A/65/788/Add.1, on the Review of enterprise risk management in the United Nations system.

⁹⁷ See GA resolution 64/259; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/692; GA resolution 66/257; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/714, on the accountability system in the UN Secretariat; GA resolution 67/253; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/697, on the accountability system in the UN Secretariat; Report of Secretary-General A/70/668.

delivering the necessary resources.⁹⁸ CEB member organizations further endorsed the Unit's findings that the substance of the accountability framework was more important than its form, and that the lack of a procurement challenge mechanism was a common aspect within the agencies.⁹⁹ The member organizations finally noted that the JIU report would benefit from further elaboration on several issues. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) made several recommendations on the implementation of Secretary-General's and JIU's report, notably to enhance the content of future advancement reports by delivering more comprehensive and transparent information, as well as on the implementation of recommendations of oversight bodies, results-based management and performance reporting.¹⁰⁰

68. Furthermore, during the reporting period, JIU prepared a report entitled "Post-Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations system".¹⁰¹ In the latter report, JIU prepared thirteen recommendations to improve the governance of, and programmatic and administrative support for multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) of United Nations organizations. JIU did so by identifying means to support the enhancement of coordination, coherence and synergies between MEAs and entities of the United Nations system, bolstering a more integrated approach to international environmental governance (IEG) and management at all levels. In light of the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, JIU assessed how its participating organizations could promote policy coherence, enhance efficiency, reduce unnecessary duplication and improve the coordination of and cooperation on activities with the Organization. JIU also reviewed means to ensure the systemic consolidation of strategies in the environmental area in the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development. The Unit further assessed advancement made in the implementation of its recommendations in the 2008 review on environmental governance, while reporting on the identified central and emerging changes and challenges to the strengthening of IEG in light of the new institutional framework laid out by the Rio+20 Conference.

2. Recommendations for the Coordination of Programme Planning

69. During the reporting period, the HLCP noted that action on sustainable globalization was at the very core of its mandate for furthering policy and programme coherence as well as integration, expanding its work in the lead-up to key intergovernmental processes such as the Rio+20 Conference, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs and the 2013 review of the Millennium Development Goals.¹⁰² The Committee further recognized that the outcome of the Millennium Development Goals Summit was linked to its activities supporting a fairer, greener, sustainable globalization.¹⁰³ HLCP, in its role as facilitator of programmatic coherence and coordination of the UN system, assessed and established a UN system-wide view on the recommendations and findings of the post-2015 High-level Panel's report as a contribution to the Secretary-General's report on "Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations

⁹⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/710, transmitting a JIU report on accountability frameworks in the UN system and a Note, A/66/710/Add.1, setting out the views of UN system organizations on the recommendations of JIU.

⁹⁹ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/710, transmitting a JIU report on accountability frameworks in the UN system and a Note, A/66/710/Add.1, setting out the views of UN system organizations on the recommendations of JIU.

¹⁰⁰ See Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), A/66/738; GA resolution 66/257 [agenda item 132] on Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat; Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), A/67/776; GA resolution 68/264 without vote [agenda item 132] on Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat; Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), A/69/802.

¹⁰¹ See Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), JIU/REP/2014/4.

¹⁰² See High-Level Committee on Programmes Report of 20th Session (September 2010, Geneva), CEB/2010/6; High-Level Committee on Programmes Report of 21st Session (March 2011, New York), CEB/2011/4.

¹⁰³ See High-Level Committee on Programmes Report of 20th Session (September 2010, Geneva), CEB/2010/6.

development agenda beyond 2015”.¹⁰⁴ The Committee also decided to concentrate its activities on a limited number of strategic issues so as to support CEB in identifying and responding to emerging programmatic issues of concern to the entities and bodies of the United Nations system. These issues included those of “Youth Employment” and the “Urban Agenda”, chosen as two “prototype” platforms for the practical application of the key elements of the post-2015 agenda as determined by CEB - and supporting the mobilization of United Nations system capacity and operationalizing the development of issue-based collaborations.¹⁰⁵

70. In its 2012 Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development system of the United Nations system, the General Assembly offered intergovernmental direction for the United Nations system’s operational activities for development, particularly at the country level over the period 2013–2017.¹⁰⁶

3. Recommendations for the Coordination of Administrative and Budgetary Matters

a. Administrative and budgetary matters

71. The High-Level Committee on Management and its networks considered the issue of procurement arbitration, and assessed practices and processes in the managing of arbitration/claim cases as evaluated in a report conducted by the United Nations Board of Auditors. The General Assembly asked that the Secretary-General support entities of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, in their efforts to implement the OIOS’ recommendations in their entirety, along with those of the Board of Auditors, concerning procurement, pursuant to the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.¹⁰⁷ In its review of offshoring policies, practices and experiences in the United Nations system, JIU made the recommendation to develop an offshoring policy based on a cost-benefit analysis of all sourcing options for the delivery of services for all sourcing alternatives, in line with the organizations’ corporate strategies, while exploring all inter-agency opportunities before preparing such offshoring policies.¹⁰⁸ JIU also recognized that procurement needed to be viewed as a profession and acknowledged as an essential function on par with others to be adequately structured and resourced.¹⁰⁹

72. The General Assembly, when assessing the implementation of its resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, and 59/272, stressed that tangible, effective and efficient mechanisms were fundamental to safeguard responsibility and accountability.¹¹⁰ The Assembly also agreed with OIOS’ recommendations, including the development of a high-level follow-up mechanism under the Secretary-General’s leadership, in order to effectively share findings and recommendations of OIOS, JIU, and the Board of Auditors, into the executive management systems.

73. ACABQ welcomed the different initiatives established by entities of the United Nations system to enhance effectiveness, namely the assessment of vendor management and the

¹⁰⁴ See High-Level Committee on Programmes Report of 25th Session (March 2013, Paris), CEB/2013/4.

¹⁰⁵ See High-Level Committee on Programmes, Report of 28th Session (October 2014, New York), CEB/2014/6; High-Level Committee on Programmes, Report of 30th Session (October 2015, New York), CEB/2015/6.

¹⁰⁶ See below section on “Operational Activities for Development”.

¹⁰⁷ See GA resolution 65/261 without vote [agenda item 128] on Procurement; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/63, transmitting to the Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU); Note by the Secretary-General, A/65/63/Add.1, transmitting to the Assembly his comments and those of CEB on the JIU report; Report of Secretary-General, A/69/710.

¹⁰⁸ See Note by the Secretary-General, A/65/63/Add.1, transmitting to the Assembly his comments and those of CEB on the JIU report.

¹⁰⁹ See 2011 Note of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), JIU/NOTE/2011/1, transmitting the report of its study of procurement reform in the UN system.

¹¹⁰ See GA resolution 64/263 without vote [agenda item 141] on Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272; GA resolution 69/253 without vote [agenda item 143] on the Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, 59/272 and 64/263.

implementation of related recommendations.¹¹¹ Concerning the matter of accountability, the Advisory Committee requested the Secretary-General to offer associated information, while recommending that the Organization address the weaknesses in the procurement procedure recognized by the Board of Auditors.¹¹² The General Assembly called upon executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system to further deepen their activities to enhance the efficiency of procurement by reducing duplication and harmonizing the procurement processes throughout the system as a whole, in close collaboration with the Procurement Service of the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat.¹¹³ The Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group and of the Common Services Procurement Working Group focused their efforts on improving the transparency and the harmonization of procurement practices, while the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the observations of the Board of Auditors and OIOS, to include in his reports data on the accountability factor within the procurement reform framework.¹¹⁴ Following the OIOS' proposal to establish a fully systematic monitoring framework for Secretariat procurement activities, the Secretary-General tasked the Office of Central Support Services to prepare an action plan for the implementation of such a framework.¹¹⁵

74. During the period under review, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) reviewed the long-term agreements (LTAS) in procurement in the United Nations system, suggesting that the utilization of such agreements was relevant and, to a certain extent, efficient and effective as it generated administrative efficiencies for goods and services needed on a regular basis by merging recurrent procurements into a single one.¹¹⁶ Furthermore, they allowed for opportunities for an increased volume leverage and best value for money through demand aggregation throughout all organizations and the UN system.¹¹⁷ Nevertheless, LTAS comprised a number of potential risks associated with their policies and practices, as many organizations lacked LTA-specific policies to strategically develop and manage LTAS, and monitor and evaluate their outcomes, which could decrease their capacity to achieve the potential benefits of such contracts.

75. JIU made the recommendation to plan LTAS strategically as a whole process - namely the managing the procurement process, aggregating demand, conducting market analysis, reaching out to a greater pool of vendors, ensuring competition, assessing and managing risks, and efficiently managing the contracts, *inter alia* - which would allow UN organizations to identify opportunities for collaboration through joint LTAS, diminishing duplications and increasing volume leverage and synergies.¹¹⁸ So as to enhance procurement collaboration throughout the United Nations system, organizations should incorporate collaboration-specific provisions into their procurement regulations and harmonize their procurement policies and documents, with the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management playing a chief role in this harmonization. JIU reached the conclusion that procurement, as one of the highest expenditure items and a strategic instrument to realizing organizational targets, needed the close oversight of legislative and governing bodies. Procurement should evolve from a transactional and reactive administrative function to a proactive strategic one, with JIU making five recommendations to executive heads in this regard. Organizations supported JIU's conclusions that shifting procurement to a more strategic role would assist organizations in reaching their targets, and that the Procurement Network of the

¹¹¹ See Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), A/69/809.

¹¹² See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/683 & Add.1, on United Nations procurement activities.

¹¹³ See GA resolution 68/263 without vote [agenda item 132] on Procurement.

¹¹⁴ See GA resolution 66/265; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/683/Add.2.

¹¹⁵ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/710.

¹¹⁶ See Note by the Secretary-General, A/69/73-JIU/REP/2013/1, transmitting to the General Assembly a report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Review of long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system".

¹¹⁷ See Note by the Secretary-General, A/69/73-JIU/REP/2013/1, transmitting to the General Assembly a report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Review of long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system".

¹¹⁸ See Note by the Secretary-General, A/69/73-JIU/REP/2013/1, transmitting to the General Assembly a report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Review of long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system".

High-level Committee on Management should play a greater role in harmonization and collaborative procurement.¹¹⁹

76. The Secretary-General, with the support of the Assembly, established in the prior period the Independent Audit Advisory Committee to support the Assembly in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities, while playing its chief role to review the OIOS budget and audit work plans, evaluating its work and efficiency.¹²⁰ The Committee further completed additional functions such as examining the system of internal control and risk management, coordination among UN oversight bodies, examining with the United Nations Board of Auditors the audited financial statements, and reviewing the effectiveness and independence of the internal audit process, *inter alia*.¹²¹

b. Oversight

77. During the period under examination, the Secretary-General continued to acknowledge the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in support of the enhancement of relationships with management and governments, as well as the coordination of its activities and programme with other oversight bodies, including the Board of External Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).¹²² The year 2014 also marked OIOS' twentieth anniversary since its inception in General Assembly resolution 48/218 B.

78. JIU reported on progress made in improving the Organization's audit function in response to demands for an improved transparency and accountability.¹²³ The Unit recognized that there had been an improvement in the scope, coverage and effectiveness of audit activity, however the audit function still required further coherence and coordination system-wide. JIU identified a number of challenges the internal audit/oversight heads faced, such as those of ensuring adequate audit resources; auditing the "One United Nations" initiative; coordination with other oversight bodies; the need for independence and objectivity; and the lack of accountability and sanctions against those responsible for the non-implementation of recommendations.¹²⁴ A series of recommendations were made for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the audit function in entities of the United Nations system, such as on the periodic review of the authority and responsibility of internal auditors; means to enhance the independence and status of the function; the accountability, transparency and comprehensiveness of internal auditors' reporting; and the follow-up systems on implementation of recommendations, *inter alia*.

79. OIOS continued to make recommendations and monitor their implementation for the improvement of internal controls, accountability mechanisms and organizational efficiency and effectiveness, aimed at cost savings, recoveries of overpayment, efficiency gains and other improvements.¹²⁵ Throughout its recommendations, OIOS stressed the need to establish an

¹¹⁹ See Note of Secretary-General, A/69/73/ Add.1.

¹²⁰ See GA resolution 69/273.

¹²¹ See Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, A/65/329.

¹²² See GA resolution 65/250 without vote [agenda items 128 & 139] on the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities; GA resolution 66/236 without vote [agenda items 132 & 142] on the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities.

¹²³ See Note by the Secretary-General, A/66/73, transmitting the report of JIU on the audit function of the UN system organizations; Note by the Secretary-General, A/66/73/Add.1, on The audit function in the United Nations system.

¹²⁴ See Note by the Secretary-General, A/66/73, on The audit function in the United Nations system; Note by the Secretary-General, A/66/73/Add.1, on The audit function in the United Nations system.

¹²⁵ See Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/65/271 (Part I) & Corr.1; Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/65/271 (Part I)/Add.1 & Corr.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/66/286 (Part I); Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/66/286 (Part I)/Add.1; Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/67/297 (Part I)/Add.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/68/337(Part I); Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/68/337 (Part I)/Add.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/69/308(Part I); Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/69/308 (Part I)/Add.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/70/318 (Part I) & Add.1 & Corr.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/70/318 (Part II).

accountability framework, namely a formal internal control framework to ensure the consistent and systematic management of risks via concentrated control procedures. OIOS, while recognizing that making audit reports available to the public remained an issue of policy under the Assembly purview, noted that such a publication would improve transparency and encourage more timely responses to critical and important issues, while requesting the Assembly to endorse the proposal to make internal audit reports accessible on the OIOS publicly accessible website.¹²⁶ The Assembly approved the proposal on an experimental basis in resolution 67/258. In its resolution 69/253, the Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to entrust the OIOS with publishing audit and evaluation reports on the OIOS website as from 1 January 2015.

80. With regards to oversight issues, the Independent Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Review of Governance and Oversight within the United Nations and its Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies recommended the implementation of a risk management framework (see *supra*), assigning responsibility for internal controls and reporting on their effectiveness to executive management. On the Steering Committee's recommendation, the Assembly established in the period prior an Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC). IAAC considered the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of audit services as well as other functions of OIOS, recommending, *inter alia*, that proactive investigations be strengthened within the Investigation Division, as requested by the Assembly in resolution 62/247.¹²⁷ The Committee further found that OIOS was lacking a long-term strategic plan – other than the two-year plan, and therefore made the recommendation to develop a fully integrated long-term strategic plan, that would address the objectives and strategies aligned with key UN risks.¹²⁸ IAAC recognized the establishment in 2013 by OIOS of programme impact pathways as a management instrument for each division, as well as for OIOS as a whole, while recommending that OIOS should develop specific objectives for such impact pathways.

c. Personnel Questions

i. Pay and conditions of service

81. During the reporting period, entities and bodies of the United Nations system made a series of recommendations on the issues of pay and benefits across the United Nations system, with requests to the ICSC to improve the transparency and administrative simplicity in such matters. The Assembly, via the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), regularly assessed the conditions of service of the staff of the United Nations common system, while adopting several ICSC recommendations on revising the conditions of service, on the bolstering of the international civil service and on the staff's conditions of service in the professional and higher categories, on the common staff assessment scale, and on developing standards of conduct and dependency allowances, *inter alia*.¹²⁹

82. Moreover, the Commission reviewed the pay and benefits system, hazard pay levels and the best prevalent conditions of employment, *inter alia*.¹³⁰ With regards to the conditions of service, the Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposals for streamlining United Nations contractual arrangements and harmonizing conditions of service, under which a single series of

¹²⁶ See GA resolution 66/236; Proposal of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/66/674.

¹²⁷ See Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, A/68/273; Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, A/69/304; GA resolution 68/21.

¹²⁸ See Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, A/69/304; GA resolution 68/21.

¹²⁹ See GA resolution 44/198; GA resolution 68/244 without vote [agenda item 133] on Managing after-service health insurance liabilities; Report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), A/69/30.

¹³⁰ See Report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), A/65/30; Report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), A/65/30.

staff rules would provide for one United Nations staff contract.¹³¹ In the context of the programme for reform and revitalization of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General, continued his efforts to strengthen entities of the United Nations system, including ICSC.

83. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audited the Secretariat's recruitment process and reviewed the implementation of Assembly provisions on human resources management.¹³² The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), for its part, assessed the conditions of travel, staff mobility, the process of senior-level appointments, delegation of authority for the management of human and financial resources in the UN Secretariat, and selection and condition of service of executive heads, *inter alia*.¹³³

ii. Privileges and immunities, and the safety and security of United Nations personnel

84. In light of the upsurge of increasingly complex security incidents affecting United Nations and connected personnel serving in the field, the Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Security Council emphasized the need to address issues related to their privileges and immunities. The Assembly and the Secretary-General underscored their concern over this rise of attacks on United Nations personnel, stressing that the responsibility for the security and safety of such personnel lay mainly on host Member States, that were strongly urged to implement all crucial protective measures and to prosecute the perpetrators of such acts.¹³⁴

85. So as to strengthen of the security and safety of United Nations staff and associated humanitarian personnel, the Assembly stressed the need to allot adequate and predictable resources. The Assembly thereafter requested the Secretary-General to ensure the respect of privileges and immunities of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities to realize the mandate of a United Nations operation. The Assembly further urged governments to take stronger action to ensure that threats or acts of violence against staff on their territory was properly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice. The Assembly called for the full cooperation of Member States with the Organization in complex humanitarian emergencies to ensure the safe access of humanitarian personnel, enabling an efficient performance of their task.¹³⁵

86. The Secretary-General stressed that while physical security was a core element of UN security management, the sustainable security management approach required a multidimensional approach.¹³⁶ He further reaffirmed his call to governments to support the Saving Lives Together framework, and requested that they ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on

¹³¹ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/353, on managing after-service health insurance liabilities; GA resolution 64/241; GA resolution 65/259.

¹³² See Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/65/271 (Part I) & Corr.1; Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/65/271 (Part I)/Add.1 & Corr.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/66/286 (Part I); Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/66/286 (Part I)/Add.1; Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/67/297 (Part I)/Add.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/68/337 (Part I); Addendum to the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/68/337 (Part I)/Add.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/69/308 (Part I); Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/70/318 (Part I) & Add.1 & Corr.1; Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/70/318 (Part II).

¹³³ See Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) annual report to the General Assembly, A/65/34; Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) annual report to the General Assembly, A/67/34; Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) annual report to the General Assembly, A/68/34; Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) annual report to the General Assembly, A/69/34.

¹³⁴ See GA resolution 66/117; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel.

¹³⁵ See GA resolution 65/132; GA resolution 66/117; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492; GA resolution 67/85; GA resolution 68/101; GA resolution 68/101; GA resolution 68/101; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/406; GA resolution 69/133; GA resolution 70/104; GA resolution 70/104.

¹³⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/344 & Corr.1, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel; GA resolution 68/101; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/406; Report of the Secretary-General, A/70/383, on the safety and security of UN and associated personnel; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/345, on the safety and security of UN and associated personnel; Report of Secretary-General, A/70/383, on the safety and security of UN and associated personnel.

the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 60/42.¹³⁷ The Secretary-General also recommended the development of a dedicated emergency preparedness and support unit in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, so as to coordinate medical, psychological, welfare and administrative issues encountered by surviving staff and affected families. The proposed Unit would support duty stations, country offices and security management teams to establish, implement, maintain and facilitate emergency medical and mass casualty management plans, as well as a comprehensive support system including risk-based preparedness, emergency response and post-emergency response.¹³⁸

87. Following the appointment of a United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECCOORD) by the Secretary-General in the prior period, the UNSECCOORD supported him in realizing his obligation to ensure the security of United Nations personnel.¹³⁹ The UNSECCOORD concentrated his efforts on bolstering collaboration between host Governments and the Organization on security matters, professionalizing personnel security within the United Nations system through the enhancement of recruitment and training, and the institutionalization of security coordination among United Nations agencies, Funds, and Programmes through the development of an Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN).¹⁴⁰

88. Entities and bodies of the United Nations system focused their efforts on the enhancement of security arrangements at Headquarters and at offices away from Headquarters, including the regional commissions, with the establishment in the period prior of the of Safety and Security (UNDSS) by the Assembly that focused its activities on the strategic management of safety and security operations at the Security and Safety Service (SSS) locations, offering operational and technical support. The Assembly also adopted measures for the bolstering of security operations worldwide.

89. The HLCM Steering Committee on Safety and Security supported - in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Security Management Network and the UNDSS - the development of a series of actions to re-align the security management culture from a “when to leave” method towards a new risk-management based approach further to the notion of “how to stay”.¹⁴¹ The Steering Committee additionally recommended alterations to the Security Phase System, stressing that a strong, dynamic and proactive security and risk management structure was necessary so as to enhance the protection of United Nations staff, and enable critical programme operations to continue in insecure and unstable environments. The Committee developed several tools and mechanisms to enhance the work under the CEB principle of “how to stay”.¹⁴² Through the High-Level Committee on Management, CEB called on governments to focus their efforts on ensuring the core resources for the United Nations security system remain at a suitable level to correspond to the new context, and to ensure that entities and bodies of the United Nations system are offered suitable and sustainable funding for security, so as to allow for the safe and effective implementation of their mandates.

90. During the period under consideration, the Department of Safety and Security, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, supported the development of policies for the UN security management system in relation to the security of UN premises; UN

¹³⁷ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/344 & Corr.1, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel; GA resolution 67/85; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/489; GA resolution 68/101; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/406.

¹³⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/64/662.

¹³⁹ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel.

¹⁴⁰ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel.

¹⁴¹ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel.

¹⁴² See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel; GA resolution 65/259.

security management system board of enquiry; and security training and certification, *inter alia*.¹⁴³ The High-level Committee on Management and the UN System Chief Executive Board for Coordination endorsed such policies that came into effect in 2012. Moreover, the Department of Safety and Security, in consultation with UN humanitarian agencies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and NGOs, implemented the “Saving lives together” framework, which was designed to make coordination and the exchange of security information more systematic and reliable.¹⁴⁴ Entities and bodies of the United Nations system focused their efforts on bolstering the Organization’s security management system, so as to allow it to deliver its programmes and activities, particularly in areas with heightened security risks, including through enhancing crisis response capacity; reforming security management training; modernizing information instruments for security threat and risk analysis; establishing practical policies and guidelines and enhancing collaboration with host Governments, as well as with governmental and non-governmental organizations¹⁴⁵

91. To enhance the strategic vision of the UN security management system and in line with the security risk management approach, the security phase system was abolished as of 1 January 2011, while the security level system was introduced in its stead to assist security managers in developing measures to address risks and support UN programmes and activities. The Department of Safety and Security, for its part, established - with the Inter-Agency Security Management Network - the UN security management system policy on arrest and detention, which entered into force on 14 April 2012, to support UN designated officials for security, security management teams and security professionals in keeping close liaison with host Member State authorities, founded on an efficient information-sharing mechanism and a joint analysis of security threats.¹⁴⁶ In its efforts to enhance the UN security management system, the Organization promoted collaboration with host government authorities in the areas of security-related information sharing, threat analysis, contingency planning and all facets of security risk management, namely that of protective measures for UN personnel. The Programme Criticality Steering Committee’s Coordination Team continued to support UN teams in country that expressed their wish to undertake programme criticality assessments.¹⁴⁷

iii. Administration of Justice

92. Throughout the period under consideration, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) assessed the machinery for the administration of justice in the United Nations system, discussing occasions for higher recourse regarding the reform of the administration of justice in the United Nations system.¹⁴⁸

93. Following the establishment of a new system of administration of justice in the prior period¹⁴⁹, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) of the new system of administration of justice carried out its functions of the court for United Nations system staff members challenging an administrative decision from an entity over which the court has jurisdiction and on the grounds that the applicant considers violates their staff member rights. The UNDT functioned as the first instance court of the United Nations internal justice system, in its mandate as the first court of the

¹⁴³ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel; GA resolution 67/85; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/489.

¹⁴⁴ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel; GA resolution 67/85; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/489.

¹⁴⁵ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/492, on the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian personnel; GA resolution 67/85; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/489.

¹⁴⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General report, A/66/345, on the safety and security of UN and associated personnel.

¹⁴⁷ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/530; GA resolution 67/254 A.

¹⁴⁸ See GA resolution 68/254 without vote [agenda item 143] on the Administration of justice at the United Nations; GA resolution 70/112.

¹⁴⁹ See GA resolution 65/251 without vote [agenda item 140] on the Administration of justice at the United Nations; GA resolution 66/237 without vote [agenda item 143] on the Administration of justice at the United Nations.

United Nations internal justice system that staff members and former staff members may apply to. The United Nations Appeals Tribunal (UNAT) - as the second level appellate review tribunal within the internal justice system – focused its activities on reviewing, within its respective jurisdiction, appeals against judgments rendered by the UNDT, the Dispute Tribunal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as well as appeals of decisions made by the Standing Committee acting on behalf of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (UNJSPB), and by those organizations, agencies and entities that accepted UNAT's jurisdiction. The Office of Staff Legal Assistance (OSLA) also offered legal advice and representation to United Nations staff members (and former staff or affected dependents) who would like to appeal an unfavorable administrative decision, or who are subject to disciplinary action.

94. The Secretary-General recognized the new system as a substantial improvement, better resourced and more professional – nevertheless the success of the system had resulted in severe strains upon the financial and human resources of the entities servicing it, meaning that a number of components required alterations, enhancement or further consideration. He therefore made a series of recommendations, including with proposed amendments to certain articles of the statutes, aiming to enhance the Tribunals' functioning.¹⁵⁰ The Secretary-General noted the lack of a mechanism to address complaints made against judges of the Tribunals, and recommended as an interim measure that the Assembly empower the Internal Justice Council to examine complaints against judges, and to report on such complaints to the Assembly for action, as appropriate. As for a permanent mechanism, the Secretary-General proposed that complaints concerning the misconduct or incapacity of a judge should be reported to the President of the Tribunal in question, who would first investigate the claim, and thereafter select a panel of specialists to lead the investigation. The matter would be reported to the Assembly if it was found to be of particular severity to warrant the removal of the judge.

95. The Secretary-General further made recommendations on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, stressing that there needed to be a shift in organizational culture that acknowledged the importance of conflict prevention and conflict management in addressing with issues before they became public or adversarial.¹⁵¹ ACABQ commented on the Secretary-General's report on the administration of justice, the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the proposed amendments to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.¹⁵²

96. The Internal Justice Council - established in response to Assembly resolution 62/228 – assisted with ensuring the independence, professionalism and accountability in the new system. It submitted to the Secretary-General, for transmission to the Assembly, the code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.¹⁵³ The

¹⁵⁰ See GA resolution 63/253; GA resolution 64/233; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/373 & Corr.1, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/275 & Corr.1, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/275, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; GA resolution 66/237; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/265 & Corr.1, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; GA resolution 68/254; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/227, on the administration of justice at the United Nations; Report of the Secretary-General, A/70/187, on the administration of justice at the United Nations.

¹⁵¹ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/332; GA resolution 65/251; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/224, on the activities of the integrated Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services for 2010; GA resolution 66/237; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/172, on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services for 2011; GA resolution 67/241; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/158 on the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/126.

¹⁵² See ACABQ report, A/67/547; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/530; ACABQ report A/70/420.

¹⁵³ See Report of the Internal Justice Council, A/65/86, submitted to the Secretary-General, for transmission to the General Assembly; Report of the Internal Justice Council, A/65/304; Report of the Internal Justice Council, A/66/158; Report of the Internal Justice Council, A/66/158; Report of the Internal Justice Council, A/67/98; Report of the Internal Justice Council, A/68/306; Report of the Internal Justice Council, A/69/205.

General Assembly, in resolution 66/106, approved the code of conduct, the text of which was annexed to the resolution.¹⁵⁴The Internal Justice Council further recommended the establishment of a complaints panel by the Assembly, which would hear and determine any complaints that a judge had breached the code of conduct or was otherwise unfit to occupy judicial office. The President of the Dispute Tribunal expressed the Tribunal judges' concerns over the recommendations encompassed in the reports of the Secretary-General and Internal Justice Council.¹⁵⁵

B. The Making of Recommendations in Substantive Areas

1. Recommendations in Economic Growth and Development

a. Overall development concerns

97. Further to the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the General Assembly convened a high-level plenary meeting on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session in 2010¹⁵⁶. The Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations funds, programmes and regional commissions, and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, had an important role to play in advancing development and in protecting development gains, in accordance with national strategies and priorities, including progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We will continue to take steps for a strong, well-coordinated, coherent and effective United Nations system in support of the Millennium Development Goals. This was followed by a special event towards achieving the MDGs by 2015, convened by the President of the General Assembly in September 2013.

98. Twenty years after the 1992 "Earth Summit", the Organization held in 2012 the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)¹⁵⁷ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, building upon the MDGs while converging with the post-2015 development agenda. The Conference culminated in the adoption by Member States of the outcome document "The Future We Want"¹⁵⁸ in which they made the decision, *inter alia*, to initiate a process to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) founded on the MDGs and to establish the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The latter Rio +20 outcome document furthermore comprised a series of measures for the implementation of sustainable development, including mandates for future programmes of work in development financing, small island developing states and more.

99. The outcome document "The Future We Want" thereafter led to the adoption by all Member States in 2015, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which offered a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for all worldwide, at the present and in the future. Member States emphasized its transformative, universal and inclusive nature, its applicability to all countries and stakeholders and its motto of leaving no one behind. The 2030 Agenda comprised a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be delivered by 2030, which consisted of an urgent call for action by all government - developed and developing - in a global partner, acknowledging that ending poverty, illiteracy, gender discrimination, among other deprivations should go hand-in-hand with strategies that advance health and education, reduce inequality, and stimulate economic

¹⁵⁴ See Report of the Internal Justice Council, A/66/158; GA resolution 66/106 without vote [agenda item 143] on the Code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

¹⁵⁵ See Letter to the General Assembly President, A/66/507.

¹⁵⁶ GA Resolution 65/1

¹⁵⁷ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, A/CONF.216/16.

¹⁵⁸ See GA resolution 66/288, entitled "The Future We Want".

growth – all while facing the issues of climate change and focusing efforts on the preservation of the planet, notably the oceans and forests.

100. In addition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other far-reaching global agreements were adopted in 2015, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030¹⁵⁹, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development¹⁶⁰, and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

101. As for the role played by the United Nations system in development activities, a strong emphasis was placed on the need to strengthen and enhance the capacity of the main organs of the United Nations through reform and revitalization, ensuring a coordinated approach, coherent policies, as well as an efficient use of resources. Accordingly, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies focused their efforts on supporting the transition to the new global agenda.¹⁶¹

b. Operational activities for development

102. Further to the General Assembly 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review of the operational activities for development, the United Nations system entities continued their effort to improve the coherence and functioning of the United Nations development system, notably through the operationalization and evaluation of the “Delivering as one” initiative in accepting countries.¹⁶² In this respect and according to their respective mandates, they concentrated their activities at the field level on providing support to programme countries in accordance with their identified priorities for the achievement of the targets and commitments laid out in the Millennium Declaration and other United Nations conferences and summits.¹⁶³

103. The Second Committee of the General Assembly continued to carry out periodic comprehensive policy reviews of operational activities for development. In 2008, this frequency was changed from three to four years to better provide policy guidance to the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies¹⁶⁴, and 2012 was the first year that a *quadrennial* comprehensive policy review (QCPR) took place. The Economic and Social Council follows up annually on its implementation through its operational activities segment. The Second Committee of the General Assembly also reviews operational activities for development annually, taking on board the outcomes and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council. A key instrument for the 2012 QCPR was the introduction of the new monitoring framework, which assessed advancement made in its implementation system-wide on a quantitative basis. This framework sets a series of specific and time-bound indicators, thereby decreasing reliance on activity reporting from individual United Nations entities.

¹⁵⁹ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II

¹⁶⁰ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex

¹⁶¹ E/2016/56

¹⁶² See Report of the Secretary-General, E/2010/70 on Results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/22 [E/2010/L.32] without vote [agenda item 3 (a)] on Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; Report of the Secretary-General, E/2011/112 on Results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; Joint report of the UNDP Administrator and the UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Directors, E/2013/5 on progress, achievements and challenges in the last year of the triennial comprehensive policy review cycle.

¹⁶³ See Report of the Secretary-General, E/2011/112 on Results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

¹⁶⁴ RES/63/232/OP18.

104. Throughout the review period, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the governing bodies of specialized agencies, funds and programmes, composed a three-tiered intertwined intergovernmental policy-making and oversight mechanism for the operational activities for development across the Organization.¹⁶⁵ They sought to enhance the means by which they executed their respective roles in order to progress on the reforms as demanded by Member States in the UN development system's operations and activities.

105. During the period under consideration, the Organization underlined the need to continue efforts towards the harmonization and simplification of procedures within the United Nations system for operational activities for development, founded on the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, so as to support national development strategies.¹⁶⁶ In this regard, the Assembly reiterated the necessity for UN country development support strategies to be founded on collective aims, comprising coordinated time frames, and to incorporate the normative and operational features within the United Nations system regarding sustainable development. In order to achieve the wide-ranging United Nations development agenda, the Assembly called for specialized agencies - including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization - to assimilate and align their policies and programmes with those of Member States, internationally agreed goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and accordingly to establish approaches throughout the United Nations system to reach development aims, which thereafter could be turned into national policies and programmes.¹⁶⁷ Thus, heads of funds and programmes were required to translate the aforementioned policy guidance, mainly in follow-up to major conferences and summits, along with the quadrennial comprehensive policy reviews, into operational guidelines and programmes, as well as to keep the Council and Assembly informed on the advancement realized in the review and its emerging challenges.¹⁶⁸

106. The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General submit analytical reports on results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to the QCPR for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council on the basis of information provided by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system.¹⁶⁹ Under the auspices of the Council and in cooperation with UN resident coordinators, the Secretary-General further conducted a biennial survey, directed to Governments, on the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the United Nations system so as to highlight the assets

¹⁶⁵ See Report of the Secretary-General, E/2010/52 on Actions taken by the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the area of simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system; Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/7 without vote [agenda item 3] on Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

¹⁶⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General, E/2010/52 on Actions taken by the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the area of simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system; GA resolution 70/221; Report of the Second Committee, A/70/477/Add.1 on Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

¹⁶⁷ See GA resolution 69/238 [agenda item 24 (a)] on Operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

¹⁶⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/93-E/2012/79 on the Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; GA resolutions 62/208 on the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review; GA resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence; Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/7; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/320-E/2012/89, Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: recommendations; GA resolution 67/226 without vote [agenda item 25 (a)] on Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5 without vote [agenda item 3]; Report of the Secretary-General, E/2013/94 on Results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to Assembly resolution 67/226; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/63-E/2014/10 on Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the UN system; Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/14 without vote [agenda item 6] on Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; Report of the Secretary-General A/71/63-E/2016/8 on Implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

¹⁶⁹ See GA resolution 67/226.

and challenges met throughout their cooperation with the United Nations development system, in order to allow intergovernmental bodies to address them.¹⁷⁰

107. Further to the rising emphasis on strengthening system-wide coherence in the period prior - with the ultimate goal to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of development assistance – the Organization’s efforts continued to focus on four priority areas, notably (a) delivering as one at the country level with the related aspect of harmonization of business practices; (b) funding; (c) governance; and (d) gender equality and the empowerment of women, namely through UN-Women.¹⁷¹ The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) examined challenges to reaching coherence and integration of the United Nations system, while proposing a flexible model, comprising benchmarks applicable to a wide range of contexts in which the United Nations operated.¹⁷² In 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to promote among the funds and programmes, as well as specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system, the continuation of mainstreaming support for South-South cooperation into the regular country-level programming of operational activities for development.¹⁷³

108. The main challenge the Organization and its entities faced in enhancing the coherence and integration remained the nature of the structure of the United Nations itself, namely an extremely fragmented and complex bureaucracy with a great diversity of mandates, governing structures and procedures. Thus, the process to bring coherence and integration into the United Nations system to support peace, humanitarian and development activities had to be driven by the concerned Member States, as reaching both coherence and integration was the individual and collective shared responsibility of governments and entities throughout the United Nations system.¹⁷⁴ The Secretary-General reported that, while the benchmarks based on the redefinition of coherence as “the overall strategic process for the United Nations system operations to achieve predefined objectives” and integration as “the operational modality to make that coherence functional” were widely accepted by the United Nations system entities, a need for further detail on and breakdown of the mechanisms to implement each of the said benchmarks.¹⁷⁵

109. As the MDG-era was coming to an end¹⁷⁶, the ECOSOC, through its resolution 2014/14, welcomed the dialogues held at the 2014 ECOSOC operational activities segment regarding the role of the UN development system in the changing development landscape and the need to align the UN system to address emerging challenges. In this regard, it decided to convene a transparent and inclusive dialogue involving Member States and all relevant stakeholders on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system, taking into account the post-2015 development agenda. It requested analysis of the interlinkages between the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, capacity and impact of the UN development system, partnership approaches and organizational arrangements.

¹⁷⁰ See GA resolution 67/226.

¹⁷¹ See Report of the Secretary-General A/65/79-E/2010/76 on the Analysis of the funding of operational activities for development for 2008; Letter of 3 December 2009 from Rwanda to the Economic and Social Council, A/64/578-E/2010/3, transmitting a statement of outcome and the way forward; GA resolution 62/208; Report of the Secretary-General, E/2011/88 on the Simplification and harmonization of the UN development system.

¹⁷² See Note of the Secretary-General, A/65/394 submitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled “The role of the special representatives of the Secretary-General and resident coordinators”; Note of the Secretary-General, A/69/125, transmitting to the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU); JIU report A/69/737 & Add.1 [JIU/REP/2014/1].

¹⁷³ A/69/16

¹⁷⁴ See Note of the Secretary-General, A/65/394/Add.1 on Role of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinators.

¹⁷⁵ See Note of the Secretary-General, A/65/394/Add.1 on Role of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinators; GA resolution 65/177 without vote [agenda item 25] on Operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

¹⁷⁶ See GA resolution 66/288.

110. The first phase of the Dialogue took place in 2015 and focused on diagnosing the system's challenges and opportunities. The first phase revealed that there was both an appetite and a need to transform the UNDS to make it fit-for-purpose in the post-2015 development landscape.

111. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the General Assembly affirmed that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should provide a key contribution to the implementation of the ambitious and transformational objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and should therefore be improved.¹⁷⁷

c. Population and development

112. The activities of entities of the United Nations system continued to be guided by the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and by the key actions for its implementation adopted at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999. The Assembly extended the Programme and key actions beyond 2014¹⁷⁸, while the Commission on Population and Development, the intergovernmental body charged with monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the programme of Action, considered special themes of health, morbidity, mortality and development¹⁷⁹; fertility, reproductive health and development¹⁸⁰; new trends in migration: demographic aspects¹⁸¹; adolescents and youth¹⁸²; assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)¹⁸³; and realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda¹⁸⁴. Throughout the period under review, there were efforts to ensure that the activities of the United Nations entities, including specialized agencies, are coordinated across the system, in particular regarding the linkage between population and development. The Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs further continued its efforts to analyze and report on demographic trends and policies worldwide. The Commission on Population and Development highlighted its core themes of population, gender, environment and development as well as considered the key actions to be taken on these areas. The Assembly called upon the United Nations system to focus their efforts on the implementation of the Programme in their activities and programmes. The Assembly also underlined the central role played by the Council in harmonizing and coordinating implementation activities.

113. Throughout the period under consideration, international migration and development, a central theme of the Programme of Action, received much attention. In October 2013, the General Assembly held the second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which was an opportunity for Member States to call on organizations within the United Nations system to strengthen their collaboration on international migration and to consider migration issues in the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ahead of the dialogue, the Secretary-General transmitted the draft outcomes and recommendations of the United Nations system, coordinated by UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).¹⁸⁵ The recommendations highlighted that migration constituted an essential component of population and development policy and affirmed UNFPA's commitment to ensuring that issues pertaining to migration were an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda. In his report prepared for the

¹⁷⁷ See GA resolution 70/221

¹⁷⁸ See GA resolution 65/234.

¹⁷⁹ See Report of the Commission on its forty-third session, E/2010/25.

¹⁸⁰ See Report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session, E/2011/25.

¹⁸¹ See Report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session, E/2013/25.

¹⁸² See Report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session, E/2012/25-E/CN.9/2012/8.

¹⁸³ See Report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session, E/2014/25.

¹⁸⁴ See Report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session, E/2015/25.

¹⁸⁵ See Available from <https://globalmigrationgroup.org/hld>

2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Secretary-General proposed an eight-point agenda for action on making migration work, which focused on: (1) the protection of the human rights of migrants; (2) the reduction of costs of labor migration; (3) the elimination of migrant exploitation; (4) addressing the plight of stranded migrants; (5) the improvement of public perceptions of migrants; (6) the integration of migration into the development agenda; (7) strengthening the migration evidence base; and (8) enhancing migration partnerships and cooperation.¹⁸⁶ During the High-level Dialogue, Member States referred to contributions from several organizations with activities and programmes focused on the issue of migration in order to address the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development and consequently determine the relevant course of action to ensure effective actions with maximal development benefits.¹⁸⁷ In the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, Member States called on entities of the United Nations system to work towards an effective and inclusive agenda on international migration and development, which should respect and protect the human rights of migrants. Member States also condemned acts of racism and intolerance and reaffirmed their commitment to prevent and combat human trafficking.¹⁸⁸

114. During the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, Member States identified concrete measures to strengthen coordination and collaboration on migration at all levels and stressed that international migration could be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and destination. The informal, state-led Global Forum on Migration and Development was considered a useful platform for the promotion of cooperation on migration and the integration of migration into national development planning and global development agendas. Subsequently, the target to reduce transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent to less than 3 per cent by 2030 was included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹⁸⁹

115. The Assembly adopted a series of resolutions on international migration and development, calling on Member States as well as on entities of the United Nations system to continue addressing the issue of international migration and development with a view of integrating a gender perspective, protecting migrants in vulnerable circumstances and promoting and protecting the rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of immigration status. The Assembly, *inter alia*, highlighted that international cooperation and coordination was necessary to reap the benefits of migration and address its challenges.¹⁹⁰ Following the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Member States agreed to focus their efforts to addressing the issues of demographic change and migration, as well as the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, particularly those of women and children, in the outcome document of the conference “The Future We Want”. The Secretary-General also reported regularly on issues related to international migration and development, synthesizing, *inter alia*, the programmes and activities related to migration led by entities of the United Nations system and efforts to strengthen partnerships, coordination and cooperation – particularly through the annual coordination meetings on international migration, convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the activities of the Global Migration Group (GMG).¹⁹¹ The Secretary-General furthermore made a series of recommendations to enhance the benefits of migration, while

¹⁸⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General’s report, A/68/190, on international migration and development.

¹⁸⁷ In accordance with GA resolution 67/219.

¹⁸⁸ See Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, A/68/L.5.

¹⁸⁹ See GA resolution 70/1.

¹⁹⁰ See GA resolution 69/229 without vote [agenda item 21 (a) on International migration and development.

¹⁹¹ See GA resolution 63/225; Report of the Secretary-General A/65/203 on International migration and development; GA resolution 65/170; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/254 on International migration and development; Economic and Social Council decision 2011/101; Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.9/2013/3; Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.9/2015/3, providing an overview of demographic changes that were projected to occur over the forthcoming 15 years and discussing their implications for efforts to achieve sustainable development; Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.9/2015/4 on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda.

reducing its negative effects on development. His reports also include analyses of global migration trends and policies.¹⁹² The Commission on Population and Development, for its part, adopted several resolutions related migration, including on its demographic aspects.¹⁹³ Throughout such resolutions, the Commission called upon Member States and entities of the United Nations system to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their migration status, in particular those of women and children, as well as to address international migration through cooperation at all levels to ensure that migration was integrated into all development policies, strategies and programmes. The Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission's report.¹⁹⁴

116. During the period under review, the Global Forum on Migration and Development focused on several themes, namely “Partnerships for migration and human development: shared prosperity - shared responsibility”; “Taking Action on Migration and Development - Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation”; “Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their Contribution to the Development of Communities and States”, “Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development”, and discussed how the commitments of the 2013 High-level Dialogue could be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.¹⁹⁵ Meanwhile, the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to organize annual coordination meetings on international migration to discuss, *inter alia*, the work of the GFMD, the follow-up and implementation of the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the eight-point agenda for action presented by the Secretary-General, and the integration of migration into the implementation framework of the post-2015 development agenda.¹⁹⁶

117. The Commission on Population and Development focused on a number of inter-agency coordination issues, including a review of United Nations Population Division's activities and a monitoring of progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals and objectives. The Commission adopted and brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council several resolutions on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action by entities of the United Nations system, including on the themes of health, morbidity, mortality and development, adolescents and youth, as well as on fertility, and reproductive health.¹⁹⁷ Throughout such resolutions, the Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and encouraged Member States and international organizations to accelerate progress on targets of the MDGs. The Economic and Social Council and Assembly took note of the Commission's reports.¹⁹⁸

118. During the period under review, the General Assembly held a special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD beyond 2014, during which the Assembly firstly

¹⁹² See Report of the Secretary-General A/69/207 on International migration and development; GA resolution 67/219.

¹⁹³ See Report of the Commission on Population and Development to the Economic and Social Council E/2013/25 (res. 2013/1).

¹⁹⁴ See Economic and Social Council decision 2013/237.

¹⁹⁵ See Note verbale dated 4 November 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, A/C.2/66/7; Letter dated 7 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, A/67/73; Note verbale dated 8 May 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, A/68/81; GA resolution 58/208.

¹⁹⁶ See GA resolution 58/208; Eleventh Coordination Meeting on International Migration, UN/POP/MIG-11CM/2013/INF. 2; Twelfth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, ESA/P/WP/237; GA resolution 58/208; Thirteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, ESA/P/WP/240.

¹⁹⁷ See Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of population programmes, focusing on fertility, reproductive health and development, E/CN.9/2011/4; Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.9/2012/5 on Monitoring of population programmes, focusing on adolescents and youth; Report of the Commission on Population and Development to the Economic and Social Council, E/2012/25 (res. 2012/1); Report of the Commission on Population and Development to the Economic and Social Council, E/2015/25 (dec. 2015/101).

¹⁹⁸ See Economic and Social Council decision 2010/238 of 21 July; GA resolution 65/234 [draft: A/65/L.39/Rev.2 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 13]; Economic and Social Council resolution E/2011/25 (res. 2011/1), by which it reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and welcomed the General Assembly's decision in resolution 65/234; Economic and Social Council decision 2011/247 of 27 July, taking note of the report of the Commission on its forty-fourth (2011) session; Economic and Social Council decision 2012/234 of 25 July, taking note of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth (2012) session.

reviewed the implementation of the Programme of Action from 2009–2013 and secondly determined the agenda on population and development beyond 2014 (see paragraph 111 above).¹⁹⁹ In preparation of this special session and pursuant to Assembly resolution 65/234, relevant entities of the United Nations system met several times to complete an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action from 2009–2013 by specialized agencies based on data from 176 countries, as well as proposed an agenda on population and development beyond 2014, while regional population and development conferences were organized by the League of Arab States, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Africa and UNFPA.²⁰⁰ Additionally, UNFPA held an expert meeting on “Women’s Health: Rights, Empowerment and Social Determinants” with the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women, *inter alia* - these discussions resulted in recommendations on how to accelerate progress towards universal access to reproductive health services, and the protection of the sexual and reproductive rights of girls and women for both the ICPD “Beyond 2014 Global Report” as well as the post-2015 development agenda.

d. Financing for development

119. Concerning the question of financing for development during the review period, and notably that of the impact of external debt on development, the General Assembly continued to call upon specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other partners in development, to coordinate their assistance activities and programmes to countries with multilateral debt issues.²⁰¹ The General Assembly continued to urge all parties to implement the improved programme of debt relief for the seriously indebted poor countries, notably the cancellation of all formal bilateral debts of such countries, so as to advance the eradication of poverty, in exchange for their discernable commitments to poverty reduction as part of their overall development strategy.²⁰²

120. During the period under consideration, the Organization continued to highlight activities led by the World Bank and IMF to reach sustainable debt through coordinated programmes and actions.²⁰³ The General Assembly called for the consideration of additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability, and encouraged all relevant entities within the United Nations system to continue the study and examination of the need for and feasibility of a sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanism, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.²⁰⁴

¹⁹⁹ The General Assembly considered a draft resolution (A/67/L.55) which proposed that the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 be held on 22 September 2014, A/67/PV.65; GA resolution 65/234; GA resolution 67/250 [draft: A/67/L.55 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 14] on the Organization of the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014; GA resolution 65/234; GA resolution 67/250; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/493 on Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/62, on the framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014; GA resolution 65/234.

²⁰⁰ See GA resolution 65/234; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/122 on recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development.

²⁰¹ See GA resolution 64/191 on External debt sustainability and development; GA resolution 65/144 on External debt sustainability and development; GA resolution 66/189 on External debt sustainability and development; ; GA resolution 67/198 on External debt sustainability and development.

²⁰² See GA resolution A/RES/64/191 on External debt sustainability and development; GA resolution 65/144 on External debt sustainability and development; GA resolution 66/189 on External debt sustainability and development; GA resolution 67/198 on External debt sustainability and development.

²⁰³ See Report of the Secretary-General A/70/278 on External debt sustainability and development.

²⁰⁴ See GA resolution 64/191 on External debt sustainability and development; GA resolution 65/144 on External debt sustainability and development; GA resolution 66/189 on External debt sustainability and development; GA resolution 67/198 on External debt sustainability and development.

121. The MDRI firstly offered interim debt relief, and secondly offered full debt relief when a government meets its commitments. The implementation of the HIPC and the MDRI was hindered by several challenges, mainly that of ensuring that eligible countries obtain full debt relief from the entirety of their creditors, and therefore the Assembly underlined the significance of equal treatment of all creditors, and that donors and multilateral financial institutions were to consider the delivery of grants and concessional loans as their preferred means for the provision of financial support to ensure debt sustainability. The Assembly highlighted the necessity for the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bretton Woods institutions on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries, to consider the deterioration of growth prospects with regards to trade at a global level, in their assessment of the HIPC debt sustainability. The Organization further noted that the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank needed to fully implement commitments made in the MDRI, while consistently inform the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa on said implementation.²⁰⁵ The Secretary-General, for his part, also called on entities and bodies of the United Nations system continue to assess and enhance their activities and programmes in Africa, notably the framework for coordination and collaboration, as well as the consultative mechanism between the both entities should reflect the widespread nature of such cooperation.²⁰⁶

122. The IMF and the World Bank collaborated closely for the implementation and monitoring of the MDRI, chiefly in the evaluation of the qualification for MDRI relief and monitoring of spending related to MDGs following the provision of debt relief. In 2011, given that the majority of HIPCs had been led to the point of completion, the IMF and IDA Boards approved the internal proposition to further streamline reporting of progress under the HIPC Initiative and MDRI. They made the decision to discontinue the annual HIPC Initiative/MDRI status of implementation report, while essential information – namely on debt service and poverty reducing expenditure, debt relief costs, creditor participation rates, *inter alia* - should further be offered and updated consistently on the IMF and World Bank websites.²⁰⁷

123. The Organization welcomed the activities of specialized agencies of the United Nations system, programmes, and funds, concentrated on actions for LDCs and countries of the African continent.²⁰⁸ The Bretton Woods institutions dedicated their efforts to establishing the debt sustainability framework for low-income countries, in light of the significance of debt sustainability and budget management so as to reach development goals, including the MDGs. The Assembly further welcomed the special event held by the Second Committee in 2012, on the topic “Sovereign debt crises and restructurings: lessons learned and proposals for debt resolution mechanisms”.²⁰⁹

124. Further to the 2008 financial crisis, a number of entities of the United Nations system sought to reform the existing global reserve system so as to overcome its shortages and establishing a more effective reserve system, notably through a possible complementarity of roles played by different regional arrangements.²¹⁰ The Organization reiterated its commitment to implement in full the

²⁰⁵ See United Nations Population Fund Note by the Executive Director, DP/FPA/2011/7 on Extensions of country programmes in the Africa region; Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/3.

²⁰⁶ See report of the Secretary-General A/69/161 on New Partnership for Africa’s Development: twelfth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support.

²⁰⁷ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/164 on External debt sustainability and development.

²⁰⁸ See A/70/L.56, Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020; Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7), chaps. I and II; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/161 on New Partnership for Africa’s Development: twelfth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support.

²⁰⁹ The sub-themes of the special event of the Second Committee were as follows: (a) “Are there missing links in the international financial architecture for debt restructuring?”; (b) “Lessons from past debt crises”; and (c) “Features of a possible debt resolution mechanism”.

²¹⁰ See Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document, GA resolution 63/303, annex.

political declaration on Africa's development needs, as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration²¹¹ on Financing for Development, and adopted in the prior period in the outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.²¹²

125. The Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in 2015, culminated in the adoption by participants of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that was endorsed by the Assembly.²¹³ The Third International Conference on Financing for Development was convened to (1) assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration; (2) address new and emerging issues; and (3) reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process.

126. The Agenda's aim was to further bolster the framework to finance sustainable development as well as to contextualize and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, in which governments laid out a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda expanded on the previous Financing for Development outcomes, including a comprehensive set of policy actions in seven Action Areas, namely: domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues; and science, technology, innovation, and capacity building.

127. It also established a dedicated and strengthened follow-up process including an annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up with universal, intergovernmental participation, to be launched during the Council's current cycle. The Forum was mandated to hold the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, as well as additional institutional and other stakeholders. Its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will feed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 development agenda in the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The deliberations of the Development Cooperation Forum on the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance will also be taken into account.

128. The Agenda further recognized that the active engagement of both the public and private sectors was necessary to reach sustainable development, taking into account national development priorities and enhancing gender equality and women's equal participation. The Agenda called on relevant specialized agencies to further coordinate and collaborate to scale up efforts to end hunger malnutrition. In addition, the Agenda invited specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system with technology-intensive mandates to further promote the development and diffusion of relevant science, technologies and capacity-building through their respective work programmes.

129. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda mandated the creation of a United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT), including the 10-Member Group of representatives from civil society, the private sector and the scientific community, as part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. The United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals, which would be open to participation by specialized agencies, would promote coordination, coherence and cooperation

²¹¹ See GA resolution 63/239, annex.

²¹² See Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), Chap. I, Resolution 1, annex.

²¹³ See GA resolution 69/313 on Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda).

within the United Nations system on science, technology and innovation related matters, enhancing synergy and efficiency, in particular to enhance capacity-building initiatives.

130. Furthermore, the Addis Agenda led to the convening of an inter-agency task force to ensure a strengthened follow-up process at the global level. This Task Force would include the major institutional stakeholders and the United Nations system, including funds and programmes and specialized agencies whose mandates are related to the follow-up, building on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force. The Task Force would (i) report annually on progress in implementing the Addis Agenda and other Financing for Development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and (ii) advise the intergovernmental follow-up process on progress, implementation gaps and recommendations for corrective action, while taking into consideration the national and regional dimensions.

e. Specific development concerns

i. Overall

131. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council continued to emphasize the need to coordinate the United Nations system entities' activities and programmes with regards to a certain group of special countries and regions. As laid out above, organs of the United Nations system focused their recommendations on policies and measures that were shaped for the specific situation of particular Member States. As underscored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development and the most vulnerable countries deserve special attention.

ii. Africa's development

132. Africa remained a principal area of focus within the Organization, including through a significant concentration of efforts on the coordination and coherence of activities and policies in light of the priorities of the continent. Further to the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution 57/7 of 2002, of the Secretary-General's recommendation for the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), adopted in 2001 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, as the framework within which the international community should focus its efforts for Africa's development, the United Nations efforts focused on support for NEPAD and its implementation.

133. Progress towards the overall poverty reduction goal (MDG1) remained varied at the regional and national levels, especially in the sub-Saharan Africa region. The main obstacles included insufficient and ineffective public spending, heavy debt burdens, inadequate access to developed countries' markets and insufficient ODA, *inter alia*. Therefore, the Secretary-General continued to stress the need for an integrated approach to rural development, comprehending economic, social and environmental dimensions, and encompassing mutually reinforcing policies and programmes so as to address rural development-related issues, while responding to the particular requirements of a given country.

134. The need for improved coordination mechanisms such as the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework was highlighted as a way to bolster support to the African continent in the implementation of the New Partnership and in support of national poverty reduction strategies and, where appropriate, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. Entities and bodies of the United Nations system continued to provide support for NEPAD and its implementation. The Secretary-General recommended that specialized agencies of the United Nations system improve their coordination and undertake the function of convener of the clusters, according to their areas of competence and capacity, while circumventing interagency

rivalry, so as to ensure an efficient contribution to the implementation of NEPAD.²¹⁴ He further highlighted the need to integrate climate change issues into economic planning and management, as well as the mainstreaming of environmental policy into productive sectors.²¹⁵ The United Nations entities were urged to develop a results framework approach so as to improve the assessment of the impact of their support in order to establish strategies on how to address any effectiveness gaps.²¹⁶

135. In relation to the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, the CPC reviewed the outcomes achieved in areas such as governance, information technology, education, health, gender and population.²¹⁷ The CPC reiterated its pivotal function in establishing various mechanisms and frameworks, while underlining its assistance in ensuring the necessary resource mobilization for the Initiative's further implementation. In response to the Committee's request in the period prior for an independent evaluation assessing the five-year period of the Special Initiative, the Secretary-General submitted a series of reports on the support of entities of the United Nations system for NEPAD, describing their activities around the nine thematic clusters of the Partnership's priorities and strategy.²¹⁸

136. In 2015, the AU Assembly adopted "Agenda 2063" as the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities.²¹⁹ Further to the adoption of the Africa 2063 agenda and other internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, the Secretary-General stressed the need for development partners to redouble their support and efforts towards delivering on their commitments to the continent's development.²²⁰ The Organization underlined that all entities and bodies of the United Nations system needed to concentrate on advancing progress towards the Goals in Africa. The Assembly, for its part, made the decision to establish a United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM) in order to assess commitments made towards Africa's development, and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa serving as its secretariat.²²¹ With regards to actions initiated by African Member States and organizations, the NEPAD Agency developed several initiatives in the fields of infrastructure development, agriculture and food security, health, education, environment and tourism, information and communication technology, science and technology, and gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women. The Secretary-General underlined that increased efforts should be developed to advance agricultural productivity as laid out in the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa and to reprioritize public investment in agriculture in order to catalyze private investment.

137. The United Nations entities continued to expand their work with regional and sub-regional organizations so as to define mutual policy and operational priorities, while responsibility was allocated to specialized agencies as either coordinating or cooperating on initiatives. UNCTAD noted that there was a continued necessity for African States to adopt policies to secure an effective use of standing and added resources in order to develop human capital as well as social and physical infrastructure. The General Assembly urged Member States, financial institutions, specialized agencies, multilateral organizations, as well as development funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to urgently pursue the fulfilment of the targets encompassed in the New Agenda

²¹⁴ See Report of the Secretary-General E/AC.51/2010/3 on UN system support for NEPAD.

²¹⁵ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/202 on progress achieved to implement and support NEPAD.

²¹⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General, E/AC.51/2012/5 on UN system support for NEPAD.

²¹⁷ See the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), A/68/16 on the report of the Secretary-General on UN system support for NEPAD.

²¹⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General, E/AC.51/2011/4 on UN system support for NEPAD; Report of the Secretary-General, E/AC.51/2012/5 on UN system support for NEPAD.

²¹⁹ See GA resolution A/RES/69/290

²²⁰ See GA resolution 66/286; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/222 on NEPAD implementation and international support.

²²¹ See GA resolution 66/293.

and the coordination of development assistance activities in Africa, this ensuring improved efficiency, impact and tangible results under the leadership of recipient States.²²²

138. Following to the endorsement of the Programme of Action “The New Partnership for Africa’s Development” in the prior period, the Secretary-General reviewed progress made in its implementation while offering recommendations for the United Nations system support to the implementation of NEPAD.²²³ The Secretary-General offered a more detailed consideration of clusters under the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on African (UNISA), concluding that it was an opportune framework for the enhancement of the coordination among United Nations agencies in 3 (education, governance and information technology for development) of the 13 priority areas.²²⁴ Thus, CPC made recommendations for future coordination within the United Nations system, including that its agencies and organizations partner in their implementation of NEPAD, coordinating closely with the AU Commission and its NEPAD structures, including the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (*RCM-Africa*).²²⁵ The Committee furthermore made the recommendation that the General Assembly support the continued coordination of specialized agencies of the United Nations system with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) - the technical body of the AU – along with other entities of the African Union Commission and the Partnership so as to further bolster the implementation of the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan 2010–2015.²²⁶ The Secretary-General stated that the primary means to achieve an improved effectiveness of coordination mechanisms was the promotion of a coherent United Nations system so as to bolster national capacity and thus support an integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa continuing to serve as point of coordination under the Initiative, while United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) was the focal point for the support of the harmonization efforts of various Africa initiatives to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) - with its coordination mechanisms - incorporated elements of the different programmes and initiatives of bilateral development agencies.

139. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) assessed the regional collaboration among United Nations agencies in Africa and its efficiency, concluding that, since the multitude of mandates and programmes had engendered structural overlaps and diffusion of activities and resources, the mandates of UN system support to Africa needed to be reassessed, to ensure an improved communication and sharing of information among the wide range of stakeholders in support of Africa, and for an enhance system-wide coordination and cooperation. JIU stressed that, in that context, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) was to incorporate in its agenda support to the AU and its NEPAD programme as a systematic standing item. The capacities and the proactive strategic coordinator role of the RCM and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), were to be strengthened, while JIU recommended the establishment

²²² See GA resolution 65/284 without vote [agenda item 62 (a)] on New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support; GA resolution 66/286 without vote [agenda item 63 (a)] on New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support; GA resolution 66/293 without vote [agenda item 63 (a)] on A monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa’s development; GA resolution 66/286; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/222 on NEPAD implementation and international support; GA resolution 67/294 without vote [agenda item 63 (a)] on New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support; GA resolution 68/301 without vote [agenda item 63 (a)] on New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/161 on NEPAD implementation and international support.

²²³ See GA resolution 64/258; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/167 on assessing the progress achieved to implement and support NEPAD; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/202 on progress achieved to implement and support NEPAD; Report of the Secretary-General E/AC.51/2012/5 on UN system support for NEPAD; GA resolution 66/286; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/204 on progress achieved to implement and support NEPAD; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/161 on NEPAD implementation and international support.

²²⁴ See Report of the Secretary-General, E/AC.51/2010/3 on UN system support for NEPAD.

²²⁵ See Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), A/65/16, welcoming the Secretary-General’s report on NEPAD; Report of the Secretary-General, E/AC.51/2013/6 on UN system support for NEPAD.

²²⁶ See Report Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), A/68/16 considering the report of the Secretary-General on UN system support for NEPAD.

of a high-level steering committee was established to supervise the activities of the RCM and its clusters; the improvement of the alignment of the RCM and its clusters with the necessities and priorities of the AU and its NEPAD programme; the implementation and operationalization the “Umbrella Agreement” between the regional commissions and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) so as to enable and heighten communication, coordination and cooperation between ECA and RCM firstly, and UNDP and the Regional Directors Teams (RDTs) in Africa secondly; and for the establishment a system-wide sub regional coordination mechanism; *inter alia*.²²⁷ The Economic Commission for Africa and the AU Commission reported on support of entities of the United Nations system to the AU and its NEPAD programme in the context of the RCM.²²⁸

140. The General Assembly not only welcomed and stressed the importance of the various initiatives and coordination of Africa’s development partners, but also requested that the Secretary-General urge the United Nations development system to support African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives through, *inter alia*, the Millennium Villages Project.²²⁹ The Secretary-General, for his part, made the recommendation for further inter-agency collaboration instead of a sector-driven approach, including the development of an integrated framework in support of the AU Commission, which integrated support of NEPAD, and a strengthened harmonization of policies and support of United Nations system entities to build synergies across thematic clusters. CPC repeated its recommendations calling for an improved United Nations inter-agency collaboration so as to ensure that NEPAD was incorporated in the activities of United Nations specialized agencies to use capacity-building for the bolstering of the AU Commission and NEPAD secretariats, and also underlined the need for the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to follow the principles supporting South-South cooperation in its activities to implement the African agenda and the NEPAD objectives.²³⁰

141. In line with General Assembly resolution 66/287, the UN system was urged to take all measures essential for the bolstering of the United Nations Inter-departmental Task Force on African Affairs (IDTFAA) to ensure an increased coherence and an integrated approach for United Nations support for Africa. In 2013, the General Assembly the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in order to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa and coordinating the interdepartmental task force on African affairs, to ensure a coherent and integrated approach for United Nations support for Africa.²³¹

142. In the context of the social dimensions of NEPAD and the post-2015 development agenda, the Commission for Social Development recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a series of resolutions on the social dimensions of NEPAD and, in return, the Council decided that the Commission for Social Development should continue to stress and raise awareness of the social dimensions of NEPAD, requested the Secretary-General to submit reports on the subject.²³² The Commission for Social Development focused its efforts on supporting African

²²⁷ See Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report, A/65/62 entitled “Towards a more coherent United Nations system support to Africa”; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/62/Add.1 submitting to the Assembly the JIU report.

²²⁸ See Report on United Nations System-wide Support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Programme in the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), E/ECA/COE/29/16.

²²⁹ See Report of the Secretary-General report, A/65/167 on assessing the progress achieved to implement and support NEPAD; GA resolution 66/286; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/204 on progress achieved to implement and support NEPAD.

²³⁰ See Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, A/66/16.

²³¹ A/RES/67/294

²³² See Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/11 without vote [agenda item 14 (b)] on the Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; Report of the Secretary-General, E/CN.5/2010/9 on the Social dimensions of NEPAD; Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.5/2011/12 on the Social dimensions of NEPAD; Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/26 without vote [agenda item 14 (b)] on the Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/8 without vote [agenda item 14 (b)] on the Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/26 without vote [agenda item 14 (b)] on the Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development Report of Secretary-General; Report of the Secretary-General, E/CN.5/2014/2 on the Social dimensions of

countries to redesign macroeconomic policies so as to bolster their impact on employment creation; poverty eradication; the promotion of structural change; addressing inequality within economic planning and public finance frameworks; building the productive capacity of agriculture as a linkage to food and nutrition security, job creation, rural development and the empowerment of women; and on improving social protection systems. The Commission recommended that relevant bodies of the United Nations system continue to conduct intergovernmental consensus-building and support the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development throughout their technical assistance to Africa.²³³

iii. *Economic and financial crisis*

143. In response to the 2008 financial and economic crisis, entities and bodies of the United Nations system bolstered their efforts to reform and improve the international financial system and architecture, with a particular emphasis on activities that are appropriately financed, speedily implemented, as well as suitably coordinated on an international level.²³⁴ Despite signs of improvement in global financial conditions, as well as decreased short-term risks, the world economy saw its growth rate significantly decreased with momentum gained at a subdued pace throughout the period under consideration.²³⁵ The General Assembly, for its part, underlined the necessity for collaborative and coordinated activities and programs so as to reinforce an operational and effective international financial system and architecture that is able to address the emerging financial challenges.²³⁶

144. Through its Joint Crisis Initiatives, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination focused on the world's most vulnerable.²³⁷ The CEB also concentrated on ensuring effective country-level implementation of these initiatives through the mechanism of United Nations Development Group. The Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly request that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, in developing joint crisis initiatives, including the "green economy initiative", ensure that they were in line with intergovernmental mandates.²³⁸

145. The Organization continued to emphasize the need for governments to implement a fiscal stimulus while preserving long-term fiscal sustainability. Whilst a number of developed and emerging market economies put into place such stimulus packages in the prior period, most developing countries did not have the necessary fiscal space to develop such countercyclical measures to overcome the crisis and incite revival, while broadening fiscal deficits and growing public debt undercut support for further fiscal stimuli. A restructuring of pointed conditionalities was needed so as to support developing countries, as decreed in the lending framework of the IMF, via *inter alia*, streamlining conditionality, and development of more flexible instruments, as called for by a number of developing countries to recuperate from the crisis. Fiscal and monetary stimulus necessitated a coordinated approach, while countering detrimental international spillover effects

NEPAD; Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/4 without vote [agenda item 17 (b)] on the Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; Report of the Secretary-General E/ECA/CM/48/9 on the Social dimensions of NEPAD.

²³³ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/8; Report of the Secretary-General, E/CN.5/2013/2 on the Social dimensions of NEPAD.

²³⁴ See *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2011*, Sales No.E.11.II.C.2; UNCTAD Trade and Development Report, 2013, Sales No. E.13.II.D.3.

²³⁵ See *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013*, Sales No. E.13.II.C.2; update E/2013/70; *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014*, Sales No. E.14.II.C.2; E/2014/70.

²³⁶ See *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2011*, Sales No.E.11.II.C.2; *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012*, Sales No. E.12.II.C.2; update E/2012/72.

²³⁷ E/2010/69

²³⁸ A/65/16

such as the upsurge of currency tensions and volatile short-term capital flows.²³⁹ Entities and bodies of the United Nations system focused their efforts on several particular national issues, notably, *inter alia*, the human and social impacts of the crisis, the protection of the progress made in the MDGs target implementation, the effective use of credit and liquidity facilities, and the regulation of native financial markets.²⁴⁰ Given the complexities of the crisis at all levels (internationally, nationally and locally), stronger collaboration, notably through regional and sub-regional development banks, became essential to ensure an effective response to the economic crisis while increasing resilience to future crises.

146. Following the affirmation by the General Assembly that a universal, regulatory, open, unbiased and equitable multilateral trading system was an essential tool for development and sustained economic growth; entities and bodies of the United Nations system called for the advancement of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) that improved market access, and engendered increased trade flows, *inter alia*. In its response to address the outstanding impacts of the economic crisis, the United Nations system called for, *inter alia*, the deliverance of standing aid commitments, ODA commitments and objectives set in United Nations conventions, such as the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration.

147. A renewed momentum was seen across the Organization for the restructuring of the international financial system and architecture, notably related to challenges such as mandate, scope, governance, and responsiveness, and the reform of the governance of the Bretton Woods institutions, so as to bolster their credibility and accountability. UN entities and agencies underlined the necessity to continue a comprehensive crisis response in support of national development strategies, namely via a coordinated approach of United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and the international financial institutions at a country level, to improve national ownership.²⁴¹ The Assembly, the Council, as well as the United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies, continued to use their advocacy for the promotion of the upturn and development of developing countries.

148. In response to the Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/5, the International Labour Organization presented a report to the Council on the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact.²⁴² Calls were made for stronger employment and social protection policies and greater international policy coordination to accelerate and sustain recovery, with special attention to middle and lower income countries with limited fiscal space. The Council, on its part, requested the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to take further into account the Global Jobs Pact in their policies and programme through their appropriate decision-making processes.²⁴³

149. The CEB underlined the opportunity that the crisis poses to the international community to take on board lessons learned and develop a fairer, greener and more inclusive globalization.²⁴⁴ In 2012, the Economic and Social Council reiterated determination to address the themes of the United Nations Conference Sustainable Development, namely, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.²⁴⁵

²³⁹ See Report of the Secretary-General, E/2010/73 providing an update, of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010* report; The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014*, Sales No. E.14.II.C.2.

²⁴⁰ See UNCTAD *Trade and Development Report 2015*, Sales No. E.15.II.D.4.

²⁴¹ See *Trade and Development Report 2014*, Sales No. E.14.II.D.4; The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014*, Sales No. E.14.II.C.2.

²⁴² E/2010/64

²⁴³ ECOSOC Resolution 2010/25

²⁴⁴ E/2010/69

²⁴⁵ A/67/3

iv. *Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*

150. The particular issues of the officially designated least developed countries (LDCs) were discussed in various United Nations forums and summits, in particular through the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs in 2011 and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 that same year. During this period, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued to work on LDC-related issues.

151. During the period under review, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council regularly assessed progress and efforts for the implementation of the international goals and targets contained in the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs for the period from 2001–2010, and thereafter the Istanbul Programme of Action for the period from 2011–2020.²⁴⁶ In 2011, the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States briefed the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of LDC-IV.²⁴⁷ In 2015, the Council furthermore examined the Committee for Development Policy’s Report on the progress made in achieving the targets set in the MDGs, as well as examined the challenges the LDCs face in their efforts to reach such goals, while setting the aims for development post-2015.²⁴⁸

152. Specialized agencies of the United Nations framework and other international development partners focused their efforts on supporting a “smooth transition” to countries from LDC to post-LDC status, however progress was limited, *inter alia*, by moderate economic growth and decreased resources. Concurrently, the effects of climate change were slowly increasing, with a potentially devastating effect on LDCs. In this period, the entities and bodies of the United Nations system stressed the need to reaffirm and reinforce commitments towards the establishment of a global partnership for development in conjunction with the Istanbul Programme of Action.

153. At its closing year in 2010, the Secretary-General proceeded with the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/171 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/27.²⁴⁹ His report was submitted to LDC-IV, highlighting lessons learned and best practices, structural challenges and how to overcome them, as well as resource gaps for the achievement of the targets set in the Programme of Action.²⁵⁰ In his report, the Secretary-General laid out progress achieved regarding the Programme’s main objectives, including economic development, poverty, hunger and other goals related to the MDGs, concluding that although

²⁴⁶ See GA resolution 64/295 [draft: A/64/L.55/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 42]; GA resolution 64/213; Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/3; Report of the Secretary-General A/65/80-E/2010/77; Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/27 [draft: E/2010/L.20 & E/2010/SR.46] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)]; GA decision 66/557 that the agenda item on “Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to LDC-IV” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-sixth (2012) session; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/46 [draft: E/2013/L.21] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)]; Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/29 [draft: E/2014/L.28] without vote [agenda item 9 (b)]; Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/11 “Report of the Committee for Development Policy”.

²⁴⁷ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/9 [draft: E/2011/L.31] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)].

²⁴⁸ See Committee for Development Policy, E/2015/33, Report on the seventeenth session; World Economic and Social Survey 2014/2015: MDG Lessons for Post-2015 E/2015/50; World economic situation and prospects as of mid-2015, E/2015/73.

²⁴⁹ Report of the Secretary-General A/66/66-E/2011/78 “Ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010”

²⁵⁰ See GA resolution 63/227.

economic and social development in LDCs had improved – notwithstanding varying degrees among LDCs individually, the specific goals and objectives had not been completely attained.²⁵¹

154. In accordance with Assembly resolutions 64/213 and 65/171, LDC-IV was held in Istanbul, during which it endeavored to comprehensively assess progress in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action; identify effective international and domestic policies; reaffirm the global commitment to meeting the particular needs of LDCs; and coordinate additional international activities and programmes in support of LDCs.²⁵² The Conference adopted the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020. In the latter Declaration, Member States made the commitment to achieve the overarching goal of support half of LDCs to fulfil the graduation requirements through the eradication of poverty and by gaining accelerated, sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development. The Secretary-General reported regularly on the outcome of LDC-IV, endorsing the active role ascribed to entities of United Nations system, particularly UN-OHRLLS, in the implementation process.²⁵³ In his reports, the Secretary-General assessed activities and programmes towards ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) and bolstering its capacities and efficiency, along with the effectiveness of entities and bodies of the United Nations system support provided to LDCs.²⁵⁴

155. In the above assessments of the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Programme for Action, the Secretary-General, while recognizing that the coordination amongst the United Nations system entities as well as the coherence of their support to LDCs had been enhanced, stressed the need to further strengthen such efforts. He made the recommendation for the inter-agency consultative group mechanisms on LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to be institutionalized within the structure of the High-level Committee on Programmes. The latter mechanism should serve as standing inter-agency mechanisms responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the programmes of action's implementation on a system-wide basis, reporting periodically on United Nations system efforts as a whole. Accordingly, further to General Assembly resolutions 67/220, 68/224 and 69/231, the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 has been a standing item on the Chief Executive Board's agenda since the first regular session of 2013, with a view to supporting the coordination and follow up of its implementation on a system wide basis.²⁵⁵ Finally, the Secretary-General stressed the need for greater coordination efforts to strengthen investment promotion regimes for FDI in LDCs, which could be achieved through a one-stop arrangement, e.g. an international investment support center for LDCs, as recommended in the Ministerial Declaration entitled “Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries”.²⁵⁶

156. Consonantly with the Istanbul Declaration, the Programme of Action for LDCs for the following Decade 2011–2020 – the Istanbul Programme of Action – designated its overarching goal to overcome the structural challenges that LDCs encountered for the eradication of poverty, the achievement of internationally agreed development targets and empower graduation from the LDCs category.²⁵⁷ Specialized agencies and entities of the United Nations system, along with other international development partners, supported efforts for a smooth transition from LDC to post-LDC status in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Secretary-General reported regularly to the Assembly and the Council on such efforts to mainstream the Programme of Action

²⁵¹ See GA decision 66/546.

²⁵² See A/CONF.219/7.

²⁵³ See GA resolution 65/171; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/134.

²⁵⁴ See GA resolution 66/213; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/262.

²⁵⁵ E/2015/71

²⁵⁶ See GA resolution 67/220; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/270.

²⁵⁷ See A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1.

into development cooperation strategies through an integrated and comprehensive approach. In his reports the Secretary-General underlined firstly that United Nations entities should spearhead the Programme's integration into national strategies - including international financial institutions - and secondly the pivotal role that increasing access to knowledge and technology played in structural transformation.²⁵⁸ Entities of the United Nations system, led by OHRLLS, concluded in their reporting that although LDCs advanced in their progress towards achieving the goals and targets agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action and MDGs, a number of them remained unlikely to achieve them, which underlined the need to firmly integrate the Programme of Action into the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.

157. A high-level meeting was convened in September 2010 to undertake a five-year review of MSI and to assess the progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. The General Assembly adopted the Outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.²⁵⁹

158. The Secretary-General regularly reported to the Council and the Assembly on the support of United Nations entities to SIDS, as well as the progress made in integrating the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into its mandates, programmes and activities, in order to promote the coherence and coordination within the Organization for SIDS.²⁶⁰ The recommendations made in such reports focused on how such support of specialized agencies could be more targeted, efficient and effective in four domains of support in particular - i.e. normative support, technical cooperation and support for capacity-building, analytical support and coordination mechanisms – including through greater communication between the United Nations system and SIDS, *inter alia*.²⁶¹ The Assembly, for its part, launched the International Year of Small Island Developing States in 2014, marking the occasion with a series of events and activities on the international, national, regional and local levels.²⁶²

159. The outcome document “The future we want” of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, endorsed by the Assembly²⁶³ in 2012, called for the convening of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014. The General Assembly

²⁵⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General A/65/80-E/2010/77 on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action; General Assembly in resolution 65/171; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/66-E/2011/78 on the ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action; GA resolution 66/213; Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/9; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/88-E/2012/75 & Corr.1; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/26 [draft: E/2012/L.29] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)]; GA resolution 67/220; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/217 on the technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to LDCs; GA resolution 67/220; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/26; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/88-E/2013/81 & Corr.1 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020; GA resolution 68/224; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/46; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/95-E/2014/81 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. GA resolution 69/231 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/29; Report of the Secretary-General A/70/83-E/2015/75 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020; GA resolution 70/216 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/35.

²⁵⁹ See GA resolution 65/2 [draft: A/65/L.2] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

²⁶⁰ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/34; GA resolution 65/2; Report of the Secretary-General E/2011/110 Integrated analysis of United Nations system support to small island developing States; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/218 “Review of United Nations system support to small island developing States”; GA resolution 67/207; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/316 on follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS); GA resolution 68/238; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/319 on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and on the preparations for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; GA resolution 69/217 without vote [agenda item 19 (b)].

²⁶¹ See Economic and Social Council decision 2011/274 deferred action on the draft resolution entitled “Review of United Nations support for small island developing States” until its resumed substantive session; Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/44 [draft: E/2011/L.52 & E/2011/SR.54] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)]; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/278; GA resolution 65/2; GA resolution 66/198 without vote [agenda item 19 (b)].

²⁶² See GA resolution 67/206; GA resolution 67/206 without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

²⁶³ See GA resolution 66/288.

made the decision to hold the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States would be held from 1-4 September 2014, in Apia, Samoa.²⁶⁴ The Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held two meetings and a special meeting, further to which it approved the draft outcome document recommending it for adoption to the Conference.²⁶⁵ At its first regular session of 2014, CEB issued a joint statement to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, declaring the system's resolve to provide coordinated programme support in those States, improve the coherence of interventions relating to those States among United Nations system entities, support resilience-building in those States and deliver genuine and durable partnership for sustainable development.²⁶⁶

160. During the period under examination, the Secretary-General, the Assembly and the Council systematically reported on the implementation of the “Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries”, adopted in 2003 by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Co-operation, and the 2008 declaration on the midterm review of the Programme in Assembly resolution 63/2.²⁶⁷ In both the Almaty Programme and the outcome document of the midterm review, United Nations entities and bodies highlighted the need to strengthen global partnerships in recognition of the particular needs and challenges that landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) faced in their activities for the eradication of poverty, sustaining economic growth and integration better into the world economy.

161. The second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held in 2014 in Vienna, Austria, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/270.²⁶⁸ The General Assembly Endorsed the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024²⁶⁹ adopted by the conference. The Vienna Programme of Action comprised six priority areas for action, i.e. fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructural development and maintenance; trade facilitation; regional integration and cooperation – for the first time a stand-alone priority; structural economic transformation; and means of implementation. The Declaration further stressed that entities of the United Nations system should focus their activities and programmes on supporting the mainstreaming the Vienna Programme of Action into national development strategies, while inviting regional and sub-regional organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action into their programmes, in coordination with regional commissions and OHRLLS.²⁷⁰

2. Recommendations in Social Development and Concern

a. Gender equality and women's empowerment

²⁶⁴ See GA decision 67/558.

²⁶⁵ See GA resolution 68/238; A/CONF.223/PC/8; A/CONF.223/3; Barbados transmitted to the Secretary-General the Needhams Point, Bridgetown Ministerial Declaration and the outcome document of the Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, A/C.2/68/7.

²⁶⁶ E/2015/71

²⁶⁷ See Report of the Secretary-General A/65/215 “Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries”; GA resolution 65/172; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/205 on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action; GA resolution 66/214; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/210 on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Co-operation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries; GA resolution 67/222 without vote [agenda item 23 (b)]; GA resolution 67/222; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/157 on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action; GA resolution 68/225 without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

²⁶⁸ See A/CONF.225/7.

²⁶⁹ See GA resolution 69/137 [draft: A/69/L.28] without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

²⁷⁰ See GA resolution 69/232 without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

162. Throughout the period under review, the Organization pursued their activities to advance the status of women worldwide. Such efforts were guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women, and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000) entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”. During this period, the commitment to gender mainstreaming and the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls have been reaffirmed various resolutions, mandates and decisions, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. A key milestone during the period under review was the establishment, by the General Assembly through resolution 64/289, of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The establishment of UN-Women was an integral part of the General Assembly’s efforts to strengthen system-wide coherence, which included strengthening governance of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence. The Entity consolidates the existing mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

163. As a composite entity, UN-Women functions as a secretariat and also carries out operational activities at the country level, with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. As such, the establishment of the Entity and the conduct of its work leads to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system. UN-Women became operational as of 1 January 2011.

164. The General Assembly decided that UN-Women would be governed by a multi-tiered intergovernmental structure, where the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women shall constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions and shall provide normative policy guidance to the Entity, and that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of the Entity shall constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental structure for the operational activities and shall provide operational policy guidance to the Entity. The Assembly also decided that the entity would be headed by an Under-Secretary-General, who will also be a full member of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.²⁷¹

165. UN-Women’s activities are guided by Charter of the United Nations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including its twelve critical areas of concern, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions supporting, addressing and contributing to gender equality and the empowerment and the advancement of women. During the period under review, the Entity provided guidance and technical support to Member States on the empowerment of women, gender equality and gender mainstreaming. In recognition of the vital role of civil society organizations, in particular women’s organizations, in promoting women’s rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, UN Women conducted effective consultations with civil society organizations so that they can meaningfully contribute to the work of the Entity.

166. In its strategic plans for 2011-2013 and thereafter for 2014-2017, UN-Women set out three interrelated components - a development results framework, a management results framework and

²⁷¹ See GA resolution 64/289.

an integrated resources framework – whilst bolstering operational effectiveness and efficiency.²⁷² Through such operational activities, UN-Women spearheaded political and social mobilization to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action during the period under review within and outside of the United Nations system.

167. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) continued to play a central role in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as recognizing challenges to a coordinated implementation within the United Nations system. The Economic and Social Council further assigned specific functions to the CSW in the framework of the Platform, while the CSW in return made several recommendations to the Council to adopt resolutions and decisions on the issue of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as guidance on incorporating the gender perspective into such activities.²⁷³

168. Throughout the period under consideration, the Commission on the Status of Women also focused on women's economic empowerment, political participation, human rights, empowerment in natural disasters, and participation in disarmament.²⁷⁴ The CSW called on United Nations entities to promote gender equality in decision-making processes, to report systematically on progress towards such mainstreaming under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, while underlining the need for a coherent and systematic approach in addressing constraints to women's empowerment in issues such as macroeconomics, promoting and protecting the human rights of women, and enhancing their political participation.²⁷⁵

169. The Economic and Social Council continued to consider gender equality issues through a dedicated agenda item on gender mainstreaming and to review the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and taking action as necessary, as well as integrating gender equality considerations in other discussions. Through its resolutions on gender mainstreaming²⁷⁶, the Council requested the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue mainstreaming the gender perspective into their policies and programmes, and in accordance with previous ECOSOC resolutions and General Assembly resolutions 64/289 and 67/226²⁷⁷. The United Nations system, including specialized

²⁷² See See “United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011-201” at UNW/2011/9; UN-Women Executive Board Decision UNW/2011/10 (dec. 2011/3) endorsing plan; UN-Women report UNW/2013/3 on progress in activities submitted to UN-Women Executive Board; “Report on the annual session of 2013, 25 to 27 June 2013” at UNW/2013/5 (dec. 2013/3); “United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2014-2017 - Making this the century for women and gender equality” at UNW/2013/6; UN-Women Executive Board in UNW/2013/10 (dec. 2013/5) endorsed the UN-Women 2014–2017 strategic plan; Final report on progress made in the implementation of the 2011–2013 strategic plan at UNW/2014/2 submitted to Executive Board; Economic and Social Council decision 2014/228, took note of the Secretariat note E/2014/49 transmitting the reports of the UN-Women Executive Board on its first UNW/2013/2 and second UNW/2013/10 and annual session UNW/2013/5, as well as the decisions adopted by the Executive Board at that session, i.e. UNW/2013/11 and UNW/2015/6.

²⁷³ See E/2012/27-E/CN.6/2012/16 & Corr.1; [E/2015/27]; E/CN.6/2015/8; Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2015/6 (Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women) [draft: E/2015/27] without vote [agenda item 19 (a)]-

²⁷⁴ See CSW resolution E/2010/27 (res. 54/4); Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.6/2012/10, “Economic empowerment of women”; Letter to the Secretary-General A/69/396 on proposals of the World Assembly for Women; Economic and Social Council decision 2009/210; Report of the Secretary-General E/2010/49, “Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women”; GA resolution 65/69, “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”; GA resolution 66/130 “Women and political participation” without vote, agenda item 28 (a); CSW resolution E/2012/27 (res. 56/2); Report of the Secretary-General A/68/184, “Measures taken and progress achieved in the promotion of women and political participation”; GA decision 68/532 taking note of the report; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/166, “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”; CSW resolution 56/2 and report of the Secretary-General E/CN.6/2014/13, “Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters”; CSW resolution E/2014/27 (res. 58/2), “Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters”; Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, “Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women”; Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.6/2014/3, “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”.

²⁷⁵ See GA resolution 67/48, “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”; GA resolution 68/33, “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”; CSW res. 54/4; Economic and Social Council decision 2010/233 taking note of the Commission’s report.

²⁷⁶ See ECOSOC resolutions 2010/29, 2011/6, 2012/24, 2013/16, 2014/2, 2015/12)

²⁷⁷ See ECOSOC resolution 2015/12.

agencies, funds and programmes, were called upon to fully implement the System-wide Action Plan²⁷⁸.

170. Further to its landmark resolution 1325 adopted the period prior, the Security Council continued to underline the importance of the equal participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, in post-conflict reconstruction as well as in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.²⁷⁹ Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1889, the Secretary-General proposed a set of twenty-six indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of resolution 1325, addressing the obstacles to women's full involvement in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.²⁸⁰ These indicators were widely seen as a significant milestone towards the promotion of an effective and coordinated action of United Nations entities, including specialized agencies. The indicators were grouped into four thematic areas (prevention, participation, protection, together with relief and recovery) to serve as a common basis for entities within and outside of the United Nations system to track women's full participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.²⁸¹ Moreover, the Security Council continued to urge all entities to improve women's involvement, in addition to providing a gender perspective, in United Nations peace and security activities.²⁸² The Security Council stressed the importance of addressing sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations in resolution 1960, while reaffirming the need for all parties to conflict to implement special measures for the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, chiefly from rape and other types of sexual abuse.²⁸³ For the first time, the Security Council laid out a comprehensive approach and framework to prevent sexual violence related to conflict²⁸⁴, while on the side-lines of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, over 140 Member States endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict – drafted by the Group of Eight countries. The Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, established by Council resolution 1888, continued its efforts to coordinate its activities with those of the United Nations entities. UN-Women, for its part, supported the implementation at all levels of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, while launching the *UN-Women sourcebook on women, peace and security*, which provided resources to support the implementation of these resolutions.²⁸⁵

171. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), established by the ACC, concentrated its efforts on a comprehensive system-wide implementation of the various recommendations received from other conferences, summits and United Nations entities.²⁸⁶ The IANWGE notably suggested two indicators to track the implementation of Council resolution 1325 (2000), while highlighting throughout its sessions the need to mainstream gender perspectives in

²⁷⁸ See ECOSOC resolution 2015/12.

²⁷⁹ See Statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2010/22; Report of the Secretary-General S/2011/598 on women and peace and security; Statements by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2011/20; S/PRST/2010/22; S/PRST/2011/20; S/PRST/2012/23; S/PRST/2012/3; S/PRST/2010/22; S/PRST/2012/23; S/PRST/2014/21; Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security S/2013/525; SC resolution 2122 (2013) on women, peace and security; Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) on women, peace and security.

²⁸⁰ See report of the Secretary-General S/2010/173; Statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2010/8.

²⁸¹ See *ibid.* and Statements by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2010/22 and S/PRST/2012/23; Security Council resolution 1960 (2010); Report of the Secretary-General S/2012/732 on women and peace and security; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/792-S/2013/149 on Sexual violence in conflict.

²⁸² See Security Council resolutions 1820(2008) and 1888(2009); Statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2012/23.

²⁸³ See Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 2106 (2013), 1960 (2010); Report of the Secretary-General A/66/657-S/2012/33 on conflict-related sexual violence; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/792- S/2013/149 on Sexual violence in conflict; Report of the Secretary-General S/2015/203 on conflict-related sexual violence; GA resolution 69/293 "International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict" [draft: A/69/L.75 & Add.1] without vote, agenda item 32.

²⁸⁴ See Security Council in resolution 2106 (2013).

²⁸⁵ Including Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010).

²⁸⁶ See Report of the Ninth Session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality IANWGE/2010/Report; Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/29, "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system"; Report of the Tenth Session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality IANWGE/2011/Report; Report of the Eleventh Session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality IANWGE/2012/Report, *inter alia*.

all policies and programmes within the United Nations system, to design a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy, to hold entities of the UN system accountable for work on gender equality, and to focus on the post-2015 development framework.²⁸⁷ Following a consultative process facilitated by UN-Women and IANWGE, the Secretary-General presented to the Economic and Social Council a system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women, UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), which instituted an accountability framework for entities of the United Nations system under the leadership of UN-Women.²⁸⁸ The System-wide Action Plan presented fifteen performance indicators clustered into six broad areas (i.e. accountability, results-based management, oversight through monitoring, evaluation and reporting, human and financial resources, staff capacity, as well as coordination and knowledge management), while calling upon specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to mainstream a gender perspective into their activities. Over the period under review, the IANWGE established an Inter-Agency Working Group on Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment, and acknowledged the work of its various Task Forces, namely the Task Force on Rural Women, and the Task Force on Policy Dialogue on Economic Empowerment. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) produced a thematic report evaluating gender mainstreaming in the United Nations to mark the fifteenth anniversary of its introduction in General Assembly Resolution 50/203.²⁸⁹

172. The Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) at its 2012 session adopted the landmark United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), led by UN-Women, which provided the first-ever comprehensive accountability framework for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women to measure and advance progress on gender-related work.²⁹⁰ Following the Economic and Social Council's review of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan, it called in resolution 2015/12 on entities and bodies of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to ensure their full compliance.²⁹¹

173. During the reporting period, UN-Women also chaired or co-chaired a series of topical coordination mechanisms as well as processes in contexts such as the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Gender Equality, and the Millennium Development Goal Task Force. Entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system relied on UN-Women's support in their reporting on and establishing of criterion to assess the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in their activities and programmes, collaborating through the "Delivering as one" principle to ensure a coordinated approach.²⁹² UN-Women adopted a new strategic plan for 2010-2015 entitled "Vision 2015", which focused, *inter alia*, on building new partnerships throughout the United Nations system.²⁹³

²⁸⁷ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/29, "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system"; See Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/6 without vote; Report of the Secretary-General E/2012/61, "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies *and* programmes in the United Nations System"; Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2012/24 "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" without vote; Report of the Twelfth Session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality IANWGE/2013/Report, focused on the post-2015 development framework; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/16 without vote; Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/2 without vote, *inter alia*.

²⁸⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General E/2013/71, "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system"; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/24

²⁸⁹ See Thematic evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations Secretariat - Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, A/65/266.

²⁹⁰ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/24; United Nations System Chief Executives Board Summary of conclusions CEB/2006/2.

²⁹¹ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/12, "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" [draft: E/2015/L.11], adopted without vote, agenda item 12 (c).

²⁹² See Note by the Secretary-General A/61/583.

²⁹³ See GA resolution 50/166, "The role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women"; Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund to eliminate violence

174. Coordination efforts within the United Nations system also included an initiative by the Standing Committee on Violence against Women (formerly known as the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality) which reinforced the coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities.²⁹⁴ The campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” led by the Secretary-General, was aimed at organizing inter-agency cooperation on the means to respond to violence against women. UN-Women also launched the COMMIT initiative, in coordination with other entities of the United Nations system, which urged Member States to take actions to put an end to violence against women.²⁹⁵

175. Throughout all stages leading to the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda - the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UN-Women advocated for the reflection of gender equality and the empowerment of women culminating in a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on reaching gender equality as well as empowering women and girls, while including gender-sensitive goals in eleven other SDGs.²⁹⁶ UN-Women arranged the first meeting of Heads of State and Government on gender equality, the *Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*, held in conjunction with the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women as well as the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. This meeting focused on building support as well as a renewed political commitment for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the promotion of SDG 5 (that of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls), along with the gender-specific targets across the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

b. Poverty

176. Throughout the period under consideration, entities and bodies of the United Nations continued to focus on the eradication of poverty, notably on the realization of internationally agreed targets as contained initially in the MDGs, followed by the SDGs. The MDG target of reducing extreme poverty rates by half was met five years ahead of the 2015 deadline. Progress, however, remained uneven in developing regions, particularly in Least Developed Countries.

177. The Secretary-General regularly reported on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), assessing progress made while underlining the plan of action of entities and bodies of the United Nations system - endorsed by the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination in 2009.²⁹⁷ The Second Decade offered an essential framework for action to bolster activities and programmes of the United Nations system in support of national efforts for the eradication of poverty - notably national development strategies – by coordinating international support for poverty eradication and linking it to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, such as the MDGs. The Decade made important contributions to facilitating normative discussions surrounding the imperative of poverty eradication, with a focus on full employment and decent work for all. Within the broader global development agenda encapsulated

against women at A/HRC/16/34-E/CN.6/2011/9 ; The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Strategy 2010–2015, “Vision 2015”.

²⁹⁴ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/36 adopted without vote, “Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls”.

²⁹⁵ See Press Release: UN Women Executive Director launches new initiative to spotlight national commitments to end violence against women, November 20, 2012.

²⁹⁷ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/230, on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017); GA resolution 65/174; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/221, on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017); GA resolution 66/215; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/180, on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017); Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/183; GA resolution 67/224; GA resolution 68/226; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/204, submitted a report on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017).

in the Millennium Development Goals and the formulation of a post-2015 development agenda, the decade provided countries with a framework within which they tackled poverty in all its dimensions and shared national experiences. It also served as an effective platform for the UN system to focus and coordinate its development efforts in support of national initiatives to eradicate poverty.

178. The Secretary-General noted that the chief challenge that global poverty eradication efforts faced throughout the Second Decade was that of the economic and financial crises and their impacts on employment and decent work opportunities, notably with respect to women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups. In this context, the international community saw a youth employment crisis. Less than half of the global youth population were active participants in the labor market, as most young people within developing countries were employed in the informal economy, and a number of countries' efforts towards fiscal austerity decreased social spending, along with job cuts and calls for greater labor market flexibility. The Secretary-General stressed that it was crucial to face this grave youth employment crisis via the planning and implementation of policies and programmes – with the participation of young people - that concentrated on the supply and demand aspects of the labor market, the informal sector employment, the development of social and economic opportunities for all, and the promotion of low-carbon and sustainable solutions to employment creation, inequality, and economic instability, *inter alia*.²⁹⁸ The government of Nepal, as Chair of the Commission for Social Development, shared with the President of the Economic and Social Council the summary of the discussion on “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”.²⁹⁹ The Secretary-General further reported on the significance of developing access to justice and the rule of law as a means to reduce poverty and achieve the internationally agreed development goals.³⁰⁰ In order to meet such challenges effectively, entities and bodies of the United Nations system needed to renew their efforts to strengthen policy coherence and cooperation within the Organization, as well as by Member States, civil society, NGOs and other relevant partners.

179. The General Assembly, for its part, urged the international community to support international development cooperation meant for the bolstering of development, stability, equality and the involvement of developing countries in the globalizing world economy.³⁰¹ The Assembly furthermore underlined the significance of United Nations activities for the assignment of priorities for the eradication of poverty and for the strengthening of coordination throughout the Organization - including the Bretton Woods institutions - to assist governments, specialized agencies and United Nations observers in the advancement of their own strategy for the realization of the targets of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.³⁰²

180. The Economic and Social Council welcomed the integration of poverty eradication, as the overarching priority, into the strategic plans of some United Nations system organizations, in accordance with their mandates.³⁰³ The Council requested the United Nations funds and programmes to include in their regular reporting to the Council information on steps taken, in accordance with their mandates, on the scaling up of efforts to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger, sharing of good practices, lessons learned, strategies, programmes and policies,

²⁹⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/183.

²⁹⁹ See GA resolution 64/215 on the legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty; Letter dated 14 May 2014 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and Chair of the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission for Social Development addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council, E/2014/74.

³⁰⁰ See GA resolution 67/107 without vote [agenda item 29].

³⁰¹ See GA resolution 66/215 without vote [agenda item 23 (a)]; GA resolution 68/226 without vote [agenda item 23 (a)].

³⁰² See GA resolution 64/216; GA resolution 65/174 without vote [agenda item 24 (a)] on Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017); GA resolution 66/215 without vote [agenda item 23 (a)]; GA resolution 68/226 without vote [agenda item 23 (a)].

³⁰³ See E/RES/2015/15

inter alia, capacity-building, employment generation, education, vocational training, rural development and the mobilization of resources, which aim at achieving poverty eradication and promoting the active participation of those living in poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies.

181. The General Assembly and the Council both called for the consolidation of efforts throughout entities of the United Nations system and at all levels to ensure an efficient and coordinated realization of internationally agreed commitments for the eradication of poverty, notably during major United Nations conferences and summits, with a specific emphasis on the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the national and international situations and policies that are favorable to such an eradication. The elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda offered a unique occasion to reframe the approach to poverty eradication in a manner promoting a more balanced and inclusive progress both nationally and internationally, reflecting the multidimensional nature of poverty, with full employment and decent work composing a fundamental element of that holistic approach.³⁰⁴

182. The significance of industrialization was also reaffirmed as a crucial component to the advancement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, as it was a factor in social development, particularly regarding linkages between industry and agriculture, as well as supported the creation of employment. The Assembly reaffirmed the need for all governments and entities of the United Nations system to strengthen a dynamic and discernible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout policies and programmes for the eradication of poverty, nationally and internationally. The reference to gender analysis was highlighted as an instrument for the incorporation of a gender dimension into advancing policies and programmes for the eradication of poverty. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) - as the specialized agency mandated to support inclusive and sustainable industrial development and international industrial cooperation - highlighted the importance of industrial development for the post-2015 development agenda, with UNIDO statistics indicating that the global industrial backdrop had changed considerably, as it saw an increase in the manufacturing sector of emerging industrial countries, and more sustained growth among industrialized markets. UNIDO underscored that technology transfer and knowledge networking should be bolstered as fundamental means to reach inclusive and sustainable industrialization – namely via models such as the Green Industry Platform, the Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Development Initiative, the Institute for Capacity Development, the Networks for Prosperity initiative and the global forums on inclusive and sustainable industrial development.³⁰⁵ UNIDO has aligned itself with all relevant UN system-wide initiatives and coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and local levels. Working partnerships have been established with other specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank Group, among others.³⁰⁶

183. An essential outcome of the Year of Microcredit in the period prior was the development of the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors, which continued to offer advice and assistance to entities and bodies of the United Nations system on way to render a wide range of financial services available for the poor and small enterprises worldwide. The Secretary-General, for his part, evaluated the benefits and limitations of microcredit and microfinance as a poverty eradication strategy, while assessing the impact of the financial and economic crisis on

³⁰⁴ See GA resolution 69/234 without vote [agenda item 23 (a)]; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/204, on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017).

³⁰⁵ See Note of the Secretary-General, A/69/331; GA resolution 67/225; GA resolution 69/235 without vote [agenda item 23 (b)]; GA resolution 65/175; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/223.

³⁰⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General A/69/331

microfinance, and reviewed the actions taken by Member States to enhance the provision of microfinance services and to shape inclusive financial systems.³⁰⁷ He stressed that microfinance services needed to be supplemented with additional development strategies concentrated on building human capital and developing an enabling context to maximize the poverty eradication potential of microfinance. Further to the 2008 financial and economic crisis, the fundamentals of microfinance offered a more stable financial model - by which financial inclusion policies should be established in coordination with other social, economic and environmental policies, so as to invest in areas that complemented and supported the benefits and potential of microfinance.

184. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the General Assembly called upon the organization of the United Nations development system, including the specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication and stressed that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger.³⁰⁸ The Assembly also encouraged greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding the duplication of efforts.

c. Human settlements and sustainable urbanization

185. During the period under review, UN-Habitat pursued its activities to promote a more effective and coordinated response to current urbanization challenges through, inter alia, its collaboration with other agencies within the United Nations system on policy and programme coordination, including policy coherence, institutional arrangements and programme implementation at the country level.³⁰⁹ The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the General Assembly in 2015, included a dedicated goal on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11), with 10 targets that address both the unfinished business of the MDGs and new issues.

186. The World Urban Forums organized during this period continued to provide a platform where various segments of society coordinate activities to increase cities' capacities as engines of economic growth and employment creation, particularly for youth.³¹⁰ The World Urban Forum Advisory Group was also created during the period under consideration, to firstly produce urban data for entities of the United Nations system, and secondly to identify synergies between the UN-Habitat Governing Council activities and the outcomes of the Forum's sessions.³¹¹

187. The Economic and Social Council continued its follow up on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.³¹² In light of the UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 23/9 on improving the lives of slum-dwellers, the Council invited all entities of the United Nations system to continue their support of sustainable urban development beyond the MDGs targets, in their contributions to Rio+20.³¹³ Furthermore, the Economic and Social Council held its first-ever

³⁰⁷ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/267; GA resolution 63/229.

³⁰⁸ See GA resolution 70/218.

³⁰⁹ See report of the Secretary-General E/2012/65.

³¹⁰ See World Urban Forum Report HSP/GC/24/2/Add.2, *inter alia*.

³¹¹ See UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 23/5, *inter alia*.

³¹² See reports of the Secretary-General on Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda E/2010/72, E/2011/106, E/2012/65, E/2013/68 and E/2014/64.

³¹³ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/21 [draft: E/2011/L.48] adopted without vote, agenda item 13 (d) on Human Settlements.

integration segment in 2014 focused on sustainable urbanization, to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.³¹⁴

188. UN-Habitat was the main entity within the United Nations system leading and monitoring efforts towards the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda and the MDGs, in line with its Governing Council resolutions and in coordination with other relevant United Nations entities.³¹⁵ UN-Habitat reported on the coordination of implementation activities system-wide for the sixty-fifth High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs, during which it undertook a thorough review of the implementation of the Agenda, culminating in the commitment of all parties to work towards urbanization and sustainable development beyond the MDGs.³¹⁶ Moreover, UN-Habitat contributed to the United Nations System Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda and its working group on indicators, as well as participated in the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on SDGs. During the period under review, UN-Habitat shared several initiatives with the Assembly - notably the World Urban Campaign, the Global Network on Safer Cities, and the Global Campaign on Making cities resilient - as part of its support to entities of the United Nations system for a coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.³¹⁷

189. Throughout the period under consideration, UN-Habitat adopted a more comprehensive and strategic approach to overcoming challenges of urbanization and human settlements, as related to sustainable development. UN-Habitat focused its efforts on advancing global awareness of sustainable urbanization issues, assessing sustainable urbanization trends and challenges, and supporting the implementation of sustainable urbanization policies by Habitat Agenda parties, while mainstreaming cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and youth.³¹⁸ Such issues were addressed by UN-Habitat in flagship reports such as *Global Report on Human Settlements 2011*, *State of the World's Cities 2010/2011: Cities for All—Bridging the Urban Divide*, *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013—Prosperity of Cities*, *Youth in the Prosperity of Cities: State of the Urban Youth Report 2012–2013*, as well as its City Prosperity Initiative.³¹⁹ Furthermore, UN-Habitat focused its activities on supporting local, national and regional human settlement development activities aimed at improving legislation, policies and approaches to bolster inclusive urban planning, management and governance.³²⁰ The strategic actions taken by this new entity served as

³¹⁴ See Economic and Social Council decision 2014/248, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization (E/2014/67); See Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/30 [draft: E/2014/L.29] adopted without vote [agenda item 16 (d)] on Human Settlements.

³¹⁵ In response to Economic and Social Council decision 2009/238 the Secretary-General submitted a report E/2010/72 on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda; see also report of the Secretary-General at E/2015/72; Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/34 [draft: E/2015/L.17] adopted without vote, agenda item 18 (d), on Human Settlements; GA resolution 70/210 “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”, adopted without vote, agenda item 21.

³¹⁶ See GA resolution 65/1 “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”; UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 23/9 “Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target”.

³¹⁷ See GA resolution 65/165 “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)” without vote [agenda item 21]; UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 24/6 taking note of the outcome statement of the first steering committee.

³¹⁸ See UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution A/66/8 (res. 23/7), having before it a report of the Executive Director on the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development (HSP/ GC/23/5/Add.5); UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution A/66/8 (res. 23/9) on global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals; report of the UN-Habitat Governing Council Executive Director HSP/GC/23/5/Add.4; UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution A/66/8 (res. 23/10), requesting shift of the focus of UN-Habitat towards strengthening its normative approaches; Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at A/68/8; UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 24/12 welcoming the research by UN-Habitat in the area of youth, including the *State of Urban Youth 2012/2013*

³¹⁹ See Report on the Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme HSP/GC/23/2, *inter alia*.

³²⁰ See UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution A/66/8 (res. 23/12), urging UN-Habitat to place special emphasis in all its programmes related to decentralization; UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 24/3, having before it the report of the Executive Director on coordinated implementation of the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8); UN-Habitat Governing Council report on coordinated implementation of the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities at HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8; UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 24/5 encouraging strengthening and development of national urban policies; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/298 “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)” in response to GA resolution 68/239.

a catalyst in the implementation of the UN-Habitat Agenda, enabling and entrusting specialized agencies to participate in setting priorities and decision-making, e.g. in urban crime prevention and in improving the lives of slum dwellers, *inter alia*.³²¹

190. The General Assembly, in Resolution 67/216, decided to establish the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to carry out the preparations for the conference and open to all Member States and members of United Nations specialized agencies.³²² The Preparatory Committee led an inclusive preparatory process to outline activities during and leading up to the Habitat III meeting in 2016, in coordination with the United Nations entities.³²³ Additionally, the Preparatory Committee established a working group on operational and administrative matters. The Chief Executives Board, through the High-level Committee on Programmes, established under the leadership of UN-Habitat, an ad-hoc time-bound working group on a new UN urban agenda to prepare a coherent UN system input to Habitat III.

d. Youth and children

191. The period under examination saw the twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversary of the Assembly's adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond. The Assembly marked these anniversaries by devoting two of its plenary meetings to assessing the progress in implementing the ten priority areas of action that were identified in the 1995 Programme in addition to the five additional priorities identified in 2003 through a resolution. Both special sessions resulted in recommendations for a more coordinated and strengthened approach by UN entities for the implementation of the Programme of Action. Specialized agencies of the United Nations system, notably the World Bank and WHO, continued efforts to implement a youth perspective in their activities and programmes, as per the MDGs ten recommendations received from the Assembly in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Furthermore, the annual informal Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council has established itself as the largest gathering of young people at the UN since 2012. It is considered a key platform for young leaders from around the world to engage in a dialogue with UN Member States, and to share ideas and concrete actions to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

192. The General Assembly adopted several resolutions aimed at bolstering collaboration on child protection among specialized agencies of the United Nations system. The Assembly adopted a resolution for the protection of children from bullying, noting that bullying, including cyberbullying, could likely have long-term negative effects together with impact on their enjoyment of human rights. As decided by the Assembly in the period prior, the year of 2010 was celebrated worldwide as the International Year of Youth through a series of high-level dialogues and summits. The Assembly also decided to convene a high-level plenary meeting to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, devoted to examining the progress achieved in implementing the latter as well as the MDGs and resulting in a declaration reaffirming the commitment of Member States to fulfil the agreed global targets and activities for the mobilization of resources for children.³²⁴ One of the Assembly's main focuses was strengthening child protection systems at all levels through a coordinated approach of all entities

³²¹ See UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution A/66/8 (res. 23/14) on sustainable urban development policies for safer cities and urban crime prevention, *inter alia*.

³²² See Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on the work of its second session at A/CONF.226/PC.2/6.

³²³ See Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on the work of its first session at A/CONF.226/PC.1/6; GA resolution 69/226 "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" without vote, agenda item 20.

³²⁴ See GA resolution 68/273.

of the United Nations system to improve policy frameworks.³²⁵ Moreover, the Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure to receive complaints³²⁶, while urging parties to adhere to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.³²⁷

193. The period under review saw a coordinated approach of entities of the United Nations framework to respond to a series of climate-related disasters, humanitarian emergencies, conflicts and economic instability, with devastating impacts on children, particularly those destitute and/or marginalized. Notably, the Economic and Social Council called upon all parties to respect and work towards commitments made for the protection of children and adopted several resolutions on the protection of children, in particular in situations of armed conflict, *inter alia*, in coordination and with the support of UNICEF, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Council and the Security Council.³²⁸

194. UNICEF continued to spearhead the coordination of activities and programmes of the United Nations system, including specialized agencies, related to youth at all levels and multi-sectoral partners to ensure an optimal development of children. Such efforts touched in particular on the issues of strengthening the implementation of HIV programmes, supporting youth in extreme poverty, bolstering policies improving job creation and seek protection for disadvantaged adolescent girls.³²⁹

195. The Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP held joint programming meetings to coordinate activities based on comparative advantages across the United Nations system, as well as to discuss equity in the context of the “Delivering as One” initiative and the achievement of the MDGs and thereafter the SDGs.³³⁰ UNICEF also held joint meetings to collaborate with an array of entities across the United Nations system, namely through its partnership with the World Bank, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meetings, the

³²⁵ See GA resolution 67/146 on the elimination of female genital mutilation; GA resolution 68/145 without vote [agenda item 65 (a)] on “Strengthening collaboration on child protection within the United Nations system”; GA resolution 69/156, urging States to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage; GA resolution 69/187, on migrant children and adolescents; GA resolution 69/194 adopting the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; GA resolution 69/158 without vote [agenda item 64 (a)] on “Protecting children from bullying”.

³²⁶ See GA resolution 66/138, adopting the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

³²⁷ See GA resolution 67/152; GA resolution 68/147; GA resolution 66/141, urging States to become parties; GA resolution 69/157, urging States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Convention.

³²⁸ See GA resolution 66/139 without vote [agenda item 65 (a)] on “Strengthening collaboration on child protection within the United Nations system”; UNICEF operations in 2010 were described in the UNICEF *Annual Report 2010*, to the Economic and Social Council, E/2011/6, and the annual report of the Executive Director on progress and achievements against the Fund’s extended 2006–2013 MTSP (E/ICEF/2011/9); Economic and Social Council decision 2010/251, taking note of the report of the UNICEF Executive Board on its first regular session (E/2010/34 (Part I)); UNICEF annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/6) and the annual report of the Executive Director on progress and achievements against the Fund’s extended 2006–2013 MTSP (E/ICEF/2012/10); Economic and Social Council decision 2011/215, taking note of the annual report of UNICEF covering 2010 (E/2011/6); Economic and Social Council decision 2012/215, taking note of the annual report of UNICEF covering 2011 (E/2012/6); Economic and Social Council decision 2013/215, taking note of the annual report of UNICEF covering 2012 (E/2013/6); Reports of the UNICEF Executive Board E/2013/34 (Part I) & Add.1 and the extract from the Board’s report on its annual session of 2013 (E/2013/L.12); Economic and Social Council decision 2014/228, taking note of the report of the UNICEF Executive Board on its first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2013 (E/2013/34/Rev.1); Economic and Social resolution 2013/5; Annual report of the UNICEF Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council covering 2012 (E/2013/6), *inter alia*.

³²⁹ See E/ICEF/2013/21; Executive Board considered the updated roadmap to and outline of MTSP (2014–2017) (E/ICEF/2013/5); E/ICEF/2013/22 (dec. 2013/8), the Board took note of the draft strategic plan; E/ICEF/2013/22 (dec. 2013/16), the Board approved the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2014–2017), *inter alia*.

³³⁰ See E/2011/34 (Part I)/Add.1; Executive Board decision 2011/6, taking note of the joint informal note of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF on the road map to an integrated budget; E/2012/34 (Part I)/Add.1; UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF presented a road map (E/ICEF/2012/AB/L.6) to an integrated budget, focused on cost recovery-related deliverables; Executive Board decision 2012/20, took note of the proposed harmonized conceptual framework; Executive Board reviewed (E/ICEF/2013/8) of joint review by UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women; Executive Board decision 2013/8 (E/ICEF/2013/22), approved the harmonized methodology; Executive Board review of the framework of the UNICEF strategic plan (2014–2017) (E/ICEF/2014/8), *inter alia*.

World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Population Fund.³³¹

196. Another thematic axe that was that of children and education. The World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education, convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) developed the Moscow Framework for Action and Cooperation, calling on Member states as well as the Organization to mobilize stronger commitment to early childhood care and education as well as to reinforce effective programme delivery; and encourage mutual cooperation and exchange. Furthermore, the Secretary-General launched the Global Education First Initiative, for which UNESCO is hosting the secretariat, aiming to put every child in school, improving the quality of education, and fostering global citizenship.

197. In 2010, the Secretary-General launched the “Every Woman Every Child” (EWEC) movement for all United Nations actors and entities that would put into action Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health, a road-map to ending all preventable deaths of children and adolescents with three overarching objectives of “Survive, Thrive and Transform”. The latter was defined as fundamental for specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to achieve by 2030 the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015, and the Secretary-General established the UN Commission on Life-saving Commodities for Women and Children as well as a High-level Advisory Group to support its implementation and provide recommendations. The role of child labor in undercutting progress on the MDGs was also recognized in the outcome document of the General Assembly High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs.³³²

198. The Secretary-General also reported regularly on the progress made by the Organization’s bodies in achieving the aims set in “A world fit for children” as well as the Plan of Action.³³³ In these assessments, the Secretary-General notably recommended the adoption of strategies, policies and programmes to accelerate progress, while underlining the gaps and the strategic shifts necessary for specialized agencies to achieve the goals outlined in the outcome document.³³⁴ Moreover, the Assembly adopted a series of resolutions calling for entities of the United Nations system and the Secretary-General to take action on their engagement to achieve the MDGs, including Goal 2 on achieving universal primary education, Goal 4 on reducing child mortality, and Goal 5 on improving maternal health.³³⁵ Member States requested the United Nations system to continue its coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development.³³⁶

199. Throughout the period under review, specialized agencies of the United Nations system continued to concentrate in their work related to youth while implementing the World Programme

³³¹ See Executive Board review of oral report (E/ICEF/2013/CRP.3); Board decision 2013/2 taking note of the oral report and requested UNICEF to ensure consistency between the expected HIV/AIDS results in its Strategic plan (2014–2017) (E/ICEF/2013/22).

³³² See GA resolution 65/1.

³³³ See GA resolution 59/261; Report of the Secretary-General A/65/226; GA resolutions 58/157 and 58/282; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/258 on the follow-up to the Assembly’s twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/229; GA resolutions 61/272; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/269; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/258; GA resolution 66/139; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/253, providing an overview of collaboration among different actors in the UN system in the area of child protection; *inter alia*.

³³⁴ See GA resolution 59/261; Report of the Secretary-General A/65/226; GA resolutions 58/157 and 58/282; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/258 on the follow-up to the Assembly’s twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children; GA resolution 61/272; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/229; GA resolution 61/272; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/269; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/258.

³³⁵ See GA resolution 65/1; GA decision 69/532, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly on children; GA resolution 68/148, requesting the Secretary-General to submit the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage; GA resolution 68/145 without vote [agenda item 65 (a)] on “Strengthening collaboration on child protection within the United Nations system; request of the General Assembly” (A/69/484); Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed CONFLICT (A/69/212); Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children (A/69/260); Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (A/69/264).

³³⁶ See GA resolution 70/127

of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.³³⁷ The Assembly declared 2010 the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, during which specialized agencies of the United Nations system promoted communication across generations and cultures, as well as served it as an impetus for the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.³³⁸ Activities and initiatives by United Nations entities to mark the International Year of Youth included *inter alia* the World Youth Conference³³⁹ and the establishment of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. The latter firstly served as the main cooperation mechanism on issues related to youth development within the United Nations system, and secondly developed the United Nations Framework Approach for the Year to guide these collective efforts. Acting on the decision of CEB of April 2012 to take additional steps to improve coordination within the system on youth issues, the High level Committee on Programmes tasked the United Nations Inter Agency Network on Youth Development to develop a United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth.³⁴⁰ The action plan, which provides a policy framework for joint action by the UN system in five priority areas, was endorsed by CEB at in April 2013.³⁴¹ These priority areas included employment and entrepreneurship; protection of rights and civic engagement; political inclusion; education, including comprehensive sexuality education; and health.

200. In 2013, the UN Secretary-General created the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. The Envoy on Youth is mandated with a task of bringing the voices of young people to the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies. Moreover, the Envoy on Youth also works with different UN Agencies, Governments, Civil Society, Academia and Media stakeholders towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations System.

201. In 2015, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination endorsed the global initiative on decent jobs for youth, that was prepared through an inter-agency consultative process under the leadership of the International Labour Organization. The initiative built on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth and aimed to facilitate increased impact and expanded country-level action on decent jobs for youth through multistakeholder partnerships.³⁴²

202. During the period under review, other examples of institutionalized inter-agency collaboration include the Youth Employment Network, a partnership of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank, in addition to coordinated efforts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO, the ILO and UNICEF on targeted advocacy initiatives for youth participation at the global level, trained and equipped environmental youth corps at the country level and instituted various events. At the global level, the United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force committed to increase its efforts to strengthen the human rights of adolescent girls in the areas of education, health, prevention of violence and leadership development.

e. Health

203. The Organization continued its efforts to support the advancement of human health, the coordination of food aid and food security, as well as research in nutrition. The General Assembly focused on the issue of global health and foreign policy, stressing the need for Member States to improve the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of governance for global health as well as

³³⁷ See GA resolution 50/81; GA resolution 60/2, in which the Assembly added five additional priority areas; A/66/61-E/2011/3; *inter alia*.

³³⁸ See GA resolution 64/134; Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/129) on key activities and initiatives undertaken by Member States, civil society organizations, UN entities-

³³⁹ Mexico transmitted the Guanajuato Declaration adopted at the World Youth Conference (A/65/690-E/2011/11).

³⁴⁰ E/2014/69

³⁴¹ E/2015/71

³⁴² E/2016/SR.29

universal health coverage as a critical component to sustainable development in order to achieve all interrelated MDGs.³⁴³ The Secretary-General shared WHO reports with the Assembly highlighting an array of issues - such as universal health coverage, climate change and natural disasters - including the mechanisms and inter-agency structures within the United Nations system to strengthen national capacity to cope with such challenges.³⁴⁴ WHO asserted that forging new global partnerships was one of the important transformative shifts needed to drive the post-2015 agenda, while recommending that future multi-stakeholder partnerships focus their efforts on addressing the six WHO priorities agreed upon by all WHO member States, namely: advancing universal health coverage; health-related MDGs; addressing the challenge of non-communicable diseases (NCDs); implementing the provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005); increasing access to essential, high-quality and affordable medical products; and addressing the social, economic and environmental effects of health. During this period, the General Assembly also decided to designate 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day to be observed every year beginning in 2012.³⁴⁵

204. During the period under review, WHO declared the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa in 2014 a public health emergency of international concern. The Secretary-General appointed the United Nations System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease as well as the Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Operation Crisis Manager, as well as announced the establishment of the Global Ebola Response Coalition to assure an integrated support to affected countries, while bolstering efforts to prevent the spread of the disease to other countries. Furthermore, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a joint letter from the Presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, that detailed the impact of the Ebola virus disease in their respective countries as well as its implications for West Africa and beyond. In this letter, they requested a UN resolution on a comprehensive response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak, including a coordinated international response to end the outbreak, strategic guidance from WHO for overall response and a coordinated international response to support the societies and economies of affected countries, *inter alia*.³⁴⁶ The Secretary-General underlined to the Security Council that due to the unprecedented scope of the Ebola outbreak necessitating a level of international action, his intention was to establish United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) with five priorities: stopping the Ebola outbreak, treating the infected, ensuring essential services, preserving stability and preventing further outbreaks.

205. The Security Council convened an emergency session on the public health crisis, adopting a resolution in which it declared the Ebola outbreak a threat to international peace and security, while calling on Member States and entities of the United Nations system to respond urgently.³⁴⁷ The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, also addressed measures for the containment and fight against the Ebola outbreak and considered reports on such efforts from the Secretary-General and UNMEER.³⁴⁸ The Assembly introduced a draft resolution on establishing

³⁴³ See GA resolution 65/95; Report of the WHO Director-General A/66/497 on global health and foreign policy; GA resolution 66/115 [draft: A/66/L.24 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 126] “Global health and foreign policy”; GA resolution 67/81 [draft: A/67/L.36 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 123] “Global health and foreign policy”; GA resolution 68/98 [draft: A/68/L.26 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 127] “Global health and foreign policy”; GA resolution 68/98; Report of the WHO Director-General A/69/405 on global health partnerships that were helping to advance collectively agreed health priorities for obtaining better health outcomes and ensuring universal health coverage; GA decision 69/554 that “Global health and foreign policy” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session; GA resolution 69/132 [draft: A/69/L.35 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 124]; WHO report WHA68/2015/REC/1 “Global public health”; GA resolution 70/183 (i); A/70/L.32 & Add. 1.

³⁴⁴ See GA resolution 66/115; Report of the WHO Director-General A/67/377; GA resolution 67/81; Report of the WHO Director-General A/68/394 on country experiences in moving towards universal health coverage; Note by the Secretary-General A/70/386.

³⁴⁵ A/Res/66/149.

³⁴⁶ See Letter dated 15 September 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2014/669.

³⁴⁷ See Security Council resolution 2177 (2014), declaring the Ebola outbreak a threat to international peace and security; Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council S/2014/342 on the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire.

³⁴⁸ See GA resolution 69/1, addressing measures to contain and combat the Ebola outbreak; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/720 to the General Assembly, giving an overview of developments from 1 November 2014 to 1 January 2015 on progress made in the Ebola virus disease response; GA resolution 69/1; Special ECOSOC meeting E/2015/SR.3; Letter of Secretary-General A/69/1014.

UNMEER, the first emergency health mission established by the Organization, with the aim to unite the United Nations system competencies into a single, unified structure to ensure a rapid response to the outbreak and for the provision of coherent support to national, regional and international efforts. The Mission's role would also be to support national efforts, reinforce government leadership and emphasize community outreach and training.³⁴⁹ Furthermore, the Assembly joined the Security Council in calling on the international community to take immediate steps to support the countries affected by the deadly virus. The Special Representative and Head of UNMEER would provide the operational framework and unity of purpose in support of a rapid, effective and coherent response to the Ebola outbreak. WHO regularly assessed efforts to contain the outbreak.³⁵⁰ In addition, the Assembly called upon the World Health Organization, the international humanitarian system, global cluster leads and other relevant United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations to strengthen their cooperation and coordination so as to assist Member States, upon request, in effectively responding to situations in which an outbreak escalates into a humanitarian crisis.³⁵¹

206. UNMEER merged the technical expertise of WHO with the operational capabilities of other specialized United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to head efforts for the support, reinforcement and response to the national plans of the affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. UNMEER and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola coordinated international efforts to contain the outbreak, treat those infected, as well as ensure essential services.³⁵² UNMEER regularly reported to the Assembly and the Secretary-General on the spread of the Ebola virus and coordinated prevention and treatment efforts.³⁵³ Subsequently, the Security Council made the recommendation for a technical rollover of the mandate of UNMEER due to the ensuing exceptional circumstances in Liberia.³⁵⁴ The Security Council outlined five strategic priorities for UNMEER, including stopping the spread of disease and treating the infected, as well as six guiding principles – namely, delivering a rapid impact on the ground; coordinating and collaborating with actors outside the United Nations *inter alia*. In order to assess the response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak, the Secretary-General convened a high-level meeting where participants found that, while there had been a concerted response from specialized agencies of the United Nations system, increased contributions were still required prompting additional pledges from international financial institutions at the meeting. Such collective efforts from Member States and entities of the United Nations system had resulted in reducing the spread of Ebola, nonetheless UNMEER highlighted that the response needed to be more tailored to each location and spread pattern of the disease.³⁵⁵

207. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) emphasized the necessity for close coordination and cooperation among all of its entities in order to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Mission.³⁵⁶ ACABQ made the recommendation

³⁴⁹ See GA resolution 69/1 [draft: A/69/L.2, as orally revised] without vote [agenda item 124] “Measures to contain and combat the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa”.

³⁵⁰ See WHA action WHA68(10).

³⁵¹ See GA resolution 70/183.

³⁵² See Report of the Secretary-General A/69/404; GA resolution 69/1.

³⁵³ See Letters of Secretary-General A/69/759; A/69/812; A/69/871; A/69/908; A/69/939; A/69/992.

³⁵⁴ See Report of the Secretary-General S/2014/598 to the Security Council on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL); Letter dated 28 August 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2014/644; Letter dated 12 November 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly A/69/573 to the President of the General Assembly, reviewing the activities from 19 September to 31 October that had been carried out by the Special Envoy on Ebola and UNMEER; GA resolution 69/1; Report of the Secretary-General A/70/737 “Lessons learned exercise on the coordination activities of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response”.

³⁵⁵ See Report of the Secretary-General A/69/720 to the General Assembly President, giving an overview of developments from 1 November 2014 to 1 January 2015 on progress made in the Ebola virus disease response; GA resolution 69/1.

³⁵⁶ Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

A/69/408, United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola; GA resolution 69/274.

to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to provide in his detailed budget submission comprehensive information on the response from the United Nations system.³⁵⁷

208. During the period under review, the World Health Organization advocated for the implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2003 and came into force in February 2005, establishing an internationally coordinated response to counter the tobacco epidemic and laid out concrete measures for parties to address tobacco use. The Economic and Social Council called upon entities of the United Nations system to include tobacco control in their activities and programmes to improve maternal and child health.³⁵⁸

209. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention issued a declaration urging the United Nations Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control to support coordination for strengthening implementation of the Convention within the UN system, also stressing the need to discuss tobacco control during the United Nations 2011 summit on non-communicable diseases.³⁵⁹ The Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control continued its efforts to implement the measures set out in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control through multisectoral inter-agency collaboration on tobacco and health.³⁶⁰ WHO found that tobacco use remained the leading cause of preventable death in its yearly publication *Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic*, that reported on the status of the tobacco epidemic and the impact of interventions implemented to stop it. WHO underlined in the latter reports that, while substantial progress had been made, the tobacco epidemic continued to expand, resulting in the inclusion of tobacco control measures among the core components of the outcome document of the UN High-level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases. Moreover, the parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control adopted the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and made a collective commitment in the Seoul Declaration to increase and coordinate their efforts to implement the Convention. Recognizing that tobacco was a contributor to other non-communicable diseases risk factors, the UN Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control called on specialized agencies of the United Nations system to integrate tobacco control within the national non-communicable disease control programmes. Additionally, in 2015 to commemorate the tenth anniversary since the FCTC entered into force, a high-level event was held to discuss progress made in the implementation of the Convention.

210. The Secretary-General regularly reported on the activities of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control as well as on the outcome of the Task Force's special meeting on considering means to strengthen multisectoral and inter-agency implementation of the FCTC.³⁶¹ He underlined the three different levels of interventions for tobacco control - political, technical and operational - and the necessity for a coordinated "One United Nations" approach among agencies to avoid overlap with the support of the Task Force, as well as to make the connection between tobacco control with NCD prevention. The Task Force further promoted effective tobacco policies and mechanisms, including multisectoral activities in the implementation of the WHO FCTC and the integration of FCTC targets within the Political Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs. Members of the Task Force further agreed with the informal UN inter-agency task force on NCDs, that both platforms should

³⁵⁷ See GA resolution 69/3 without vote [agenda item 132] "United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions A/69/903.

³⁵⁸ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/8 [draft: E/2010/L.26 & E/2010/SR.45] without vote [agenda item 7 (g)] "Tobacco use and maternal and child health"; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/4 [draft: E/2012/L.18] without vote [agenda item (7g)] "United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control".

³⁵⁹ The Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on a Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products submitted reports FCTC/COP/4/4 and FCTC/COP/4/REC/1.

³⁶⁰ See Report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council on progress E/2010/55 & Corr.1.

³⁶¹ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/8; Report of the Secretary-General submitted E/2012/70; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/4; Report of the Secretary-General E/2013/61 on the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control.

merge into a single inter-agency coordination platform for work on NCDs, with a chapter dedicated to tobacco control activities, including the implementation of the FCTC. Task Force members also agreed to hold annual meetings of the UN inter-agency coordination platform on NCDs as well as made several recommendations to the Economic and Social Council for further guidance, including that of establishing new task force on the prevention and control of NCDs that would focus on all such diseases and comprising a specific subgroup to focus on tobacco. Another recommendation the Task Force made to the Council was to increase the cooperation and communication among specialized agencies and other entities of the UN, notably WHO and UNDP, so as to ensure that NCDs and tobacco control would have a prominent place in the development of future United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

211. Throughout the period under consideration, WHO repeatedly expressed concern to the Assembly over the danger posed by NCDs – in particular in developing countries - while calling for urgent coordinated global action by the Organization as well as its Member States.³⁶² WHO launched a flagship publication *Global status report on non-communicable diseases 2010* - its first report on the worldwide epidemic of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases on the global status of non-communicable diseases, stating that deaths due to NCDs would continue to increase, identifying population ageing and unplanned urbanization, *inter alia*, as drivers of the diseases.³⁶³ WHO made the recommendation that specialized agencies of the United Nations system map and monitor the diseases while analyzing their social, economic and political components to facilitate an effective response. The report also laid out a road map for reversing the epidemic. As a follow-up action to the Political Declaration, WHO adopted a voluntary global target to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by 25 per cent by 2025. Furthermore, WHO published in 2015 the Non-communicable Disease Progress Monitor 2015, assessing progress achieved in the implementation of national commitments included in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs.

212. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, participants called for the involvement of all entities and bodies of the United Nations system for coordinated multisectoral action to address the health needs of the world’s population. Among their commitments, the parties agreed to redouble efforts to promote affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support related to non-communicable diseases, and also recognized the importance of universal health coverage to advance health, social cohesion and sustainable human and economic development. Parties also called for the involvement of all entities of the United Nations system for coordinated multisectoral action to address urgently the health needs of the world’s population, *inter alia*.

213. At the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly, Member States endorsed the “25 by 25” voluntary global target to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by 25 per cent by 2025 target.³⁶⁴ To this aim, the report firstly made the recommendation to appoint and resource NCDs leads, accountable for the establishment of multisectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships, guided by national plans and targets. Secondly, the report recommended to establish a high-level national multisectoral mechanism – i.e. a commission, agency or task force. The final recommendation was to incorporate the prevention and control of NCDs into national United Nations Development Assistance

³⁶² See WHO report WHA64/2011/REC/1; GA resolution 66/2; Report of the WHO Director-General A/67/373 of the on options for strengthening and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through effective partnership; GA resolution 66/2; Report of the WHO Director General A/68/650 on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs); GA resolution 64/108; Report of the Secretary-General on global health and foreign policy A/65/399 prepared in collaboration with the WHO Director General; WHO report WHA68/2015/REC/1.

³⁶³ See Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report by the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the global status of non-communicable diseases, with a particular focus on the development challenges faced by developing countries, A/65/362.

³⁶⁴ See Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020 and adoption of the comprehensive global monitoring framework as well as a set of nine voluntary global targets for achievement by 2025 for the prevention and control of NCDs, WHA66/2013/REC/1.

Framework (UNDAF) agreements and poverty reduction strategies. In complement, a UN task force on NCDs would support UN country team achievement of the target, including of the recommended actions set out in the joint WHO/UNDP letter on integrating NCDs into UNDAF processes. Finding progress on the prevention and control of NCDs was insufficient and decidedly uneven between developed and developing countries, WHO endorsed the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2020, as well as adopted the comprehensive global monitoring framework for the prevention and control of NCDs along with a set of nine voluntary global targets for achievement by 2025. The Assembly urged Member States to implement the global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2020, as well as recommend that the Economic and Social Council consider the proposal for a UN Task Force on NCDs that would focus on coordinating the activities and programmes of specialized agencies in their implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020. The Economic and Social Council further requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs by expanding the mandate of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control.³⁶⁵ The Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases established a joint work plan for the 2014–2015 period to assure policy coherence and accountability among entities of the United Nations system in their implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan for NCDs 2013–2020. The Council encouraged the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases to continue their efforts to support national efforts to implement the commitments made in the 2011 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the 2014 outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases - based on the guidance set out in the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020.³⁶⁶

214. WHO made several recommendations to the Council and Assembly, including to continue bolstering the efforts from Member States to implement the Global Action Plan and to adopt the Inter-Agency Task Force Terms of Reference.³⁶⁷ Moreover, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting in 2014 to discuss the advancement made in preventing and limiting NCDs since the Millennium Summit,³⁶⁸ that resulted in an outcome document on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.³⁶⁹ The Assembly welcomed the establishment of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and the endorsement of its terms of reference by the Economic and Social Council in June 2014. The Assembly also decided that a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases would take place in 2018.

215. A further major concern of entities and bodies of the United Nations system was that of the spread of malaria and other endemics.³⁷⁰ Further to the proclamation by the Assembly of the Decade

³⁶⁵ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12 [draft: E/2013/L.23] without vote [agenda item 7 (g)] “United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases”; GA resolution 66/2; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12; Report of the WHO Director General E/2014/55 on progress achieved since July 2013.

³⁶⁶ See United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases E/RES/2015/8; Note by the Secretary-General E/2015/53.

³⁶⁷ See GA resolution 68/271 [draft: A/68/L.45] without vote [agenda item 118] “Scope and modalities of the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases”; Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/10 [draft: E/2014/L.13] without vote [agenda item 10 (f)] “United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases”.

³⁶⁸ See GA resolution 68/271.

³⁶⁹ See GA resolution 68/300 [draft: A/68/L.53] without vote [agenda item 118] “Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases”.

³⁷⁰ See GA Decision that the agenda item “2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-fifth (2011) session (decision 65/544).

to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries from 2001–2010, WHO prepared several reports for the Assembly on controlling and eliminating malaria in developing countries by 2015 and assessing progress made, particularly in Africa, including the report entitled “2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa”, which underlined progress made in achieving the aims for the control of malaria.³⁷¹ The latter report firstly highlighted the drop by 50 per cent of the recorded cases of and deaths due to malaria, and secondly the increase in funding commitments by the World Bank and other agencies with the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.³⁷² Such findings suggested that the targets set in the MDGs, namely Millennium Development Goal 6 on reversing the spread of malaria, could be met by 2015 and beyond.

216. The General Assembly adopted several resolutions for the consolidation and acceleration of efforts to limit and eliminate malaria in developing countries, in particular in Africa, calling on entities of the United Nations system to scale up their activities to reach the internationally agreed targets of near-zero deaths from malaria by 2015.³⁷³ In early 2011, WHO and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership established the Global Plan for Artemisinin Resistance Containment, of which the goal was to preserve artemisinin-based combination therapies as an effective treatment for falciparum malaria. The Assembly recognized that an effective coordination of all entities and bodies of the United Nations system within the framework of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership would continue to be crucial in making further progress in the fight against malaria.³⁷⁴

217. An additional matter that was of concern to specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system during the period under consideration was that of the improvement of global road safety. The General Assembly considered the improvement of global road safety calling on WHO to support the coordination of road safety issues within the Organization, as well as proclaimed 2011–2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety.³⁷⁵ WHO adopted several resolutions related to road safety and reported regularly on the improvement of global road safety, in coordination

³⁷¹ See GA resolution 65/273; WHO report A/66/169 “2001–2010: Decade to roll back malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa”; GA resolution 66/289; Report of the WHO Director General A/67/825 on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria, particularly in Africa, by 2015; Report of the WHO Director General A/68/854; GA resolution 67/299 on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria, particularly in Africa, by 2015; GA decision 70/554 (m).

³⁷² See Note by the Secretary-General A/65/210 “2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa”; GA resolution 62/180; *inter alia*.

³⁷³ See GA decision 65/544 that the agenda item “2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-fifth (2011) session; GA resolution 65/273 [draft: A/65/L.70 & Add.1, as orally revised] without vote [agenda item 12] “Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015”; GA resolution 66/289 [draft: A/66/L.58 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 13] “Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015”; GA decision 67/554 that agenda item “2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-seventh (2013) session; GA resolution 68/308 [draft: A/68/L.60 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 13] “Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015”; GA decision 69/554 that agenda item “2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session; GA resolution 69/325 “Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015 and beyond” ; A/69/L.91 “Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015 and beyond”; A/69/L.91/Add.1 “Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015 and beyond”.

³⁷⁴ See GA resolution 67/299 [draft: A/67/L.80 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 13] “Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015”; GA decision 68/550 that the agenda item entitled “2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session; Note by Secretary-General A/69/916 “Implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/308 on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015”.

³⁷⁵ See GA resolution 64/255 [draft: A/64/L.44/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 46] “Improving global road safety”; GA resolution 66/260 [draft: A/66/L.43 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 12] “Improving global road safety”; GA resolution 66/260; GA resolution 68/269 [draft: A/68/L.40 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 12] “Improving global road safety”; GA resolution 64/255; GA resolution 66/260, encouraging Member States to adopt and implement comprehensive national road safety legislation on the major risk and protective factors towards reaching a participation target of 50 per cent of all countries by 2020.

with the UN regional commissions and other partners of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration.³⁷⁶

218. Furthermore, two notable road safety events were the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety and the launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety in 2011, both of which had resulted in the development of plans and targets to address the issue. WHO and the UN regional commissions, in cooperation with partners of the Road Safety Collaboration, established and regularly assessed progress towards a Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011–2020), which laid out a framework for activities on road safety issues in the context of five major categories: road safety management; safer roads and mobility; safer vehicles; safer road users; and post-crash response. Several other high-profile events and global initiatives on the issue of road safety were launched during the period under review, including the development of the Global New Car Assessment Programme - a non-profit organization for the promotion of safer car manufacture, a publication prepared by WHO and the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on the issue of driver distraction linked to mobile phone usage as well as the launch of the Global Alliance for Care of the Injured in May 2013.

219. The Economic and Social Council for its part, discussed the role of entities and bodies of the United Nations system for the promotion of the implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the Council in 2009, entitled “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”.³⁷⁷ The Council considered several reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of internationally agreed development goals and commitments related to global public health.³⁷⁸ These reports assessed the UN system’s efforts to implement the ministerial declaration in a coordinated manner, while reviewing UN country-level experiences for the promotion of health, and made the recommendation for several steps to promote the coordinated implementation of the Declaration.

220. The 2030 Agenda stipulated a strong political commitment to public health and laid out universal health coverage as an overarching leitmotif while emphasizing its interaction with the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

f. HIV/AIDS

221. The period under review marked, in 2011, thirty years since the HIV/AIDS epidemic was recognized. During the period under examination, the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic while assessing progress in and challenges to the implementation of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.³⁷⁹ The Assembly noted the global coordinated efforts of specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to make prevention, treatment, care and support accessible to all, while calling for renewed commitment for an acceleration of efforts to achieve the goals set in the MDGs and in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.³⁸⁰ The

³⁷⁶ See Report of the Secretary-General A/66/389 on improving global road safety; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/368 on improving global road safety, prepared by WHO, in consultation with the UN regional commissions and other partners of the UN Road Safety Collaboration, covering the period from September 2011 to August 2013.

³⁷⁷ See Report of the Economic and Social Council for 2010, A/65/3/Rev.1; Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/24 [draft: E/2010/L.13] without vote [agenda item 4] “The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2009 of the Economic and Social Council”.

³⁷⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council E/2010/85 “Theme of the coordination segment: implementing the internationally agreed development goals and commitments in regard to global public health”

³⁷⁹ See Report of the Secretary-General A/64/735 on progress made in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS; General Assembly decision 64/557, to undertake consultations to determine the modalities and organizational arrangements for the 2011 comprehensive HIV/AIDS review.

³⁸⁰ See Report of the Secretary-General A/64/735 on progress made in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS; GA resolution 65/197 on the rights of the child, by which it called upon States to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on children; GA resolution 65/180 [draft: A/65/L.49] without vote [agenda item 10]

Security Council additionally underlined the need for timely and coordinated international action to cur the impact of HIV in conflict and post-conflict situations.³⁸¹

222. The General Assembly further decided to convene two special high-level plenary meetings to assess the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS 2001 and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, together with that of the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.³⁸² The first was held in 2010 to review the global response to HIV/AIDS with the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, while the second took place in 2011 to mark the tenth anniversary of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment, along with the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, reviewing the progress achieved in their implementation, resulting in the adoption of a political declaration on intensifying efforts to eliminate the disease. At the latter, the Assembly welcomed the participation of civil society representatives and urged Member States as well as entities of the Organization to integrate the AIDS response into broader development programmes.³⁸³ The 2011 high-level meeting culminated in the adoption of a Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS entitled “Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS”, in which Member States committed themselves to ending the epidemic with renewed political will and to working in partnership with all stakeholders in such areas as prevention; treatment, care and support; human rights; resources; strengthening health systems; research and development; and coordination, monitoring and accountability. Member States also committed themselves to redoubling efforts to achieve, by 2015, universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.³⁸⁴

223. The Economic and Social Council continued to review biennially progress made in implementing a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the HIV/AIDS epidemic during its Management Segment.³⁸⁵ The Council underlined programmatic and policy gaps that abated progress towards MDG 6 - calling for concerted global action to halt and begin to reverse the epidemic by 2015. The period under examination saw the emergence of fresh instruments and mechanisms for the prevention of new infections, including antiretroviral treatment for HIV prevention and voluntary medical male circumcision. With the support of the progress made in research, UNAIDS bolstered the vision “zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths”. The Council noted that the number of new infections remained on the rise in many regions, while the resourcing of HIV prevention activities was inadequately resourced and implemented. In order to accelerate progress toward an AIDS-free generation in the post-2015 development agenda, the Council also firstly called on all entities of the United Nations framework to renew their commitment to strengthen global solidarity, and secondly called for clear, prioritized and time-bound targets.³⁸⁶

224. UNAIDS supported the coordination of the Organization’s activities and programmes for AIDS prevention and control, in conjunction with monitoring and evaluating the implementation

“Organization of the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS”.

³⁸¹ See Security Council resolution 1983(2011) taking note of the Secretary-General’s report A/65/797, and underlining that urgent and coordinated international action continued to be required to curb the impact of the HIV epidemic in conflict and post-conflict situations.

³⁸² See GA decision 65/548; GA decision 65/551 “Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS”; GA decision 66/557.

³⁸³ See Note by GA President A/65/835, Informal interactive hearing of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector on the 2011 High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS; General Assembly decision 65/547, approving for participation in the high-level meeting the list of civil society representatives.

³⁸⁴ See GA resolution 65/277 [draft: A/65/L.77] without vote [agenda item 10]; General Assembly decision 69/554 “Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS”.

³⁸⁵ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/6; Report of the Secretary-General including the report of the UNAIDS Executive Director E/2011/109, describing the results achieved in the response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic since the 2009 report; Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/19 [draft: E/2011/L.46] without vote [agenda item 7 (g)] “Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS”.

³⁸⁶ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/11 [draft: E/2013/L.32] without vote [agenda item 7 (e)] on “Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS”.

of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/ AIDS, the 2011 Political Declaration and achieving the target in MDG 6. As the coordinator of AIDS activities in the United Nations system, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) continued expanding the number of actors and other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement a coordinated response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Joint Programme also focused on achieving results in the 10 priority areas and across the six cross-cutting strategies set out in *Joint Action for Results: UNAIDS Outcome Framework 2009–2011*.

225. UNAIDS advocated global action to fight HIV/AIDS in coordination with its ten co-sponsors: the International Labour Organization; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the World Health Organizations (WHO); the World Food Programme (WFP); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and the World Bank. UN-Women became the eleventh co-sponsor of UNAIDS in 2010. UNAIDS strengthened decentralized community-level planning activities, encouraged synergies with other stakeholders within the scope of national policies, and focused on avoiding duplication of efforts and resource depletion via the “Three Ones” principle – whereby donors decided to coordinate their activity for a cohesive national- and country-level AIDS strategy and evaluation systems. UNAIDS further issued, in 2010 the *Report on the global AIDS epidemic and in 2013 the Global Report: UNAIDS Report on the Global aids Epidemic* — the most comprehensive global assessment of the HIV/AIDS.

226. Following the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, Member States committed to focusing their efforts on coordinated multisectoral action to address the health needs of the world’s population. To this end, they committed to reinforce activities to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, while UNAIDS urged the international community to prioritize HIV/AIDS in the post-2015 development agenda with ambitious targets.

227. The UNAIDS secretariat along with other United Nations entities continued to assess progress made while coordinating a series of actions in the key areas of advocacy, normative guidance and operations support, communications and public information, and civil society engagement. The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) endorsed a new vision, calling for efforts to achieve “zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination”, as well as a comprehensive strategy for 2011-2015 – outlining policy and programmatic approaches to advance progress in each of the three pillars of the UNAIDS vision.³⁸⁷ The PCB adopted the *UNAIDS 2011–2015 Strategy: Getting to Zero*, an agenda for the global AIDS response to bolster prevention, while strengthening the following phase of treatment, care and support, and advancing human rights and gender equality.³⁸⁸

228. In 2015, ending the AIDS epidemic was included as an ambitious target in the Sustainable Development Goals. This was followed up by the adoption of the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy to guide the global AIDS response, aligned with the SDGs, by the UNAIDS PCB in October 2015.

g. Food security and nutrition

229. During this period, the Organization continued its activities and programmes for the advancement of human health, promotion of food security and nutrition and of sustainable agriculture development. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations continued to implement the plan of action adopted at the 1996 World Food Summit and convened

³⁸⁷ See UNAIDS/PCB(26)/10.15; *inter alia*.

³⁸⁸ See UNAIDS/PCB(27)/10.27.

the “World Food Summit: five years later”, which culminated in the adoption of a declaration calling on specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to meet the commitments made at the 1996 Summit to halve the number of hungry to about 400 million by 2015.³⁸⁹ In 2013, the FAO Conference elevated the first Global Goal of the Organization from the reduction of hunger to the “*Eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life*”³⁹⁰, anticipating the zero hunger goal that would be adopted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Second International Conference on Nutrition, co-organized by the FAO and the World Health Organization, culminated in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its accompanying Framework for Action³⁹¹, committing all parties to establish national policies for eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming food systems to ensure the availability of nutritious diets to all, and calling for the declaration of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025. The General Assembly welcomed both outcome documents.³⁹² In 2015, the end date of the MDGs, the FAO assessed the progress made towards achieving the internationally established hunger targets, and reflected on what remained to be done, in the transition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.³⁹³

230. Recognizing the crucial role played by agriculture in eradicating poverty, affecting over 1 billion people in its extreme form, the General Assembly called for a coordinated implementation of the commitments made at the 2009 World Summit on Food Security. The General Assembly adopted several resolutions on agriculture development and food security, as well as on excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets.³⁹⁴ The Assembly also called upon Member States as well as specialized agencies of the United Nations system to mainstream a gender perspective into agricultural policies and activities and in agriculture, while taking into consideration the specific needs of women in food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies.³⁹⁵ The FAO State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011³⁹⁶ shed light on the significant contribution women make to the rural economy, despite of the gender gap in access to productive resources. It reported that if women had the same access to these resources as men, it could lift 100–150 million people out of hunger. Starting from 2013, FAO, in collaboration with IFAD, WFP and UN Women advocated for and technically supported the development of the CEDAW³⁹⁷ General Recommendation 34 on the right of rural women of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.³⁹⁸ This landmark recommendation, provides policy and programmatic guidance to enhance women’s rights in the field of food and agriculture.

231. The Millennium Development Goals hunger target of halving the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries by 2015 was within reach in the period under review, nevertheless, the World Food Summit target of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015 remained an ambitious and challenging one: the 2015 edition of the State of Food Insecurity in the World³⁹⁹, co-authored by FAO, WFP and IFAD, reported that 72 out of 129 monitored developing countries had reached the MDG 1c hunger target, 29 of which also met the World Food Summit target. The Assembly stressed the need to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of national policies, while urging entities of the United Nations

³⁸⁹ See WFS 96/REP; E/2016/36; WFP/EB.1/2015/13; WFP/EB.2/2015/15; WFP/EB.2/2015/15.

³⁹⁰ See Report of the Conference of FAO, 13-22 June 2013, C 2013/REP.

³⁹¹ See Second International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, 19-21 November 2014, Conference Outcome Document: Framework for Action, ICN2 2014/3 Corr. 1.

³⁹² See GA resolution 69/310 (i); A/69/L.50/Rev.1 & Add.1.

³⁹³ See “2015 State of Food Insecurity”.

³⁹⁴ See GA resolution 66/158 on the right to food, which reaffirmed the concrete recommendations contained in the 2004 Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.

³⁹⁵ See GA resolution 68/209 on agricultural technology for development; GA decision 70/547; GA resolution 70/223.

³⁹⁶ See <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2010-11/en/>

³⁹⁷ Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence against Women.

³⁹⁸ See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/GC/34&Lang=en

³⁹⁹ See the 2015 State of Food Insecurity in the World, retrieved at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf>.

system to include agricultural technology, research and development components in their efforts to achieve the MDGs.

232. FAO continued to support efforts to address the world food crisis in close collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and in coordination with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), while mitigating its effects on vulnerable regions in particular. The FAO underlined urgency for funds for WFP, while the Task Force on the Global Food and Nutrition Security, established in the period prior, continued its activities for the coordination of efforts to alleviate the crisis and to develop a unified response to the ongoing crisis. The FAO also led several UN clusters, while providing assistance to and mobilizing additional resources to support those affected by severe and complex emergencies as well as countries in transition, notably the Central African Republic, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. In July 2011, a famine was declared in Somalia. UN entities - including such as FAO, WFP, UNICEF - supported by the international community, implemented a combination of adequate rains combined with substantive agricultural and humanitarian interventions which included provision of agricultural inputs, animal health support and cash transfers.⁴⁰⁰ Its annual publications *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, issued by the FAO since 1999, jointly with the WFP since in 2010, and joined also by IFAD in the following years, focused on an array of issues including addressing food security in protracted crisis, food price volatility, and the link between economic growth and the reduction of hunger and malnutrition, the multiple dimensions of food security.

233. During the period under examination, the Economic and Social Council continued to consider coordination of activities and programmes of United Nations entities.⁴⁰¹ The Council and the Assembly both considered the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for the implementation of the MDG and the 1996 World Food Summit targets.⁴⁰² The CFS regularly called on entities of the Organization for action on crucial issues such as that of food security and nutrition, namely the development of a global strategic framework on food security and nutrition, a high-level expert forum on food insecurity, food price volatility and addressing food insecurity in protracted crises.⁴⁰³

234. The Council made the decision to discontinue its quadrennial consideration of the reports on advancement made in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, with effect from 2011, while inviting the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security to annually share with the Council a report including the principal decisions and policy recommendations, as well as on the Committee's achievements regarding food security and nutrition, in accordance with its new roles and vision, starting in 2012.⁴⁰⁴ Furthermore, the CFS adopted the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, which contained practical guidance and recommendations to improve coordination and synchronized action by an array of stakeholders on food security and nutrition issues. Moreover, the Council and the General Assembly considered a reform of the CFS, namely and *inter alia*, a composition that would improve on balance between inclusiveness and

⁴⁰⁰ See <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/82387/icode/> and <http://www.fao.org/news/story/pt/item/122091/icode/>.

⁴⁰¹ See ECOSOC decision 2010/251 of 23 July, taking note of the report of the Executive Board [E/2010/36] and of the 2009 WFP annual report transmitted by the Secretary-General [E/2010/14]; Economic and Social Council decision 2011/215, taking note of the report of the Executive Board [E/2011/36], as well as the WFP annual report for 2010 [E/2011/14], transmitted by the Secretary-General.

⁴⁰² See ECOSOC decision 2011/217; Review by the General Assembly of Secretary-General report A/67/86-E/2012/71; ECOSOC decision 2012/254; ECOSOC took note of the report by decision 2011/218 of 22 July; ECOSOC decision 2011/217; Report of the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly and ECOSOC A/68/73-E/2013/59 on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security; ECOSOC decision 2013/226 "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition"; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/91-E/2014/84 to the General Assembly and ECOSOC on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security; ECOSOC decision 2014/250 taking note of the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security; GA resolution 69/240 without vote [agenda item 25] on "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition"; GA decision 70/547.

⁴⁰³ See thirty-sixth session of the Committee on World Food Security, CL 140/5.

⁴⁰⁴ See Economic and Social Council decision 2011/217, *inter alia*.

effectiveness, the inclusion of intersessional activities, as well as the establishment of a high-level panel of experts on food security and nutrition.⁴⁰⁵

235. During the period under consideration, the Secretary-General reported systematically to the Assembly on agriculture development and food security, as well as on the ongoing repercussions of the 2008 food crisis, with many countries experiencing price increases together with drops in trade and financial inflows, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.⁴⁰⁶ The High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, comprising 22 UN bodies, responded to the food crisis by committing over \$2 billion of their own funds and mobilized over \$6 billion to mitigate the effects of highly increased food prices in over 90 countries. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme as well as the Global Food and Nutrition Security Support Programme, both established by the World Bank, supported coordinated, enhanced and mobilized development assistance.⁴⁰⁷ The Secretary-General welcomed such initiatives and advancements in bolstering coordination within the United Nations system, including the efforts made by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food and Nutrition Security for the promotion of a comprehensive and unified response to achieve global food security, that of the Committee on World Food Security, as well as the cooperation and joint response of the Rome-based agencies – the FAO, IFAD, and the WFP – to food security issues together with their collaboration with other entities including the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Specialized agencies and entities of the United Nations system coordinated their activities in several other initiatives, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, see *infra*, the FAO/United Nations Environment Programme joint programme on sustainable consumption and production, along with the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition initiated by the Group G8 in order to accelerate the flow of private capital to African agriculture.

236. At the landmark high-level United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General launched the “Zero Hunger Challenge”, which sought to renew the commitments on food and nutrition security in the MDGs as well as in the post-2015 development agenda by listing five objectives: 100 per cent access continued to adequate food, no stunted children under 2 years of age, sustainable food systems, 100 per cent growth in smallholder productivity, and zero food lost or wasted. The Zero Hunger Challenge fostered coordination and cooperation at all levels across the Organization to overcome hunger and malnutrition, having been adopted High-Level Task Force on the Global Food and Nutrition Security.⁴⁰⁸ One of the main focal points of the Secretary-General’s recommendations, as well as those of entities of the United Nations system, was maintaining momentum in ensuring food security and adequate nutrition beyond the achievement of the 2015 targets through the incorporation of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in the post-2015 development agenda together with a more integrated cross-sectoral approach – such as the alignment with the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

237. The year 2011 marked the launch of the Agricultural Market Information System by the G20 Ministers of Agriculture in response to the global food price hikes in 2007/08 and 2010. Hosted by FAO, and supported by an inter-agency Secretariat of ten international organization and entities, the network brings together the principal trading countries of agricultural commodities in order to

⁴⁰⁵ See Secretary-General note A/65/73-E/2010/51; Economic and Social Council decision 2010/255 taking note of the Secretary-General’s note; One hundred and fortieth session of FAO Council, CL 140/ REP; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/76-E/2011/102, transmitting to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council a report on the reform of the Committee on World Food Security and on progress made towards its implementation.

⁴⁰⁶ See GA resolution 64/224; Report of the Secretary-General A/65/253 on agriculture development and food security; GA resolution 66/220; Report of the Secretary-General A/67/294; Report of the Secretary-General A/66/277 on agriculture development and food security; GA resolution 65/178; GA resolution 67/228; Report of the Secretary-General A/68/311, on agriculture development, food security and nutrition; GA resolution 68/233; Report of the Secretary-General A/69/279, on agriculture development, food security and nutrition; Report of Secretary-General A/70/333.

⁴⁰⁷ See GA resolution 65/178 without vote [agenda item 26] on “Agriculture development and food security”.

⁴⁰⁸ See GA resolution 68/233 without vote [agenda item 25].

assess global food supplies (focusing on wheat, maize, rice and soybeans) and to provide a platform to coordinate policy action in times of market uncertainty. Participating countries include the G20 members plus Spain and seven additional major exporting and importing countries of agricultural commodities, which together represent about 80-90 percent of global trade in the targeted crops.⁴⁰⁹ The Assembly also adopted a resolution on agricultural technology for development, by which it underlined the role of women in agricultural and rural development, improving food security and nutrition.

238. Throughout the period under consideration, the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) commenced administrative reforms in order to facilitate closer relationships with the Economic and Social Council as well as the Committee on World Food Security. Among these reforms, was the re-establishment of the reporting line to the Council, improving linkages with the Committee on World Food Security, as well as granting observer status to NGOs and international financial institutions, *inter alia*. The UNSCN also continued its implementation of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) framework, launched at the “1,000 Days: Change a Life, Change the Future” event. The SUN movement focused its efforts on mobilizing resources needed for adequate national action and effective nutritional impact in line with the Common Results Frameworks, notably through the empowerment of women for achieving nutrition justice. In addition, the SUN movement saw the introduction of self-assessments, where participants assessed their performance, starting in 2014. In the SUN strategic framework for the period 2012–2015, a road map was established for the significant reduction of undernutrition in participating countries. Additionally, the SUN movement founded the UN System Network (UN Network) - endorsed by the FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF and IFAD - for a coordinated framework for their activities in support of scaling up nutrition at both the global and country levels, with the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition and the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition as co-facilitators of the Network.

239. The United Nations University (UNU) Food and Nutrition Programme for Human and Social Development (UNU-FNP) continued to contribute - through collaborative research and education, dissemination, as well as advisory services - to resolve issues related to food security and nutrition to facilitate its grassroots application, as well as contributing to the quarterly *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, which supported multi-disciplinary efforts for the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition in the developing world.⁴¹⁰ A special joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council was held in 2013 on “Food security and nutrition: scaling up the global response”, calling for coordinated international action to address the ongoing crisis of volatile food prices and longer-term structural challenges. During the high-level Second International Conference on Nutrition, co-organized by the FAO and WHO, the Organization stressed the need to focus global attention on malnutrition in all its forms - undernourishment, undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity - while reviewing progress made since the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition, as well as defining coordinated responses to new challenges and priorities.⁴¹¹ The two outcome documents of said conference were the political Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, a voluntary technical guide of 60 recommendations on how to implement the Declaration, through which parties committed to establish national policies for eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming food systems so as to make nutritious diets available to all.

240. For its part, the World Health Assembly endorsed in 2012 the WHO Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition, which advanced several of priority actions that should be jointly implemented by Member States and international partners,

⁴⁰⁹ See GA resolution 66/220 without vote [agenda item 25] on “Agriculture development and food security”; GA resolution 66/188 without vote [agenda item 17 (b)] on “Addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets”.

⁴¹⁰ See the report of the UNU Council on the work of the University in 2010, E/2011/129.

⁴¹¹ See Report of the Secretary-General A/70/333, “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition”.

along with a set of global nutrition goals to be achieved by 2025.⁴¹² WHO assessed progress made in carrying out the implementation of the latter plan by entities and bodies of the United Nations system, in order to support an environment for implementing and monitoring comprehensive and coordinated food and nutrition policies.

241. In 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world leaders committed to ending hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG2). The adoption of the SDG 2 Zero Hunger goal followed on the heel of a series of ambitious commitments regionally and globally, including: in 2013, the elevation of FAO's first goal from reduce to eradicate hunger; in 2014, the adoption at the African Union Summit of the "Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in which Heads of State and Government of the region committed to end hunger in Africa by 2025; and the launch by the Community of Latin American States (CELAC) of its Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication reinforcing the regional commitment with the Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative launched in 2005. The elements of the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge were reflected in the SDGs, as decided by Member States.⁴¹³ Subsequently, the General Assembly stressed the need to continue to strengthen cooperation among FAO, IFAD, WFP, the regional commissions and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and international trade and economic institutions, including with the support of the Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security, in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors in promoting and strengthening efforts towards sustainable agriculture development, food security and nutrition.⁴¹⁴

3. Recommendations in the Environment and Disasters

a. Environment

242. During the period under review, landmark international agreements adopted had implications for addressing environmental challenges. The Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 was a milestone event for the global environmental governance structure. Furthermore, the year of 2015 was a significant one for the environmental agenda within the United Nations system, through the adoption of the landmark agreements: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Paris Agreement, adopted at the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted at the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction; and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the third International Conference on Financing for Development. With the 2030 Agenda, world leaders committed to achieving sustainable development in economic, social and environmental dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner.

243. In 2010, the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, culminated in the adoption by the General Assembly of the outcome document "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals".⁴¹⁵ In the context of MDG 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability), the Assembly made commitments to pursue environmental sustainability through nationally owned inclusive and coherent planning frameworks, adopting

⁴¹² See Report of the World Health Assembly WHA65/2012/REC/1; A68/9; WHA68/2015/REC/1.

⁴¹³ See A/70/333; <http://www.fao.org/americas/prioridades/alc-sin-hambre/en/>; Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

⁴¹⁴ See GA resolution 70/223.

⁴¹⁵ See GA resolution 65/1.

national legislation, as well as supporting the development and distribution of affordable and sustainable technology, and to seek more effective and coherent implementation of the objectives of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, *inter alia*. The General Assembly furthermore called on Member States to actively address climate change according to the principles laid out in the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

244. As the Organization's leading environmental body at the global level, the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council evaluated, in 2010, the state of the environment and presented policy options for addressing both present and future environmental issues in the multilateral system, such as climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, sustainable consumption and production, *inter alia*.⁴¹⁶ The Governing Council established a Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance to discuss the broader reform of the international environmental governance system, adopting guidelines for the establishment of national legislation on access to information in environmental issues, and of domestic legislation on liability, response action and compensation for damage linked to hazardous activities to the environment.⁴¹⁷ The Consultative Group identified possible system-wide responses to the challenges of international environmental governance, including the elaboration of a system-wide strategy for the environment to increase its effectiveness, efficiency and coherence within the United Nations system, and the bolstering of the environmental pillar of sustainable development. The Consultative Group also considered institutional systems that would effectively implement those responses and attain the objectives and functions laid out during the Belgrade Process of international environmental governance reform.

245. Moreover, the Governing Council improved the coordination of specialized agencies across the United Nations system, namely through the Environment Management Group, and the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, *inter alia*. An enhanced role of UNEP regarding the coordination with other entities of the United Nations system was reaffirmed through increased collaboration with specialized agencies and entities within the United Nations framework in order to establish concrete policy and programme recommendations regarding environment issues, in follow-up to paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, entitled "The future we want".⁴¹⁸ During the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Member States renewed their commitment to ensure the advancement of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for all. Member States reaffirmed "the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development, in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system". Further to this, the General Assembly decided "to

⁴¹⁶ See President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/9; Executive Director statement, UNEP/GCSS.XI/2, summarizing the proceedings of the session, UNEP/GCSS. XI/11; Report by the UNEP Executive Director, UNEP/GC.26/7, on sustainable consumption and production.

⁴¹⁷ See Inputs from major groups and stakeholders on international environmental governance, UNEP/GC.26/INF/19; Environment in the United Nations system, UNEP/ GC.26/INF/23; Background paper for the ministerial consultations, UNEP/ GCSS.XII/13, on the subject of Global environment outlook and emerging issues: setting effective global environmental goals; Report of the UNEP Executive Director, UNEP/EA.1/INF/8, on the institutional and administrative relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP served as secretariat or performed secretariat functions; Environment Assembly resolution, A/69/25 (res. 1/12), taking note of the report of the Executive Director; Governing Council decision SS.XI/1, noting the options for improving international environmental governance; Note by the President of the General Assembly, A/64/778, on International environmental governance; Note of the UNEP Executive Director, UNEP/GC.26/18.

⁴¹⁸ See Report of the UNEP Executive Director, UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.3, on the Implementation of Governing Council decision 27/2, Enhancing the coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations system on environmental matters: process to prepare a United Nations system-wide strategy on the environment.

change the designation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”⁴¹⁹.

246. During this period, several decisions were also adopted for an improved coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group, international environmental governance, sustainable consumption and production, as well as multilateral environmental agreements.

247. At its first session in 2014, the United Nations Environment Assembly comprised a high-level segment on “Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production”, during which it reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document, “The future we want”.⁴²⁰ During this session, the United Nations Environment Assembly additionally adopted several resolutions on science-policy interface; chemicals and waste; ecosystem-based adaptation; the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme; UN-system coordination on the environment; the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements; and the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, *inter alia*.⁴²¹ The Assembly underlined the use of green economy to contribute to eradicating poverty, as well as the necessity to improve environmental governance of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to support a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, along with coordination among entities of the United Nations system, *inter alia*.

248. UNEP collaborated with other UN entities in a wide range of partnership initiatives on climate change, such as the 1 Gigaton Coalition, the Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

249. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States agreed on the necessity to adopt an integrated approach, in which environmental issues would be addressed as part of a wider agenda for change. Environmental considerations have been fully embedded in the 2030 Agenda and reflected in the set of goals, targets and indicators, both as a cross-cutting issue and as a development priority. The United Nations Environment Assembly has provided a platform where the environmental dimension of sustainable development would be addressed. The Environment Management Group (EMG) allowed the Organization to bolster system-wide strategies on the environment to strengthen system-wide coherence, in order to develop a framework to align agencies’ respective strategies on the environmental aspects of the 2030 Agenda, and for the effective mainstreaming of environmental sustainability in country-level operational activities.⁴²² The Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and its subsidiary bodies supported EMG’s efforts in strengthening sustainable UN system management practices.⁴²³

250. At its twenty-first session in 2015, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC adopted the landmark Paris Agreement, which aimed to enhance the global response to the threat of climate

⁴¹⁹ A/RES/67/251

⁴²⁰ See Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, A/69/25, on Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production; Economic and Social Council decision 2014/254 taking note of the report of the Environment Assembly; GA resolution 69/223; GA resolution 66/288, endorsing the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”.

⁴²¹ See Report of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum, A/67/25, on the environmental agenda in the changing world; Policy statement of the UNEP Executive Director, UNEP/GCSS.XII/14; Economic and Social Council decision 2012/231, taking note of the GC/GMEF report; GA resolution 67/213, taking note of the report; Policy statement of the UNEP Executive Director, UNEP/GC.27/17; Report of the UNEP Executive Director, UNEP/GC.27/15 & Add.1; Economic and Social Council decision 2013/236, taking note of the GC/GMEF report; GA resolution 68/215, taking note of the GC/GMEF report.

⁴²² See Implementing the Environmental Sustainability Dimension of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Framework, EMG/SOM.21.

⁴²³ See Report of the UNEP Executive Director, UNEP/GC.26/15, on Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group.

change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. The Agreement invited all parties to communicate to the secretariat their intended nationally determined contributions towards achieving the Convention and invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to deliver a special report in 2018 regarding the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways. The Paris Agreement also included a long-term goal of limiting the global temperature increase to well below 2°C, as well as a global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions to achieve those temperature goals, and finally the establishment of binding commitments by all parties to arrange, communicate and uphold successive intended nationally determined contributions.

b. Protection and preservation of the marine environment and conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity

251. The General Assembly continued, during the period under consideration, to support greater cooperation and coordination regarding the protection of the marine environment, including through a number of processes such as United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea; Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction; Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects. The Assembly continued its recommendations to specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular to the FAO sustainable fisheries, requesting the relevant parts of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and donor agencies to support increased enforcement and compliance capabilities for regional fisheries management organizations and their member States.⁴²⁴

252. The Secretary-General regularly reported on the implementation of UN environmental conventions and recapitulated collaboration with the UNFCCC and UNCCD secretariats and other conventions related to biodiversity.⁴²⁵ He underlined the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 - endorsed in the outcome of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity - and stressed the centrality of biodiversity to the development of sustainable development, since it touched all three dimensions (social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development, and a green economy. The Secretary-General further reviewed activities conducted in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with a view to mainstreaming biodiversity in the consideration of the post-2015 development agenda. Additionally, the *Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4)*, reviewed progress made in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. The Secretary-General further reported on the efforts of specialized agencies to protect and manage coral reefs towards enhancing the sustainable development of marine and coastal areas in the context of the themes and objectives of Rio+20.⁴²⁶ With regards to coral reefs, the Secretary-General underlined the need for their protection as well as that of related ecosystems, while laying out proposed coordinated and coherent action among entities of the United Nations system, including an expanded role for UN-Oceans as a coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues.⁴²⁷

⁴²⁴ See GA resolutions 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71 and 69/109

⁴²⁵ See GA resolution 65/161; Note by the Secretary-General, A/67/295, on the Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions; GA resolution 66/202; Note by the Secretary-General, A/68/260 on the Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions; GA resolution 67/212; Note by the Secretary-General, A/69/317 on the Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions; GA resolution 68/214; ; Note by the Secretary-General, A/70/230 on the Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions; GA resolution 69/222.

⁴²⁶ See GA resolution 65/150; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/298 and Corr.1, on the Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development.

⁴²⁷ See GA resolution 66/194 without vote [agenda item 19].

253. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 61/203, by which 2010 was declared the International Year of Biodiversity, and 64/203 on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Assembly held a high-level meeting on biological diversity during its sixty-fifth session. The high-level meeting focused its efforts on framing the post-2010 biodiversity strategy and ensuring that activities and programmes to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were coordinated across the Organization, while recognizing that the 2010 biodiversity target would not be met - the Global Biodiversity Outlook, issued by the Convention on Biological Diversity, had indeed found that global decline in biodiversity was accelerating. At the high-level meeting, participants furthermore developed a post-2010 strategic plan with measurable and time-bound biodiversity targets for 2020, to be integrated into national biodiversity targets and strategies and supported by a decade for biodiversity, as well as the proposed South-South multi-year plan of action.

254. During the period under consideration, the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 reaffirmed the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development emphasizing the role that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 plays for the United Nations system, the international community and civil society to achieve the “World we want”.⁴²⁸ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of planet’s natural resources and committed to conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas and protecting biodiversity.⁴²⁹ Accordingly the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine and coastal ecosystems feature prominently across many of the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets.

255. During the period under consideration, the Executive Director forwarded to the Governing Council the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the environmental profile of United Nations system organizations, in order to assess the environmental policies and practices of UN entities on their sustainable use of resources - such as energy consumption – particularly given their mission to promote relevant, internationally adopted environmental conventions.⁴³⁰ The latter report, found that viable means and initiatives existed for improving environmental performance, however the development of such means was gradual, as entities within the United Nations system lacked a formal and systematic framework for an integrated environmental management system based on legislative mandates and applicable environmental norms and standards. Coordination efforts among entities and bodies of the United Nations system on the climate-neutral initiative had produced a system-wide accounting framework for carbon dioxide emissions and a critical mass of networked environment managers – an essential step towards the adoption of broader environmental management policies. JIU called on the Assembly to monitor and support the efforts led by the Secretary-General’s to establish and implement such in-house sustainable policies, and thus to increase the accountability of these entities – namely, through the submission of regular reports on the state of implementation of the climate neutral initiative to the Assembly.

c. Disasters

256. During the period under review, reducing the risk of disasters and climate change and strengthening preparedness and response to their impacts was a key focus area during the period under examination, which culminated in the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015. The United Nations entities continued to highlight the significance of improving the cooperation of specialized agencies

⁴²⁸ See GA resolution 66/288

⁴²⁹ See GA resolution 70/1

⁴³⁰ See Note by the Executive Director, UNEP/GCSS.XI/ INF/10, on Environmental profile of the United Nations system organizations: Joint Inspection Unit.

to reduce the risks posed by disasters⁴³¹ caused by natural and man-made hazards and to strengthen preparedness for response in conjunction with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and the Sendai Declaration and Sendai Framework for Action 2015-2030, especially in regards to the commitments related to supporting developing countries with high levels of exposure and vulnerability to disasters to reduce their risk and transition to sustainable material, social and economic recovery through risk-reduction activities for disaster-stricken States.

257. The Assembly urged, in response to an assessment of the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), the international community to continue to address the alternative ways, *inter alia*, of reducing the harmful effects of the disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events - particularly in vulnerable developing countries - through cooperation and technical assistance. In response to the disaster risk reduction momentum during the period under consideration, UN agencies with mitigation responsibilities such as the UNDP, FAO, WFP, World Meteorological Office, World Bank, and the World Meteorological Organization, increased their capacity for disaster risk reduction and funding.

258. At a regional level, several Programme of Actions were adopted, including the extended Africa Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction at the second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa, as well as the Incheon Declaration of 2010 and the Incheon Regional Road Map adopted at the fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, that identified the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as priority focus areas in the region until 2015. The review made the recommendation for national and international institutions, including bilateral aid organizations and the entities of the United Nations system, to ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction in their development, climate change adaptation, environmental and humanitarian programming as well as in their execution and accountability frameworks, in addition to developing accountability mechanisms to measure action and progress.

259. In order to share relevant information on standards and practices, the Assembly called on Member States to continue establishing national platforms and focal points for disaster risk reduction, and urged specialized agencies to provide support for and coordinate their activities with these mechanisms, while finally encouraging the Secretary-General to reinforce the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the ISDR in order to secure such support. The Assembly affirmed that a cooperation for the Strategy between the various regional disaster risk reduction entities should be established by the inter-agency Secretariat, and stressed that the Secretariat should be strengthened in order to fulfil its functions effectively, particularly in its position as the focal point within the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction and to ensure the integration of disaster risk activities. Special focus was placed on a resilience-based approach to the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as mitigating the structural risk factors it outlined which called for the participation of disaster risk reduction linked to geological and hydrometeorological hazards in disaster risk reduction programmes, including fostering public awareness of disaster risk reduction.⁴³²

260. In 2011, the Secretary-General completed the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, the 10-year plan for reducing disaster risks, adopted at the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction.⁴³³ The correlation between the framework review and that of

⁴³¹ While recognizing that the Sendai Framework was adopted at the end of the period under consideration, adapting the qualification of “natural disaster” to “disaster” corrects a misconception prior to the Framework.

⁴³² See GA resolution 66/288 endorsing the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which reaffirmed the importance of the resilience-based approach contained in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2001–2015.

⁴³³ See GA resolution 63/216; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/388, the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

the MDGs additionally offered the opportunity to re-enforce the ties between the two agendas. The findings of the midterm review indicated that, despite the need for stronger national governance mechanisms, the Hyogo Framework for Action remained useful in guiding global efforts towards disaster risk reduction, particularly in raising awareness and supporting the establishment of policies and legislation at all levels. The Secretary-General also highlighted the main challenges to the implementation of the Framework, namely: systematic multi-hazard risk assessments and early warning systems; factoring in social and economic vulnerabilities; framing risk reduction as an issue of accountability; the integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning at the national and international level; in addition to urging Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Framework, *inter alia*.

261. Based on the findings of the review, the CEB endorsed in 2013 the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which laid out the commitments in support of an accelerated risk reduction and activities and programmes of entities of the United Nations system to build resilience. It further affirmed the Plan of Action would be instrumental in implementing the Assembly's guidance on its quadrennial policy review of United Nations operational activities for development. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience focused on strengthening a coherent and coordinated approach from entities of the United Nations system in support of Member States in order to accelerate progress in disaster risk reduction. The Plan of Action established a framework for the UN system to expand its development as well as humanitarian activities as a risk-informed strategy and to improve capacity for effective support to response and reconstruction efforts at national and community levels. Nevertheless, humanitarian and development actors had to redouble their efforts to achieve a more comprehensive, cohesive, systemic and humanitarian risk management strategy. The transition from response to prevention was mainly a political initiative, to ensure change in existing internal structural systems.

262. Ahead of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, the Secretary-General reported firstly on progress made in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, and secondly on coordination initiatives for disaster risk reduction, providing substantive input for a successor framework to the Hyogo one post-2015.⁴³⁴ The Secretary-General called on entities of the United Nations system as well as Member States to ensure that disaster risk reduction was overtly recognized and addressed in the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the sustainable development goals, *inter alia*.

263. The Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction culminated in the adoption of the Sendai Declaration as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in which participants firstly recognized the increasing impact of disasters as well as their complex nature across the globe, and secondly called on all stakeholders to action, given that the implementation of the new framework depended on continuous and determined coordinated efforts within the United Nations system.⁴³⁵ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action in order to ensure continuity with the activities and programmes for the implementation of the latter, and with an emphasis shifted from disaster management to disaster risk management. The focus of the Sendai Framework was on preventing new risk, reducing existing risk and strengthening resilience, while broadening the scope of disaster risk reduction to both natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological hazards. Participants finally laid out several guiding principles in the outcome documents, including the primary responsibility of Member States to prevent and reduce disaster risk.⁴³⁶

⁴³⁴ See GA resolution 67/209; Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/320, on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

⁴³⁵ See Sendai Declaration, A/CONF.224/L.1.

⁴³⁶ See Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR/GE/2015.

264. United Nations entities further analyzed the impacts of climate change during the period under examination, such as El Niño phenomenon.⁴³⁷ The Secretary-General noted that the impacts arising from climate change have hindered activities and programmes towards sustainable development, and that proactive intervention remained a high priority.⁴³⁸ He underlined the importance, in view of the rise in disasters, to enhance cooperation and synergies between entities of the United Nations system along with technological and scientific bodies, in order to better understand the El Niño effects and foresee its future effects as well as means to develop preventive measures. He reaffirmed the importance of implementing development-integrated disaster risk management plans for domestic capacity-building programmes, and called upon UN entities to focus their efforts on supporting the International Research Centre on El Niño in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in its contributions in the area of climate research, to targeted initiatives to support disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, to climate-related disaster risk reduction, and to the periodic El Niño/La Niña updates coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization. The Third International Conference on El Niño-Southern Oscillation was an essential opportunity to report on progress made in El Niño-related research, to increase global understanding of the relationship between climate and society, and finally to share experiences in El Niño vulnerability assessment methodologies.

265. Not only did the Organization encourage specialized agencies within the United Nations framework to cooperate with the Secretary-General, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the ERC and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) for the improvement of the effectiveness of disaster preparedness, but it also welcomed the increase in the scope of UN disaster preparedness assessment and coordination teams⁴³⁹. In order to strengthen the operational effectiveness of international humanitarian response, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee adopted in 2011 the Transformative Agenda, namely commitments by humanitarian agencies to a reform process in order to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian responses by making them more predictable, accountable and responsible, and by promoting coordination among all entities involved.

266. The Secretary-General reiterated the central role of OCHA in coordinating preparedness for disasters among UN agencies, which the Assembly welcomed. Due to the increase in disasters worldwide, the regional disaster response advisers' offices - set up in the period prior by OCHA as recommended by the Secretary-General - continued their activities to strengthen local capacity-building for disasters, preparedness, reduction and response, which were welcomed by the Assembly as part of the national planning activities. The Assembly highlighted the significance of these activities, in particular, for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, notably through the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.⁴⁴⁰

4. Recommendations relating to Political and Security Questions

a. Sanctions

⁴³⁷ See GA resolution 65/158 without vote [agenda item 20 (c)] on International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon; GA resolution 67/208 without vote [agenda item 20 (c)] on International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon; GA resolution 67/208; Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, which was annexed to his report, A/69/364; GA resolution 69/218 without vote [agenda item 19 (c)] on International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon; GA resolution 70/110.

⁴³⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/335, on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon; GA resolution 65/158; GA resolution 63/215; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/388, on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon; GA resolution 65/158; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/335, on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon.

⁴³⁹ Further information on humanitarian assistance in the context of disasters is provided in the section on “humanitarian assistance”.

⁴⁴⁰ See GA resolution 63/216; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/388, on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

267. During this period, pursuant to resolution 59/45, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council continued to play their respective roles in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.⁴⁴¹

268. In accordance with Article 50 of the United Nations Charter, the competent units of the Secretariat sustained their capacity to compile and evaluate information on particular economic problems in third States emerging from the application of sanctions and to review any appeals to the Security Council of such States.⁴⁴² The transition from comprehensive economic sanctions to targeted sanctions decreased the emergence in third States of unintended, detrimental economic difficulties which had arisen in the prior period from the implementation of sanctions under the provisions of Article 50 - with no third States notifying the Security Council of particular economic problems emerging from the introduction of sanctions. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has continued to seek opportunities for collaborate work with other parts of the Secretariat, international organization and academic institutions, to improve the sanctions monitoring framework and sanction assessment methodology.⁴⁴³

269. During this period, the Economic and Social Council continued to include in the agenda of its coordination and management meeting a sub-item entitled “Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions”. However, no advance documentation was requested, and no action was taken by the Council.

b. Democratization and institutional support

270. During the period under consideration, the General Assembly recognized the significance of strengthening a coordinated approach to activities for the administration of justice and the Secretary-General underscored the importance of coordination within the United Nations system and with national and regional actors for the provision of appropriate and timely democracy support.⁴⁴⁴

271. The need for good governance was also reiterated. The General Assembly urged the Secretary-General to continue efforts to improve coherence and coordination among United Nations initiatives in the area of democracy assistance to ensure that democracy assistance is more effectively integrated into the work of the Organization.⁴⁴⁵

272. In September 2015, GA emphasized the growing need to strengthen public institutions and public services in support of sustainable development and reaffirmed that the UN system has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation to that end.⁴⁴⁶ The 2030 Agenda was a milestone that enumerated specific governance targets for all countries (see SDG 16), including a commitment to building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In reaffirming a strong commitment to the full implementation of this new Agenda, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives called for a global partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation in support of implementation of all the goals and targets, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources.⁴⁴⁷ By the end of 2015, the SDG 16 targets on peace, justice and strong institutions were being incorporated into the policies and activities of the UN system as

⁴⁴¹ A/65/217

⁴⁴² See GA resolution 64/115, on the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/217, on developments concerning General Assembly and Economic and Social Council activities in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

⁴⁴³ A/70/119

⁴⁴⁴ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/353; GA resolution 64/12.

⁴⁴⁵ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/353; GA resolution 64/12.

⁴⁴⁶ See GA resolution 69/327.

⁴⁴⁷ See GA resolution 70/1.

a whole, with voluntary, state-led, national reviews of implementation to be carried out by the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC and including all relevant UN entities within their respective mandates, in line with resolution Assembly 67/290.

273. A specific area of institutional support that had been earlier highlighted by the Assembly was the need to strengthen supreme audit institutions. The Assembly encouraged all States, observers and relevant United Nations institutions to continue to intensify their cooperation, including in capacity-building, with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in order to promote good governance at all levels by ensuring efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency through strengthened supreme audit institutions, including, as appropriate, the improvement of public accounting systems.⁴⁴⁸ During the period under consideration, annual resolutions of the General Assembly called for further international cooperation, *inter alia*, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption.⁴⁴⁹

274. The Organization encouraged UN entities to collaborate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other organizations, for the promotion and strengthening of democracy at all levels, including by promoting best practices, and supporting civic education programmes. UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights worked in closer and enhanced coordination together and with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in forming a Tri-Partite Partnership to support national human rights institutions in 2011.

c. Humanitarian assistance

275. The period under examination was marked by a series of new and sharply escalating conflicts and increasingly protracted and complex humanitarian crises resulting in a steep increase in forced displacement, lack of adherence to international humanitarian law and attacks on civilians, while disasters caused by natural hazards had devastating impacts on lives and livelihoods. The continued increase in humanitarian needs and the rising demand for humanitarian assistance required more effective relief initiatives by the humanitarian aid community, civil society and governments. In his reports to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General reiterated that a revitalized, effective and accountable Organisation was fundamental in order to face the humanitarian challenges that lie ahead. Following the comprehensive reform of the global humanitarian framework in 2005, the Organisation continued its efforts to further improve inter-agency coordination and collaboration, enhance resource mobilization and strengthen the effectiveness, impact and accountability of humanitarian action among those in need.⁴⁵⁰

276. In coordination with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) including specialized agencies and other humanitarian partners, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) established a wide range of initiatives building on the humanitarian reform that was initiated in 2005 to bolster the effectiveness of humanitarian response through greater predictability, accountability, responsibility and partnership. This reform strengthened the coordination of the humanitarian system and collaboration among humanitarian agencies and partners and focused on three pillars endorsed by IASC: the cluster approach to strengthen humanitarian response; a strengthened Humanitarian Coordinator system; and more predictable, rapid, flexible and adequate humanitarian funding through an expanded Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) at the global level and Country-Based Pooled Funds at the field level.

⁴⁴⁸ See GA resolution 69/228.

⁴⁴⁹ See GA resolutions 67/192, 68/195, and 69/199.

⁴⁵⁰ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/70/77-E/2015/64, Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

277. At the global level, the cluster approach aims to strengthen system-wide preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies, ensuring that there is predictable leadership and accountability in all the main sectors or areas of humanitarian response, in particular through designated global cluster lead agencies. At the country level, the approach aims to ensure a more coherent and effective response and strengthen predictability, accountability and partnerships, by improving prioritization and mobilizing humanitarian organizations to respond strategically across key sectors, with each sector/cluster having a clearly designated lead who will be the first point of call and provider of last resort for the Humanitarian Coordinator. By early 2010, the cluster approach was used in almost all countries with a Humanitarian Coordinator and cluster coordination mechanisms were systematically established for new humanitarian emergencies involving large-scale international humanitarian responses. Further to the completion of the first of a two-phase evaluation of the approach in 2007, which focused on the implementation of the cluster approach, the second evaluation focused on the outcome of the approach in improving humanitarian assistance and was completed in early 2010, reaching the conclusion that the cluster approach coordination mechanisms had contributed to improved effectiveness, identification of response gaps, had reduced duplications, had more effective coverage of needs, predictable leadership in sectoral response, and sounder and more comprehensive partnerships between the Organisation, humanitarian partners and other non-UN actors.⁴⁵¹ During the period under examination, the Secretary-General reported on progress made in the implementation of the cluster approach and opportunities for further improvements to strengthen coordination, including by strengthening intra- and inter-cluster coordination, the participation of NGOs and national actors, and the commitment, accountability and transparency of cluster members.⁴⁵² The General Assembly called upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve humanitarian response, *inter alia*, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global and field level, including through existing cluster coordination mechanisms.⁴⁵³

278. Building on the humanitarian reform pillar on strengthening senior humanitarian leadership and efforts to improve the leadership and coordination skills of United Nations Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators, such as the creation of the IASC Humanitarian Coordination Pool in 2009 to identify and support talented individuals suitable for humanitarian coordination leadership positions at the country level, the General Assembly called upon the Chair of the United Nations Development Group and the ERC to enhance their consultations before presenting final recommendations on the selection process for Resident Coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations⁴⁵⁴ and the designation of a Humanitarian Coordinator. The General Assembly subsequently requested the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible.⁴⁵⁵

279. Following the two-year independent evaluation (undertaken in 2008) of the new CERF with a grant facility created during the humanitarian reform in 2005, the Secretary-General reported that the majority of its recommendations were implemented, with the most substantial improvements to the Fund's operational framework reflected in a Secretary-General bulletin⁴⁵⁶ on refining the

⁴⁵¹ See GA resolution 65/133 without vote [agenda item 69 (a)]; Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/82-E/2010/88, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁵² See Reports of the Secretary-General, A/66/81-E/2011/117 and A/68/84-E/2013/77, on strengthening the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance

⁴⁵³ See GA resolution 66/119.

⁴⁵⁴ See GA resolution 66/119.

⁴⁵⁵ See GA resolution 67/119.

⁴⁵⁶ See Secretary-General's bulletin, ST/SGB/2010/5, on the Establishment and operation of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

operational guidance on the use, management and administration of the Fund.⁴⁵⁷ Following the two-year evaluation, the Secretary-General commissioned an independent comprehensive five-year evaluation of CERF activities from 2006 to 2010, which would deliver actionable recommendations within a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.⁴⁵⁸ The evaluation's key findings touched on the Fund's added value, operational management, achievements, accountability, and effectiveness. In response to the independent five-year evaluation of CERF activities, the CERF secretariat established a management response plan to implement the evaluation's recommendations, including to improve the speed and timeliness of disbursements to United Nations organizations.⁴⁵⁹ In his conclusions, the Secretary-General found that the Fund continued to demonstrate its importance as a versatile collective emergency response tool with a demonstrated ability to adapt and improve as shown by the changes implemented since the two evaluations.⁴⁶⁰ The Assembly welcomed the tenth anniversary of the CERF in 2015 and its achievements in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding and steering resources to underfunded crises.⁴⁶¹ The Assembly encouraged the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to review and evaluate their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the CERF to implementing partners.⁴⁶²

280. The response to the earthquake in Haiti and floods in Pakistan in 2010 exposed a number of shortcomings and inefficiencies in the international humanitarian response, which the IASC set out to address with a view to strengthening responses to large-scale humanitarian emergencies in the future. In December 2011 the Principals of the IASC agreed on a set of recommendations and concrete actions known as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Transformative Agenda, which built on the humanitarian reform process initiated in 2005 and on its significant system-level improvements. The Transformative Agenda recognized the need to continue improving the timeliness and effectiveness of the collective response through stronger leadership, more effective coordination structures, and improved accountability for performance and to affected people. This included initiatives to, *inter alia*, develop a mechanism for the deployment of senior humanitarian leadership from the outset of a major crisis, rapidly deploy humanitarian staff with suitable profiles at all levels to ensure effective coordination of the response, enhance strategic planning at the country level, strengthen the accountability of Humanitarian Coordinators and members of Humanitarian Country Teams for achieving collective results, and streamline coordination mechanisms.⁴⁶³

281. A significant component of the Transformative Agenda was the introduction in 2013 of enhancements to the humanitarian programme cycle concept, intended to enhance the manner in which humanitarian actors work cooperatively, including with and in support of Member States, so as to assist them in meeting the needs of people affected by natural disasters and conflict.⁴⁶⁴ The humanitarian programme cycle comprised five elements: needs assessment and analysis; strategic response planning; resource mobilisation; implementation and monitoring; and operational review

⁴⁵⁷ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/290, on Central Emergency Response Fund; GA resolution 68/102; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/96, on the Central Emergency Response Fund.

⁴⁵⁸ See Report of Secretary-General, A/66/357, on the Central Emergency Response Fund; GA resolution 65/133; Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/357, on Central Emergency Response Fund.

⁴⁵⁹ See GA resolution 66/119; Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/361, on CERF; Letter dated 30 July 2012 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly, A/66/886.

⁴⁶⁰ See Report of Secretary-General, A/70/96, on the Central Emergency Response Fund.

⁴⁶¹ See GA resolution 70/106, on Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁶² See GA resolution 68/102, on Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁶³ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/89-E/2012/77, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; GA resolutions 67/87 and 68/102, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁶⁴ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/13, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; GA resolution 69/135, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

and evaluation. Coordination and information management acted as key enablers for these elements.

282. In the context of the Transformative Agenda, the IASC introduced the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) in 2013 to replace the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP). The IASC reference module for the implementation of the HPC defined a framework for effective humanitarian response through a coordinated series of actions that included (i) needs assessment and analysis; (ii) strategic response planning; (iii) resource mobilization; (iv) implementation and monitoring; and (v) operational review and evaluation. Effective emergency preparedness, coordination and information management underpinned the HPC as key enablers of its implementation.⁴⁶⁵ The Assembly and the Council called upon relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the HPC, in particular the development of strategic response plans, humanitarian needs overviews and coordinated needs assessment tools.⁴⁶⁶ The Council had previously welcomed the efforts of entities of the United Nations system to enhance the CAP as a coordination and strategic planning instrument for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and in support of the transition from relief to development.⁴⁶⁷ The Assembly further called upon the humanitarian organizations of the United Nations to continue their activities and programmes for the enhancement in transparency and reliability of humanitarian needs assessments.⁴⁶⁸ The Assembly also called upon the United Nations to make further progress in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data; the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through harmonized data; and through the development of tools, methods and procedures for timely initial needs assessments that lead to targeted and more effective assistance.⁴⁶⁹ To support improved data collection and analysis, the United Nations and its partners bolstered their investment in technical infrastructure to allow data-driven decision-making, including shared operational datasets and fundamental operational datasets.⁴⁷⁰ IASC developed the multi-cluster initial/rapid assessment approach which determines a common process for a rapid joint needs assessment in the first two weeks of a disaster. OCHA created the humanitarian response portal, a single crisis-specific website letting end users share and visualize data encompassed within clusters and the international response.

283. As highlighted in the prior period, one of the main focus areas of UN entities and bodies remained the coordination of humanitarian assistance and the coordinated response of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to humanitarian emergencies.⁴⁷¹ The Assembly and the Council welcomed continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity in order to provide a timely, predictable, coordinated and accountable response to humanitarian needs, and requested the Secretary-General to continue these efforts.⁴⁷² The Assembly called upon the United Nations system to collaborate with the Secretary-General, the ERC and OCHA to enhance the

⁴⁶⁵ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/13, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; GA resolution 69/135, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁶⁶ See GA resolution 69/135, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/14

⁴⁶⁷ See Report of the Economic and Social Council, A/65/3/Rev.1.

⁴⁶⁸ See GA resolution on Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁶⁹ See GA resolution 67/87, on Strengthening the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance, and 66/227, on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

⁴⁷⁰ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/67/89-E/2012/77, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁷¹ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/68/84-E/2013/77, on Strengthening the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance; GA resolution 46/182; GA resolution 67/87; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/3; Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/80-E/2014/68, on Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; GA resolution 46/182; GA resolution 68/102, on Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/6, on Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁷² See GA resolution 66/119, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/1, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance.⁴⁷³ The Assembly also encouraged the United Nations system and Member States to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts and effective cooperation to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to humanitarian principles.⁴⁷⁴ OCHA continued its efforts on strengthening its coordination functions and activities, responding rapidly and effectively to humanitarian emergencies as well as developing a stronger, more decisive humanitarian leadership. Through its strategic frameworks for 2010–2013 and 2014–2017, OCHA focused on delivering a more supportive environment for humanitarian action, developing a more effective humanitarian coordination system, and strengthening OCHA management and administration.

284. The effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian assistance was an important focus area during the reporting period, including in the consultations leading up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit. The Assembly recognized the importance of accountability of humanitarian actors as an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance and at all stages thereof. The Assembly called upon the United Nations and partners to enhance accountability by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately assessed and effectively addressed.⁴⁷⁵

285. To help ensure that humanitarian assistance is informed, appropriate and effective, the Assembly also called upon the United Nations and partners to engage all people affected by crises, facilitate their participation in relevant processes and support their efforts and capacities to meet their needs. The Assembly called for humanitarian organizations to ensure the full participation of women and men, including persons with disabilities and older persons, in all stages of decision-making and to engage adolescents and young people on their specific needs.⁴⁷⁶

286. The Assembly requested the United Nations and partners to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response and to take into account the specific humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities of all constituents of the affected population, in particular girls, boys, women, older persons and persons with disabilities, including in the design and implementation of programming. In this regard, the Assembly encouraged efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the Gender Marker.⁴⁷⁷

287. During the period under examination, the United Nations and partners adapted to the rapid social, technological, environmental and economic changes affecting the humanitarian landscape, recognizing the opportunities of new technologies to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian response. The Secretary-General and the Assembly called upon the United Nations system and partners to assess and improve how innovation can be more systematically identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner and to promote the sharing of best

⁴⁷³ See GA resolution 70/106, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁷⁴ See GA resolutions 69/135, on Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and 67/231, on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/13, on Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

⁴⁷⁵ See GA resolutions 67/87 and 66/119, on , on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/6, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁷⁶ See GA resolution 70/106, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁷⁷ See GA resolutions 69/135, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, 69/243 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/14, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and approaches that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and welcomed innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions.⁴⁷⁸

288. The Assembly and the Council encouraged the United Nations, Member States and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts.⁴⁷⁹

289. The duration, scale and complexity of humanitarian crises caused by conflicts and associated violations of international humanitarian law and attacks against civilians and humanitarian and medical personnel increased during the period under examination. Throughout the period, the IASC focused its activities and programmes on enhancing legal and physical protection for civilians in situations of armed conflict, as well as assessed and sought solutions to overcome challenges to the access and delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection. The IASC also concentrated its efforts on strengthening the work of Humanitarian Country Teams in order to respond to the protection needs of women and girls, prevent attacks and violence against them and foster their agency and empowerment in light of the challenges faced by them in humanitarian crises, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations.

290. The Assembly strongly condemned all threats and acts of violence against United Nations and humanitarian personnel and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue the ongoing efforts of the United Nations to develop a more systematic follow-up process with relevant host Governments on cases of serious crimes and acts of violence resulting in the death or serious injury of United Nations system personnel in order to bring perpetrators to justice. The Assembly welcomed progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations and supported the continued implementation of the stay-and-deliver strategy to enable the United Nations system to deliver critical programmes in high-risk environments and of the programme criticality framework as an operational tool to enable informed decisions on acceptable risk to United Nations personnel.⁴⁸⁰

291. The Assembly urged strengthened efforts to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and called upon Member States, United Nations and relevant organizations to improve coordination and strengthen capacity to ensure that humanitarian relief helps mitigate the risk of gender-based violence and to strengthen support services for victims and survivors of such violence beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response, taking into account their unique and specific needs resulting from such violence. The Assembly also made a further call to address violations and abuses against children in humanitarian emergencies and strengthen support services for children affected by humanitarian emergencies.⁴⁸¹

⁴⁷⁸ See Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/80-E/2014/68, on strengthening the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance; GA resolutions 69/135 and 68/102, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, 69/243 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/6, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁷⁹ See GA resolution 69/105, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/14, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁸⁰ See GA resolutions 68/101 and 70/104, on Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel.

⁴⁸¹ See GA resolution 70/106, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

292. The Secretary-General further affirmed the Emergency Relief Coordinator and OCHA's work in collaborating with and providing support to regional, national and local capacities in emergency preparedness, response and early recovery within the evolving humanitarian environment, including with a view to effective disaster preparedness, risk reduction and improving the effectiveness of humanitarian aid. UN entities undertook evaluations of major response operations and identified lessons learned and best practices to help improve preparedness for and response to humanitarian emergencies, with recurring calls for strengthened capacities and coordination mechanisms at all levels. A variety of inter-agency initiatives were established, such as the Emergency Response Preparedness approach developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to ensure readiness to respond to potential crises requiring coordinated action from the humanitarian community with increased speed, volume, predictability and effectiveness of aid delivered after the onset of a crisis, as well as the Index for Risk Management to help establish a shared understanding of the risk of humanitarian crises, to identify and prioritize the people and countries most likely to experience humanitarian crises and support decisions about prevention, preparedness and response.⁴⁸² The Assembly called upon the United Nations to support Member States in their efforts to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief and its facilitation and regulation and to adopt and implement national laws and regulations to address underlying drivers of disaster risk and vulnerability, drawing on the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance.⁴⁸³

293. The Assembly urged the United Nations and partners to prioritize risk management and shift towards an anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses.⁴⁸⁴ The Assembly called upon humanitarian and development actors to continue to strengthen capacities at national, local and regional levels and in communities to reduce disaster risk, build resilience and better prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters by building back better, including by developing long-term strategies and multi-year operational plans for preparedness. The Assembly stressed that international efforts should complement, rather than substitute for or displace, national capacities and efforts to respond to crises, especially where those crises are prolonged or recurrent.⁴⁸⁵ The Assembly encouraged the United Nations and partners to continue to improve the identification, mapping and analysis of risks and vulnerabilities, including the local impact of future disaster risk drivers in order to establish the evidence base for planning and strategies, enable prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest and ensure effective disaster management plans and capacities are in place.⁴⁸⁶ The Assembly further encouraged the United Nations system to continue to apply a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, including the secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents,⁴⁸⁷ and to reinforce preparedness for and rapidly respond to outbreaks of infectious disease that trigger a humanitarian crisis or occur in humanitarian settings.⁴⁸⁸

294. The period under examination was marked by increasing collaboration and complementarity between humanitarian and development actors. Both the Secretary-General and the Council assessed means to strengthen coherence and collaboration between humanitarian and development

⁴⁸² See Reports of the Secretary General, A/69/303 and A/70/324, on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

⁴⁸³ See GA resolution 69/243 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

⁴⁸⁴ See GA resolution 69/243 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

⁴⁸⁵ See GA resolution 70/106, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; GA resolution 69/243 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

⁴⁸⁶ See GA resolution 69/243 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

⁴⁸⁷ See GA resolution 66/227 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

⁴⁸⁸ See GA resolution 70/106, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

actors in reducing vulnerability, improving capacities and managing risks.⁴⁸⁹ The Assembly and the Council encouraged the United Nations and humanitarian and development actors, according to their respective mandates, to pursue common risk-management and resilience objectives and to reduce need, risk and vulnerability through joint analysis and joined-up planning, programming and funding, and in this regard emphasized that transitions from humanitarian response to longer-term development need to be planned over a multi-year framework and linked with development planning processes, while also encouraging the integration of resilience into humanitarian and development programming.⁴⁹⁰ The Assembly continued to call upon relevant humanitarian and development organisations within the United Nations system, such as the Bretton Woods institutions, to work with the ERC and OCHA in coordinated international humanitarian response, and to assess and coordinate efforts to strengthen planning and resource mobilization tools, and to facilitate the transition from relief to development, as well as to report to the Secretary-General on actions taken to do so.

295. The ERC continued activities for the expansion of participation in United Nations disaster assessment and coordination teams, as well as for further bolstering the coordination of the humanitarian assistance efforts of specialized agencies and other humanitarian partners. The General Assembly and Council welcomed such efforts. ERC and IASC members established new policies, training programmes and guidance material for humanitarian personnel, while developing practical action to enhance the quality and coverage of field operations. Through his reporting on improving humanitarian system-wide coordination, the Secretary-General reaffirmed the ERC's central role in advocating respect for the humanitarian principles and humanitarian space, including in the context of peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General also stated that an additional priority for the Organization was that of bolstering the ERC's central role and system-wide support to internally displaced persons and the ERC's mandated responsibilities in facilitating access to vulnerable populations. Accordingly, the Assembly reaffirmed the central role and leadership of the ERC for the coordination of the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons.⁴⁹¹

296. The Assembly recognized the unprecedented number of people who were forcibly displaced owing to conflict, violence and persecution, and often displaced for protracted periods of time, and emphasized the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees, better addressing their assistance and protection needs and refugees and realizing durable solutions to their displacement, in particular by adopting and implementing long-term strategies and coherent multi-year planning.⁴⁹²

297. To strengthen efforts to end displacement and achieve durable solutions, the IASC launched its Framework on Durable Solutions for internally displaced persons in April 2010. In October 2011 the Secretary-General adopted a decision of the Policy Committee on durable solutions and an accompanying Preliminary Framework on Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict, which affirmed the primary role of the State in facilitating durable solutions for displacement and on the international side designated to Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators the responsibility of leading the development of strategies for durable solutions. The Assembly took note of the decision and called upon United Nations agencies to cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur on the

⁴⁸⁹ See Reports of the Secretary-General, A/68/84-E/2013/77, A/69/80-E/2014/68 and A/70/77-E/2015/64, on strengthening the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance; Economic and Social Council, A/68/3/Rev.1, considered the theme "The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness".

⁴⁹⁰ See GA resolution 69/135 on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, GA resolution 69/243 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/14, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

⁴⁹¹ See GA resolution 70/165, on Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons.

⁴⁹² See GA resolution 70/106, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; GA resolution 70/165, on Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons.

Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and to use the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in a manner that complements the decision.⁴⁹³

298. The Assembly encouraged the United Nations to support Member States in developing national laws and policies to address internal displacement with detailed responsibilities and measures and in this respect encouraged the adoption of standards in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, and the basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement.⁴⁹⁴

299. To respond to the growing gap between the increasing numbers of people in need of assistance and sufficient resources to provide relief, the Secretary-General appointed, in May 2015, a High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing to examine ways to raise more humanitarian funding, to make the funding more predictable and to use available funding more effectively. The Assembly encouraged Member States to commit and disburse in a timely fashion funding for humanitarian response plans and called upon donors to consider providing early and multi-year commitments to the Central Emergency Response Fund and Country-Based Pooled Funds, including in support of the response activities of specialized agencies.⁴⁹⁵

⁴⁹³ See GA resolution 68/180, on Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons.

⁴⁹⁴ See GA resolution 70/107, on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

⁴⁹⁵ See GA resolution 70/106, on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.