



United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

**Sixty-fifth session
(12 May–13 June 2025)**

**General Assembly
Official Records
Eightieth Session
Supplement No. 16**



Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

**Sixty-fifth session
(12 May–13 June 2025)**



United Nations • New York, 2025

Note

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

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Organization of the session	5
A. Agenda	5
B. Election of officers	6
C. Attendance	6
D. Documentation	7
E. Adoption of the report of the Committee	7
II. Programme questions	9
A. Proposed programme budget for 2026	9
Plan outline	9
Programme 1. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	11
Programme 2. Political affairs	13
Programme 3. Disarmament	18
Programme 4. Peacekeeping operations	21
Programme 5. Peaceful uses of outer space	26
Programme 6. Legal affairs	28
Programme 7. Economic and social affairs	33
Programme 8. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	35
Programme 9. United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063	37
Programme 10. Trade and development	40
Programme 11. Environment	45
Programme 12. Human settlements	48
Programme 13. International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	50
Programme 14. Gender equality and the empowerment of women	52
Programme 15. Economic and social development in Africa	56
Programme 16. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	58
Programme 17. Economic development in Europe	60

Programme 18. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean . . .	62
Programme 19. Economic and social development in Western Asia.	64
Programme 20. Human rights	66
Programme 21. International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees . . .	69
Programme 22. Palestine refugees.	71
Programme 23. Humanitarian assistance	73
Programme 24. Global communications	76
Programme 25. Management and support services	79
Programme 26. Internal oversight	86
Programme 27. Jointly financed activities	88
Programme 28. Safety and security	90
Proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation	92
B. Evaluation	94
Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives.	94
Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-second session on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth.	95
III. Coordination questions	96
A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2024	96
B. United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.	97
IV. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Committee	98
Annex	
List of documents before the Committee at its sixty-fifth session	100

Chapter I

Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) on 1 April 2025 and its substantive session from 12 May to 13 June 2025 at Headquarters. It held 20 formal meetings and numerous informal and “informal informal” consultations, as well as briefings.

A. Agenda

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

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget for 2026;
 - (b) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
 - (b) United Nations system support for Agenda 2063.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-fifth session.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 1 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat ([E/AC.51/2025/L.2](#)), submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2008 \(LX\)](#), in which it was stated that there were no relevant reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) available for consideration at its sixty-fifth session.

Programme of work

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 May, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the annotated provisional agenda ([E/AC.51/2025/1](#)) and the revised note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation ([E/AC.51/2025/L.1/Rev.1](#)) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its programme of work with the understanding that adjustments would be made by the Bureau, as necessary, during the course of the session to take into account the pace of discussions.

B. Election of officers

6. At its 1st meeting, on 1 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Davit Manukyan (Armenia) as Chair and Pol-Henry Martin (Belgium) and Jesús Velázquez Castillo (Mexico) as Vice-Chairs for the sixty-fifth session.

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 May, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Rodrigue Edgar Tchoffo Mongou (Cameroon) as Rapporteur for the session.

8. At its 18th meeting, on 23 May, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Davit Knyazyan (Armenia) as Chair, effective from 28 May 2025, for the remainder of the session.

9. At its 19th meeting, on 27 May, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Rigoberto D. Banta, Jr. (Philippines) as Vice-Chair for the session.

10. Accordingly, the members of the Bureau for the sixty-fifth session of the Committee were:

Chair:

Davit Manukyan (Armenia) (from 1 April to 27 May 2025)

Davit Knyazyan (Armenia) (effective 28 May)

Vice-Chairs:

Rigoberto D. Banta, Jr. (Philippines)

Pol-Henry Martin (Belgium)

Jesús Velázquez Castillo (Mexico)

Rapporteur:

Rodrigue Edgar Tchoffo Mongou (Cameroon)

C. Attendance

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

Argentina	India
Armenia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Belgium	Israel
Botswana	Italy
Brazil	Japan
Bulgaria	Kenya
Cameroon	Liberia
China	Mexico
Costa Rica	Morocco
Côte d'Ivoire	Pakistan
France	Paraguay
Germany	Philippines
Haiti	Poland

Republic of Korea

Tunisia

Russian Federation

United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

Rwanda

United States of America

South Africa

Uruguay

12. The European Union participated as an observer.

D. Documentation

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

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

14. At its 20th meeting, on 13 June, the Committee had before it the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-sixth session ([E/AC.51/2025/L.3](#)). At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-sixth session and authorized the Secretary to complete it, taking into consideration resolutions and decisions as might be adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its management segment, to be held in July 2025, and by the General Assembly at its eightieth session.

15. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee ([E/AC.51/2025/L.4/Rev.2](#) and addenda). Thereafter, the Chair noted that unfortunately, in the light of the differences in views, the Committee had been unable to agree on conclusions and recommendations for programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, and programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2026.

16. Before the adoption of the draft report, the delegation of the Russian Federation made remarks that it requested be reflected in the present report. The delegation indicated that the Russian Federation expressed its concerns and reservations regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Pact for the Future, in particular on disarmament, human rights and non-governmental organizations, by the United Nations Secretariat and organizations of the United Nations system, and stressed its position that any activities in support of the implementation of the Pact for the Future must be conducted at the request of the interested Member States, if necessary and where applicable. The delegation added that the Russian Federation dissociated itself from references to the implementation of the Pact for the Future, including those relating to its annexes, as mentioned in section III, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, of Programme 27, Jointly financed activities.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report. After the adoption of the report, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made remarks that it requested be reflected in the present report. It indicated that it viewed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a non-legally binding, voluntary instrument. With respect to the instrument, and all other matters that related in any way to domestic issues, the delegation stressed that national laws as well as instruments, plans, programmes and strategies adopted at the highest national level should enjoy total priority and be considered the sole and final source of action. Furthermore, the delegation expressed its reservation on references to the Pact for the Future and gender-related terms. On the issue of the interlinkages between unilateral coercive

measures and the proposed programme plan for 2026, the delegation emphasized that addressing the negative impacts of such measures, including their extraterritorial effects, was of utmost importance for achieving sustainable development in the affected countries as they undermined the fulfilment of numerous programme plans, particularly those concerning assistance to refugees, drug control, women's empowerment, trade, human rights, social and economic affairs, and the environment. The delegation added that despite that, it had engaged in discussions with maximum flexibility and a constructive spirit, without prejudice to future consideration of the issue and expressed its profound disappointment that its approach had not been met with the same spirit by a few members of the Committee. The delegation expressed the view that pursuing political agendas and deviating from the Committee's core mandate, those members had deliberately obstructed progress in order to justify their assertions about the Committee's effectiveness and concluded that despite the commendable efforts of the Chair, Bureau and the majority of Member States to avoid a repeat of the previous year's situation, a small group had once again undermined the principles of multilateralism and the credibility of the Committee's work.

18. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Pakistan, Brazil, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mexico, Poland, Costa Rica, China, Liberia, France, Japan, Uruguay, Bulgaria, Morocco and South Africa.

Chapter II

Programme questions

A. Proposed programme budget for 2026

Plan outline

19. At its 3rd meeting, on 13 May 2025, the Committee considered the plan outline of the proposed programme budget for 2026 ([A/80/6 \(Plan outline\)](#)).

Discussion

20. Several delegations expressed support for the implementation of the plan outline and the eight strategic priorities contained therein. A delegation expressed appreciation for the clarity and succinctness of the plan outline. A delegation emphasized the importance of ensuring that the programmatic activities of the United Nations, along with associated performance measures and results, remained closely aligned with those priorities. Another delegation welcomed the plan outline as a reflection of both national and collective aspirations of Member States for a better future, noting that it aligned with the vision articulated in General Assembly resolution [79/1](#), entitled “The Pact for the Future”, which was recently adopted. The view was expressed that the plan outline provided a road map to guide collective efforts in the light of current challenges faced by the United Nations.

21. Several delegations expressed their support for the United Nations and for multilateralism as a means to effectively address both current and emerging global challenges. A delegation expressed encouragement regarding efforts to maintain international peace and security, support development in Africa and promote human rights. Another delegation emphasized that the effective implementation of the plan outline would require adequate financial resources and appealed to all Member States, especially major contributors, to fulfil their financial obligations in full and on time, to ensure the financial stability of the United Nations and reinforce multilateralism.

22. In reflecting on the long-term objectives of the Organization, a delegation recalled that such objectives were firmly rooted in the Charter of the United Nations and a series of intergovernmental mandates. The view was expressed that it was important to ensure the consistency of work priorities of the Organization. Clarification was sought on whether the priorities presented in the plan outline were identical to those in the previous reports. A delegation, while noting the current non-binding nature of the recently adopted Pact for the Future, queried whether it should be given greater prominence in the formulation of organizational priorities.

23. Clarification was sought regarding the method by which the Secretariat prioritized the resolutions referenced in the plan outline. The delegation emphasized that the long-term goals and priorities of the United Nations were approved by Member States and that any initiatives and approaches that the Secretary-General would implement must be consistent with the decisions of intergovernmental bodies.

24. A delegation emphasized the equal importance of the three pillars of the United Nations, namely, peace and security, sustainable development and human rights, and highlighted that the integrity and balance among them should be preserved. Another delegation expressed the view that greater focus should be placed on development-related priorities, which included sustainable development, economic growth, the development of Africa and enhanced support for Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The importance of giving strategic priority to development, among all priorities, and the provision of assistance to

developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America was highlighted by another delegation.

25. Support was expressed by a delegation related to the goal of the effective functioning of the Organization, as outlined in paragraph 38 of [A/80/6 \(Plan outline\)](#) and under the subsequent section of that report A delegation welcomed the continued efforts of the Organization to cultivate a culture of efficiency, enhance agility and resilience and strengthen the implementation of results-based budgeting and management practices, noting that such efforts contributed to the Organization's capacity to deliver effectively on its mandates.

26. A delegation noted that the Secretariat had conducted consultations with Member States regarding the format of the proposed programme budget, in line with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in December 2024. It underscored the importance of enhancing the quality and clarity of the documents submitted for the Committee's consideration and reiterated that all terminology and concepts used in such documents reflected language agreed upon at the intergovernmental level.

27. The same delegation, recalling paragraphs 64 and 65, respectively, of General Assembly resolutions [78/252](#) and [79/257](#), as well as relevant resolutions adopted at the seventy-ninth and seventy-eighth sessions of the Assembly, noted that, in those resolutions, the Assembly had endorsed clear instructions to the Secretary-General to populate the workforce portal with information. In that regard, the delegation requested the Secretary-General to work on the basis of the aforementioned resolutions when processing and providing information on human resources, rather than being guided by resolutions [77/211](#) and [78/265](#).

28. Several delegations expressed strong interest in the UN80 Initiative and the extent to which it would influence the current plan outline and the programmatic elements under review by the Committee. Questions were raised regarding the main elements of the UN80 Initiative and its potential budgetary impacts. Several delegations expressed support for the UN80 Initiative. The view was expressed that it was aligned with the Committee's work, in that both were intended to ensure that mandates articulated in strategic documents were translated into effective and efficient programmatic delivery.

29. Another delegation expressed concern about the alignment between the plan outline and the UN80 Initiative. The delegation emphasized the importance of ensuring the Committee's ability to exercise its functions effectively and that its views were considered and integrated into the potential programmatic adjustment. The delegation noted that the sixty-fifth session of the Committee would have concluded by mid-June and that, therefore, the Committee might not be in a position to consider any potential programmatic changes arising from the UN80 Initiative. The delegation sought clarification on mechanisms that would ensure that the Committee's role was preserved and its views taken into account, in particular where programme adjustments might arise after the conclusion of its current session.

Conclusions and recommendations

30. **The Committee emphasized the importance of preserving the sequential nature of the review process conducted by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the programme plans presented reflected the latest intergovernmental mandates in time.**

31. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the eight priorities for the period 2026–2028, set out in paragraph 43 of the plan outline (A/80/6 (Plan outline)).

Programme 1 General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

32. At its 17th meeting, on 22 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 2)).

Discussion

33. Delegations expressed support for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and appreciation for the Under-Secretary-General and his colleagues in the Department. A delegation expressed the view that programme 1 was the fundamental programme of the United Nations, and that without it, and without the allocation of sufficient funding for conference servicing, it was not possible to have high-quality intergovernmental discussions. A delegation commented that the Department literally provided the place where Member States succeed in coming together to find solutions to issues, and stressed that the Department was vitally important for increasing collaboration across the Organization. Another delegation noted that the Department made efficient use of its resources and delivered high-quality conference and documentation services, making important contributions to the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The same delegation commended the Department for its efforts in promoting the equal use of the six official languages, and expressed appreciation to language staff for their hard work. It expressed its expectation that the Department would continue to provide high-quality interpretation and translation services and improve their quality.

34. A delegation welcomed the innovative practice and new technologies that the Department had introduced to improve the efficiency of all meetings and conferences. It encouraged the Department to continue those efforts and keep adapting its delivery to modern working practices. Another delegation commended the Department's strategies to continue and expand the use of artificial intelligence as a tool to improve conference services, including the accessibility of publications. Taking note of the artificial intelligence pilot project conducted by the Office of Information and Communications Technology, a delegation enquired whether there was any duplication of effort and asked the Secretariat to provide information on measures in place to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations.

35. A delegation noted that the General Assembly had consistently paid heightened attention to multilingualism as a core and fundamental value of the Organization, as reflected in the fifth preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 79/257. It also noted that, in paragraph 36 of the same resolution, the General Assembly, referring to budgetary and operational factors influencing the provision of interpretation and translation services provided by the Department, encouraged the Secretary-General to strengthen efforts to address these challenges. Paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 79/248 was also cited, in which the Assembly noted with concern the impact of the measures taken by the Secretary-General in response to the current liquidity situation on the provision of multilingual conference services and the management of meetings, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to ensure that multilingualism was not undermined. Attention was also

drawn to a similar provision in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [78/330](#) on multilingualism. However, the delegation noted with regret that austerity measures taken by the Secretary-General had had a more negative impact on multilingualism and on the Department in 2025 compared to the previous year, and that the aforementioned resolutions adopted by the General Assembly were being ignored. The delegation once again urged the Secretary-General to comply with paragraph 6 of section VII of General Assembly resolution [77/263](#) A and consult delegations on possible austerity measures that could have an impact on their work in the main organs of the United Nations. The delegation noted its satisfaction that, despite the serious funding shortfall, the Department continued to cope with the mandates assigned by Member States.

36. Making reference to General Assembly resolution [77/262](#), in which the Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2023 ([A/77/7](#)) to the effect that the provision of hybrid and virtual meetings required a mandate from the General Assembly, and while noting that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had highlighted the importance of virtual meetings in ensuring business continuity during crisis, a delegation stated that, beyond the pandemic, virtual modalities should be preserved only for emergencies, given the clear advantages of in-person meetings in fostering interaction, productivity and consensus-building. The delegation stated that in-person engagement remained essential for fair participation, procedural integrity and mental well-being. It reiterated that any United Nations initiative must safeguard the intergovernmental nature of negotiations and ensure inclusivity, security and equal access for all Member States.

37. A delegation asked the Department to provide further information on measures in place to regulate the use of United Nations conference rooms by non-United Nations organizations, including whether the credentials of such non-United Nations organizations were being reviewed and whether Member States were consulted in that process.

38. A delegation expressed its opposition to the use of diversity, equity and inclusion programmes or gender ideology. It indicated that it did not and would not support any wording promoting discrimination, and instead welcomed initiatives that prioritized hard work and merit-based opportunities.

39. With regard to subprogramme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs, a delegation welcomed the Department's efforts to ensure efficient and effective deliberation and decision-making processes; expressed appreciation for the strengthening of software tools under the e-deleGATE platform; and welcomed the centralized module to facilitate requests on the platform.

40. With regard to the performance measure set out in figure 2.I, related to meetings programmed and held in New York, a delegation enquired about the reason for the lower number of meetings programmed and held in New York in 2024. It asked whether the figures were attributable to liquidity constraints and how they compared to those for Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

41. While enquiring about the 2 per cent decrease in the global timely issuance of documentation in 2023 and 2024, as reflected in figure 2.IV, a delegation expressed appreciation for the Department's efforts to expedite the documentation process while ensuring that high-quality standards were met through the use of artificial intelligence. Another delegation characterized as extraordinary the achievement of the Department in relation to the timely issuance of documents to facilitate the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

42. With regard to the performance measure set out in figure 2.V, related to the number of pages printed annually, a delegation found it interesting that the number of pages printed had decreased as a result of digital solutions, and that fewer delegations in the Committee were using printed versions of the programme plan as compared to previous years. It thanked the Department for its efforts in relation to that development.

Conclusions and recommendations

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

44. **The Committee commended the efforts of the Department in supporting multilingualism as a core and fundamental value of the Organization, thus emphasizing its importance in the activities of the United Nations and contributing to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations.**

45. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for 2026.**

Programme 2 Political affairs

46. At its 18th meeting, on 23 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 3\)](#)).

Discussion

47. Delegations commended the work of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and reiterated their support for its vital contributions to international peace and security through political engagement, conflict prevention and resolution, electoral assistance and peacebuilding. Delegations also recognized the contributions of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Office of Counter-Terrorism in promoting global peace and security. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the programme plan and its alignment with General Assembly resolution [79/1](#), entitled “The Pact for the Future”.

48. It was emphasized that the Department should continue to support national strategies and focus on preventing the outbreak, escalation and recurrence of conflict. Support was expressed for the Peacebuilding Commission’s efforts to promote an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, with a view to maximizing efficiencies.

49. A delegation made reference to its efforts to address security issues and promote world peace through the Global Security Initiative, which was intended to uphold principles and pursue justice, address difficult issues, and promote synergy and

cooperation, through openness, inclusiveness and pragmatic action. It was stated that the Initiative reflected progressive values and was aimed at contributing to lasting peace and universal security.

50. While some delegations welcomed the mainstreaming of gender perspectives throughout the programme plan, including efforts to operationalize the women and peace and security agenda as mandated in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), other delegations raised concerns regarding the conceptual clarity of and justification for the proposed climate and gender lens, and further clarification of its relevance to conflict prevention and resolution tools was requested. It was stated that any policy or programme containing references to gender ideology would not be supported.

51. The importance of results-based management was emphasized and the need for effectiveness, resource optimization and measurable impact across all subprogrammes was highlighted. It was noted that the quantity of activities did not reflect their impact and that activities should be better designed to achieve measurable results. The importance of ensuring the effective use of Member States' contributions was underscored. A call was made for greater specificity in reporting, particularly in relation to performance indicators and the impact of intensified efforts under the programme plan. It was emphasized that quantifiable data and clarity on changes in working methods would enhance the ability to evaluate the programme's effectiveness.

52. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, it was noted that special political missions represented a significant portion of the Department's resources, and concerns were raised that the programme plan did not include information on the work to be carried out by those missions. Clarification was requested from the Secretariat on the rationale for the non-inclusion of special political missions in the programme plan.

53. A delegation enquired about equitable geographical representation within the Department and requested further details on measures taken to improve the representation of developing countries, the outcomes achieved and future strategies. The Department's efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination were acknowledged, and clarification was sought on the measures implemented, the resulting outcomes and future plans.

54. Regarding subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, efforts to strengthen Member States' capacities for identifying, preventing and addressing conflict situations and efforts to develop regional strategies and partnerships with Member States and special political missions were commended. The importance of strengthening the implementation of Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter of the United Nations was underscored, with a focus on preventive diplomacy and peaceful dispute resolution through mediation and facilitation.

55. The reference in paragraph 3.I.17 to the linkages between humanitarian, development, peace and the integration of the United Nations system and the mainstreaming of women and peace and security and youth-related efforts was recognized. A delegation welcomed the inclusion of climate in the programme plan and expressed the view that climate and its impact on conflict needed to be more fully articulated in future programme plans, including through localized climate conflict analysis. Clarification was sought on the Department's efforts to link its activities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on the measures taken, results achieved and future plans.

56. Regarding programme performance in 2024, clarification was sought on the connection between the Secretary-General's good offices, disinformation, the impact of new technologies and the role of non-State actors. Concerns were raised regarding

the general nature of programme performance in 2024 reflected in paragraph 3.I.19 and table 3.I.2, which lacked detail. Clarification was requested on whether the reported intensification of efforts could be quantified or linked to changes in working methods in the light of the Pact for the Future.

57. Regarding subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance, several delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Department, which was one of the most impactful forms of United Nations support for institutional development and stability. The progress made in areas such as training, support for women in parliaments and engagement with regional and subregional organizations was acknowledged. A delegation emphasized that continued support was expected both for regular electoral cycles and for the strategic plans of national electoral bodies. Another delegation welcomed the regional training initiatives for electoral officials but noted that the current assessment framework was focused on headcounts and participation metrics, which lacked the rigour needed to evaluate the actual impact on capacity development, and a more results-oriented approach was recommended.

58. Regarding subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, its specialized research, analysis and advisory support were noted as valuable contributions to improving the Security Council's working methods that benefited both Council members and the broader United Nations system. Regarding the performance indicator on the number of active users of the Council website, clarification was sought on how that metric contributed to the subprogramme's objective of supporting the Council in maintaining international peace and security. It was stated that activities should be better designed to reflect their impact. Appreciation was expressed for the subprogramme's support in facilitating the functioning of the Council, including its work on sanctions, and its activities related to training, the dissemination of reference materials, website enhancements and stakeholder engagement were recognized. While the subprogramme's efforts to update expert rosters and nominate candidates within two weeks of mandate renewals were acknowledged, faster resolution of appointment delays was encouraged. Greater coordination within the United Nations system was recommended to ensure broader understanding and implementation of sanctions. Regarding paragraph 3.I.49, the Secretariat's efforts to improve induction courses for incoming Council members were welcomed, and it was stated that the imbalance between elected and non-elected members, manifested in disparities in institutional memory, geographical representation and working methods, undermined the Council's effectiveness and legitimacy. Increasing the number and duration of induction courses was encouraged.

59. Regarding subprogramme 4, Decolonization, the importance of addressing the legacy of colonialism was emphasized, as called for in General Assembly resolution [79/115](#), and the subprogramme was encouraged to support the Department of Global Communications in those efforts. Another delegation reiterated its support for the right to self-determination and the full application of Article 73 of the Charter. Concerns were raised that independence was overly emphasized as the default status option in the Fourth Committee's deliberations, and reference was made to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in which it was affirmed that Non-Self-Governing Territories might opt for free association, integration or other political statuses if freely chosen. It was suggested that the decolonization mandate might have been fulfilled and that resources could be redirected to more pressing global crises. The limited performance measures, such as the generation of expert lists, were cited as indicative of reduced demand.

60. Regarding subprogramme 5, Question of Palestine, the timely and productive efforts of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in promoting engagement with both the public and Member States on the

question of Palestine were commended, particularly in the light of the critical situation on the ground. The initiatives were also recognized as especially relevant in the context of the upcoming High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, scheduled for June 2025. The Committee's contribution to international dialogue and awareness of the event was welcomed. The use of assessed contributions for the subprogramme was not supported by a delegation, which stated that it was premature, presupposed the outcome of final status issues that could be resolved only through negotiations between the parties and thus was counterproductive to efforts to secure a lasting peace. The view was expressed that strategic communication support to the Palestinian Authority was inappropriate, and concerns were raised about United Nations initiatives that presented a one-sided narrative, potentially harming the Organization's reputation.

61. Regarding subprogramme 6, Peacebuilding Support Office, delegations reaffirmed their support for the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund, and the Office and its role in strengthening the peacebuilding architecture, addressing root causes of conflict and preventing violence. The long-term impact of peacebuilding was recognized as significant, and strong support was expressed for efforts to enhance the effectiveness, reach and relevance of peacebuilding activities. Clarification was sought on the main challenges facing the subprogramme in fully and effectively delivering its mandate.

62. Delegations expressed support for country- and region-owned peacebuilding efforts and recognized the subprogramme's support for nationally-led peacebuilding programmes through the Peacebuilding Fund, particularly in transition, subregional and cross-border contexts, and for empowering women and young people in conflict-affected areas.

63. Several delegations reaffirmed that voluntary contributions remained the primary source of funding for the Peacebuilding Fund. With the approved assessed funding in 2025, delegations stressed that concrete, impactful and cost-effective results must be demonstrated. Concern was expressed over the lack of detailed programmatic data and planning information in the proposed programme plan, and it was stated that a comprehensive workplan for the Fund should be included as a core component of the programme.

64. Regarding the strategy segment of the subprogramme, and specifically paragraph 3.I.82 (a), clarification was sought on how the Peacebuilding Commission could enhance support for locally led, inclusive national prevention approaches that upheld human rights and the rule of law. While the Commission's technical and substantive advice was acknowledged, it was recommended that it focus on country situations where it could add the most value. Regarding paragraph 3.I.82 (b), further information was sought on how the Peacebuilding Fund could prioritize activities to prevent conflict in the most critical contexts and how the Office could better utilize the Peacebuilding Impact Hub to articulate the effects of Fund projects on conflict prevention. It was emphasized that nationally led peacebuilding efforts should be based on the sovereign decisions of States and not be externally imposed.

65. Regarding the programme performance in 2024 and paragraph 3.I.84, the focus on strengthening national prevention approaches was seen as a unique and valuable role of the Peacebuilding Commission.

66. With reference to result 1, paragraph 3.I.86 and figure 3.I.XIII, several delegations welcomed the increased participation rate of women and youth in meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission. Further information was requested on the origin and calculation of targets for the performance measure and on how the subprogramme could continue improving those rates. In addition, the subprogramme

was requested in future to assess the participation by women and youth in peacebuilding more broadly through their inclusion in Peacebuilding Fund projects.

67. Regarding result 2, the increased focus on mission transitions was supported, and the subprogramme was encouraged to improve performance and incorporate both qualitative and quantitative indicators to better capture the impact of its interventions.

68. Regarding result 3, the expansion of partnerships with international financial institutions was welcomed, including with the World Bank and other multilateral development banks and with regional and cross-regional institutions, as indicated in paragraph 3.I.90, and it was recommended that the Peacebuilding Commission further deepen collaboration with regional multilateral development banks. Information was sought on how the Commission could work more effectively with international financial institutions to secure diversified and catalytic funding beyond joint country analysis and strategic alignment.

69. Regarding the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the recognition of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in programme plans was reaffirmed, and the critical work of the Office in advancing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the two-State solution was emphasized, not only for the parties involved but also for broader international peace and security.

70. Regarding paragraph 3.II.13, in which the facilitation by the Office of the Special Coordinator of joint planning exercises for the reconstruction of Gaza involving the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union was highlighted, clarification was sought on whether the Office had had any interaction with the League of Arab States relating to the League's plan for the early recovery, reconstruction and development of Gaza, published in March 2025.

71. Concerns were expressed that all three planned results for 2026 faced significant obstacles. Regarding result 1, it was noted that progress was hindered by increased movement restrictions in Area C of the occupied West Bank and the expansion of settlements. Regarding result 2, it was observed that efforts towards achieving a unified Palestinian Government were impeded by a lack of political will among the relevant parties. Regarding result 3, it was noted that the broader political framework for resolving the conflict was severely complicated by the ongoing conflict in Gaza. With regard to paragraph 3.II.20, clarification was sought on the intention of the Office of the Special Coordinator to expand dialogue with the parties in 2026 and on the most promising avenues for dialogue at a time when the humanitarian situation was at its most critical.

72. Regarding the United Nations Office to the African Union, support was expressed for the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and for strengthening the capacity of subregional organizations for ensuring peace and security in Africa. The link between climate and security cited in paragraphs 3.IV.20 and 3.IV.21 and figure 3.IV.I was noted with concern, and it was recalled that the 2024 joint communiqué of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council referred only to the negative consequences of climate change for food security and other social, humanitarian and economic challenges, which might in turn affect stability on the African continent, and did not include a direct link to peace and security.

73. Regarding the Office of Counter-Terrorism, delegations reaffirmed the importance of countering terrorism, and the alignment of the programme plan with the mandates was recognized. Regarding paragraph 3.V.2, it was recommended that the reference to General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) be updated to resolution [77/298](#), in which the eighth and most recent review of the United Nations Global Counter-

Terrorism Strategy was reflected. Regarding paragraph 3.V.5 (b), it was emphasized that the response to technical assistance needs was contingent upon requests from the concerned Member States. Regarding paragraph 3.V.6 (d), it was emphasized that, while technical assistance remained demand driven, in line with resolution 77/298, the integration of international human rights norms and standards into relevant measures was a universal obligation of all Member States and not limited to those requesting assistance, which should have been reflected in the programme.

74. Regarding paragraph 3.V.9 on inter-agency coordination and liaison, a delegation noted the detailed information regarding the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and stated that it would have preferred a streamlined version of the paragraph focused on the coordination functions of the Office, and in that context, it was suggested that revision of the 2026 performance measure of result 1 was needed to incorporate a focus on engagement with Member States, without additional emphasis on partnerships with specific actors.

75. A concern was expressed about overlapping mandates between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and reference was made to paragraph 41 of resolution 79/257, in which the need to resolve such duplication was highlighted. The view was expressed that the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC should be transferred to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which should be elevated to a Department to centralize the leadership and coordination of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. It was suggested that the programme plan placed undue emphasis on enhancing the role of civil society in counter-terrorism and that the core focus of the Office of Counter-Terrorism should be on providing technical assistance to Member States. Concerns were raised about paragraph 3.V.13 and the integration of human rights and gender equality into activities of the Office, and it was stated that such integration should not be expanded beyond what was necessary for technical assistance.

Conclusions and recommendations

76. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 3 Disarmament

77. At its 12th meeting, on 19 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 4)).

Discussion

78. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and its efforts to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in the light of the complex and deteriorating global security environment. Several delegations reaffirmed their commitment to and support for multilateralism and the Office’s efforts to impartially implement decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, in a depoliticized manner and in strict accordance with mandates provided by Member States.

79. With regard to paragraph 4.1, a delegation noted that the change in wording from the phrase “exacerbating such concerns” in the previous year’s proposed programme plan to “heightened the urgency” was a step in the right direction. With regard to paragraph 4.2, the delegation expressed concern about the suggestion that States’ positions resulted from the security environment, and the implication, in paragraph 4.6 (a), that disarmament efforts depended on a conducive environment rather than contributing to one.

80. A delegation acknowledged the persistent challenges in disarmament and international security, and noted with concern the alarming frequency of emerging threats. The same delegation emphasized that cooperation and compromise were essential to fulfilling obligations with regard to maintaining international peace and security.

81. A delegation raised concerns about the reference in paragraph 4.3 to *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, and it was noted that some elements were not supported by all Member States. The delegation opined that the Agenda was an initiative of the Secretary-General and had not been developed by Member States.

82. Delegations reiterated the need to accelerate progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons, which posed an existential threat to humanity. The need for the total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable, irreversible and time-bound manner was stressed.

83. Delegations welcomed the Office’s work in relation to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, nuclear security and civil nuclear prosperity, and its work towards the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. A delegation opined that nuclear non-proliferation was as important as the elimination of existing nuclear weapons. The importance of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the facilitation of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and disarmament was highlighted.

84. The view was expressed that the existing multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery played a pivotal role in stabilizing international security and order. The delegation noted the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and expressed the need for the international community to oppose selectivity and utilitarianism. The same delegation underscored the legitimacy of the peaceful use of science and technology and encouraged the Office to take measures to effectively implement resolutions of the General Assembly on promoting international cooperation on the peaceful use of science and technology, in particular in the context of international security.

85. The Office was commended for its efforts to promote education on global military expenditure. A delegation noted with regret that military spending and conflicts had increased, while peace agreements remained elusive. The delegation emphasized the importance of investment in education, health and safety, over weapons.

86. Delegations called for enhanced efficiency in programme implementation through streamlined project designs, a reduction in documentation and in the number of meetings, the elimination of redundancies, and improved coordination. In reference to table 4.10, which listed the number of meetings of the Disarmament Commission, a delegation questioned the use of that metric and suggested that it might have been more efficient to hold fewer meetings.

87. A delegation expressed appreciation for the support provided during the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which had been successful and had resulted in consensus. The Office was commended for its efforts in developing a road map for Central America and the Dominican Republic on preventing and combating the illicit trafficking and proliferation of firearms, munitions and explosives. The delegation appealed to the Committee to offer recommendations and champion the work of the Office.

88. A delegation welcomed the continued commitment of the Office to addressing chemical and biological weapons and its cooperation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The importance of the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the need for effective and universal implementation of the Convention, were stressed. A delegation opposed the inclusion in the programme plan of references to General Assembly resolution 79/1, on the Pact for the Future, while another delegation was of the view that the resolution demonstrated the international community's ability to rally behind common objectives, including disarmament, and expressed optimism that it could facilitate further progress in multilateral disarmament.

89. A delegation opined that the Office should not interact with civil society on disarmament issues and that such interactions should be authorized by the Member States. A similar view was expressed on gender issues. Another delegation welcomed the references to gender mainstreaming in the Office's activities, deliverables and results.

90. With respect to subprogramme 1, Multilateral negotiations and deliberations on disarmament and arms limitation, concerns were raised about the use in paragraph 4.16 (b) of the term "treaty-making conferences", which lacked precedent in disarmament forums. The delegation highlighted the inadmissibility of such terminology and emphasized the need to adhere to agreed language.

91. Delegations expressed support for Office's work on disarmament education, including the fellowship programme mentioned in paragraph 4.16 (c).

92. A delegation highlighted the vital work of the Disarmament Commission, which served as a unique platform for deliberations on key disarmament issues. The lack of progress within the open-ended working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects was noted with concern.

93. With respect to subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, concerns were raised regarding the contents of paragraph 4.29 (i) and the Office's support for the efforts of OPCW to ensure accountability for the use of chemical weapons. The delegation emphasized that such actions should not go beyond the mandate of OPCW and stressed that ensuring accountability for the use of chemical weapons was the prerogative of the Security Council. It was further noted that the monthly reports of the Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), did not indicate any support provided by the Office.

94. Clarification was sought on the cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and the interaction with civil society mentioned in paragraph 4.29 (g).

95. A delegation commended Brazil, together with Norway, for initiating the Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and for the successful discussions held in Geneva.

96. The importance of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, and the need for its effective operationalization, were underscored.

97. With respect to subprogramme 3, Conventional arms, delegations supported the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and requested further information on the fellowship programme on small arms and light weapons, including its current implementation status and future plans, referenced in paragraph 4.46.

98. Delegations expressed concern about the illicit trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons. It was noted that the successful outcome of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which had been marked by the adoption of a strong outcome document, underscored the continued commitment of the international community to strengthening efforts in that field.

99. With respect to subprogramme 4, Information and outreach, delegations welcomed efforts to ensure meaningful and inclusive participation and empowerment of youth in disarmament and non-proliferation discussions, and expressed appreciation for the initiatives of the Office in that regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

100. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 4 Peacekeeping operations

101. At its 11th meeting, on 19 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 5\)](#)).

Discussion

102. Delegations expressed deep appreciation to the Department of Peace Operations, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and peacekeepers in the field for their efforts in delivering mandates and protecting communities in challenging operational environments. It was emphasized that peacekeeping remained an essential mechanism for maintaining international peace and security. Delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of global peace, security and multilateralism, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Delegations also commended troop- and police-contributing countries for their commitment to and ongoing support for United Nations peacekeeping operations and paid tribute to uniformed and civilian personnel serving in peacekeeping missions.

103. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme plan for 2026 and the performance in 2024 and acknowledged the important role that the Department played in supporting peacekeeping operations. Several delegations voiced support for the Department in its ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, by promoting improved performance and better

conditions for personnel deployed in the field, enhancing operational performance and adapting to evolving risks and challenges, to ensure the continued relevance and impact of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Support for key priorities, such as children in armed conflict, climate and security, and respect for international humanitarian law and human rights, was reaffirmed, and further information was sought regarding the Department's plans to ensure that compliance frameworks, such as those related to human rights, were aligned with United Nations standards, especially where gaps had been identified.

104. Delegations expressed their support for and welcomed the alignment of the programme plan with the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its implementation strategy. Delegations emphasized the importance of engagement with the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly. The report of the Special Committee ([A/78/19](#)), in which the Committee had requested the Secretariat to develop an updated Action for Peacekeeping implementation strategy, was recalled, and further information was requested on planned consultations with Member States and the timeline for submission of the updated implementation strategy. Clarification was sought regarding the extent to which the deliberations of the Special Committee were considered in the formulation of the programme plan. It was emphasized that the development of peacekeeping-related programmes must fully incorporate the views of interested parties, including troop-contributing countries and host States, in accordance with established directives and frameworks.

105. The reflection of priorities of the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution [79/1](#)) in the programme plan was welcomed. It was recalled that the review of all United Nations peace operations, as requested in the Pact for the Future, was expected to provide guidance to Member States and stakeholders on the future of both special political missions and peacekeeping operations. Another delegation observed that the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace and the Pact for the Future both advocated for more realistic mandates, agile operations and stronger links between peacekeeping and political solutions, supported by sustained financing.

106. Several delegations expressed support for the programme's focus on consistent political strategies, the sequencing and prioritization of mandates, and gender parity policies, which were identified as key elements for enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. A delegation emphasized the importance of ensuring that peacekeeping mandates were clearly defined and regularly assessed on the basis of their impact on the ground. It was stressed that mandate delivery must be matched with adequate resources and mechanisms for transparency and accountability. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue to strengthen a system-wide approach to mandate implementation, while a delegation enquired about measures in place to ensure that feedback from the field, including host country perspectives, were systematically reflected in planning and reporting processes.

107. Several delegations stressed that adequate and sustainable resources were fundamental for mandate implementation and for peace operations to remain adaptive and effective. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a question was raised regarding the alignment of planned results with resource requirements. Another delegation referred to the UN80 Initiative and expressed the view that it would promote a culture of efficiency and cost containment across the United Nations system. It was suggested that the Initiative should consider the demands of host States and the expanding scope of United Nations peace operations. Clarification was sought on whether there was a framework in place for peacekeeping missions under the UN80 Initiative, and on how discrepancies would be reconciled between the outcome of the deliberations of the Committee and changes driven by the

Initiative, particularly in cases where agreed planned results might later conflict with Initiative-driven changes.

108. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation highlighted the need for equitable geographical representation and better support for peacekeeping forces and troop-contributing countries, particularly those from developing countries. Another delegation observed that peacekeeping operations today faced increasing complexity, violence and fiscal constraints, and expressed concern over the allocation of resources to missions that were not relevant to current realities and called for a more strategic and needs-based approach.

109. Several delegations noted that peace operations must leverage technological advancements, training and capacity-building to enhance their effectiveness. A delegation expressed the view that a cross-cutting approach was necessary, involving both the deployment of relevant technologies and the recruitment of skilled personnel across all regions where the United Nations operated. Further details were requested regarding paragraph 5.I.2 (f), which made reference to the integration of new technologies to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers. A delegation emphasized that the use of new technologies must be responsible and purpose-driven and be carried out with the consent of host States. It was emphasized that the introduction and implementation of information and digital technologies by peacekeepers should not pose a threat to the sovereignty of the host State or its neighbours and should not violate the privacy of citizens. Another delegation proposed the creation of a United Nations digital peacekeeping hub to foster partnerships with African technology hubs, and it was suggested that the integration of geospatial tools into peacekeeping operations would support secure communications, data analysis and early warning systems.

110. A delegation emphasized the importance of enhancing the level of medical support for United Nations peacekeeping missions in the field, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to explore advanced technologies, particularly telemedicine, to improve access to medical assistance for peacekeepers. The importance of incorporating gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations, with specific reference to the use of telemedicine technologies by women peacekeepers, was underlined. With respect to mental health services and psychosocial support, a delegation emphasized that such services were critical to the safety and security of personnel and welcomed the development of a mental health strategy for uniformed personnel by the Department of Operational Support which was aligned with United Nations rules and regulations.

111. Several delegations welcomed the prioritization of effective performance and accountability across all mission components. Delegations welcomed the continued implementation of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System across peacekeeping operations, the development of an integrated performance policy and accountability framework, and increased engagement with troop- and police-contributing countries on performance issues. The importance of performance assessment frameworks to inform decision-making and build trust with host countries and local populations was emphasized. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of performance measurement for non-uniformed components in peacekeeping missions and it was reiterated that mission success depended on the performance of all components, and it was requested that this gap be addressed. Further information was requested on how performance assessment frameworks were being integrated into programme design and how they varied across peacekeeping operations.

112. The view was expressed that peacekeeping mandates must be clearly defined and regularly assessed on the basis of their impact on the ground. The need for

strengthening protection mandates, particularly of civilians, was underlined. It was emphasized that United Nations peacekeeping must adapt to remain an effective and efficient tool for advancing peace and security. Several delegations called for a culture of accountability to be fostered, efficiencies to be achieved and fiscal responsibility to be improved. It was stressed that peacekeeping missions must have actionable end states, clear metrics and a streamlined support structure that encouraged innovation and the responsible use of resources. For improving mission effectiveness and accountability, a delegation emphasized the need for evidence-based indicators to demonstrate whether a peacekeeping mission was having an impact. The delegation noted that success must be measured differently depending on the mission's context, mandate and environment. Some examples of tangible results cited were the signing of peace agreements, ceasefires, the demobilization of combatants and establishment of mobile courts. It was also acknowledged that some missions focused on less tangible but equally important outcomes, such as building trust between conflicting parties, diffusing tensions and advancing national reform agendas. A delegation advocated for formal tripartite frameworks to co-design mandates, exit strategies and post-transitional support, and for the integration of peacekeeping with development and peacebuilding. Joint United Nations-United Nations Development Programme planning cells to align short-term security gains with longer-term institution-building was encouraged.

113. Several delegations noted the importance of strengthening cooperation with host countries to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers. Constructive cooperation, clarification of mission objectives and consideration of fair criticism for building trust-based relationships with both local populations and host Governments was emphasized. Further information was sought on how the Department would ensure better cooperation with national authorities to initiate investigations into crimes committed against United Nations personnel.

114. Several delegations emphasized the importance of multilateral responses and strengthening collaboration between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, particularly in addressing peace and security challenges in Africa. It was noted that peacekeeping operations, particularly in Africa, were facing increasing challenges due to the complex and multifaceted nature of conflicts, and the need for deeper collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union was highlighted. The potential role of regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union and the Southern African Development Community, in complementing United Nations peacekeeping efforts was highlighted. The institutionalization of partnerships between the United Nations and regional arrangements was welcomed, and the accelerated implementation of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) was encouraged. It was noted that the Security Council could benefit from the experience of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, particularly in conducting operations under challenging conditions with limited resources. The Secretariat was encouraged to pursue strategies that promoted predictable, sustainable and flexible support for African-led peace initiatives.

115. Several delegations emphasized their support for the women and peace and security agenda, gender-promoting activities within peace operations and the importance of women's leadership in peacekeeping operations. A delegation emphasized the importance of advancing the role of women in peace and security and committing to increasing the percentage of female peacekeepers in peacekeeping contingents to meet or exceed the global 20 per cent target. It was observed that this would enhance mission legitimacy and civilian protection. It was emphasized that broad geographical representation must be upheld in the deployment of female peacekeepers, including in leadership roles.

116. A delegation enquired as to how the Department was incorporating and implementing the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, particularly in the light of the challenging conditions in many peacekeeping mission areas.

117. Regarding subprogramme 1, Operations, with reference to table 5.I.6, clarification was requested on why none of the planned seminars, workshops and training events for 2024 had taken place, and it was noted that there was a decline in the number of such activities planned for 2025.

118. Several delegations recalled the host countries' requests for the withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali in 2023 and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2024. The view was expressed that they reflected growing frustrations with the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Another delegation raised concerns regarding those drawdowns, which were seen as posing risks to regional stability and the sustainability of peace. Those developments were cited as evidence of the need for adaptive and comprehensive peacekeeping strategies which should inform future peacekeeping strategies.

119. With regard to subprogramme 2, Military, a delegation referred to the programme performance in 2024, noting the promulgation of new guidelines for temporary operating bases, and sought further information on how the Department intended to monitor and review the implementation of those guidelines. Another delegation referred to paragraphs 5.I.33 and 5.I.34 under result 1, on the percentage of female military individual uniformed personnel in United Nations peace operations, and expressed the view that the priority should not be on the achievement of certain percentages but appropriate preparation and qualification of female candidates and effective mandate implementation. With reference to paragraph 5.I.36 under result 2, a delegation noted that the target of expanding explosive ordnance disposal capabilities for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic had not been achieved, requested updated information and expressed its concern that the 2026 target appeared vague. With reference to result 3, on unmanned aircraft systems, a delegation commended the Department for integrating new and evolving challenges into the programme plan.

120. Regarding the deliverables reflected in table 5.I.10, a 25 per cent reduction in training events to mainstream a gender perspective for military components of peacekeeping operations was noted, and further explanation was sought regarding that reduction, given the Department's overall strategy, reflected in paragraph 5.I.2, with regard to the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. Further information was requested on the content and implementation of the planned training activities for 2026, specifically, the planned training events on misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, and on conduct and discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse.

121. With regard to subprogramme 3, Rule of law and security institutions, concerns were raised regarding the performance measure for result 2 reflected in figure 5.I.IV, which reflected the percentage of police units rated "satisfactory" or above, reported as 100 per cent actual performance in 2024 and 100 per cent planned performance for 2025 and 2026. Clarification was sought on the actual impact of that metric and whether performance was equally strong across all missions. It was requested that the Secretariat provide more detailed and meaningful metrics for current and future evaluations.

122. With regard to subprogramme 4, Policy, evaluation and training, the learning management system referenced in paragraph 5.I.56 (h) was welcomed as an essential tool for training activities. Regarding programme performance in 2024 and paragraph 5.I.58 relating to the rise of hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, several

delegations welcomed the emphasis on countering misinformation and disinformation, and it was suggested that strategic communications could play a critical role in countering such threats. Another delegation stressed that efforts should not be limited to specific areas but encompass all aspects of strategic communications, as they would contribute to coordination, mandate implementation and peacekeeper safety.

123. Regarding UNTSO, it was emphasized that United Nations peacekeeping missions should uphold the highest standards of efficiency, responsiveness and mandate delivery. A delegation noted its commitment to supporting the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon by facilitating the work of those peacekeeping missions through coordination mechanisms, by ensuring freedom of movement and by enhancing peacekeeper safety. The delegation also noted serious concerns with regard to violations by conflicting parties, which presented strategic threats to regional peace and security. Another delegation noted the deteriorating security environment, and sought clarification about how UNTSO would ensure implementation of its plans for improved reporting, investigations, accurate observation and inspections, particularly when access to locations was restricted.

124. Regarding UNMOGIP, a delegation commended the mission's efforts to implement its mandate in accordance with Security Council resolutions. It was noted that the planned results of the mission were aligned with its mandate, particularly in the areas of enhanced observation along the line of control, improved situational awareness and maintenance of a continued presence in the area.

Conclusions and recommendations

125. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 5 Peaceful uses of outer space

126. At its 7th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 6)).

Discussion

127. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the peaceful uses of outer space and welcomed the 2026 programme plan and the targets achieved in 2024. The Office's work on sustainable development, disaster mitigation, environmental risk management and the integration of gender perspectives and promotion of women's participation in space activities was welcomed.

128. Delegations noted the many advantages of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for developed and developing nations. The benefits of international cooperation with regard to climate change, environmental monitoring, natural resource management, precision farming and agriculture, and management of water resources was noted. The view was expressed that such cooperation empowered Member States to pursue national development goals, and the importance of preserving outer space for peaceful purposes was underscored. Several delegations

emphasized the importance of advancing space exploration through innovation, cooperation and sustainable governance, and of harnessing peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all humanity.

129. The Office's mandate as the custodian for the United Nations treaties governing the rights and obligations of States in space was acknowledged, and the role of the Office as a key multilateral forum for fostering conducive environments that strengthened the safety, stability and sustainability of space activities and capacity-building in space law and policy was supported. Several delegations acknowledged the important role of the Office as the substantive secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. A delegation opined that technical advisory missions, visits by experts and legal support provided by the Office were highly relevant for the signing, ratification and global adoption of space treaties.

130. Delegations emphasized the critical role of the Office and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in ensuring that space was governed under the principles of the rule of law, equity and peaceful cooperation. A delegation expressed support for the consensus decision-making by the Committee and expressed the view that maintaining its effectiveness should be one of the Office's top priorities. Another delegation noted that the United Nations space treaties were the foundational framework for space activities and that the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee were the central platforms for developing the legal framework. The work of Committee in contributing to the agreement of guidelines, standards and norms for enabling the safe and sustainable exploration and use of space by future generations was recognized. The Office's role in implementing relevant aspects of the legal framework, including maintenance of the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, was noted.

131. A delegation advocated for stronger global frameworks to address challenges such as space debris, cybersecurity threats and equitable access to outer space. The importance of using the allocated time for the annual session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space efficiently to ensure delivery on its core mandate, including the review and adoption of reports and the advancement of negotiations on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV), was emphasized. Another delegation opined that resources intended for the activities of the Committee should not be used for other activities of the Office. The significant reduction in the number of intersessional consultations of the working groups of the Committee in 2025 and 2026 was noted with concern, given its negative impact on effectiveness in addressing a number of pressing issues.

132. Delegations commended the Office's focus on supporting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities to support capacity-building and the development of space law. A delegation emphasized that priority should be given to strengthening the capacity-building of countries that were developing their peaceful national space programmes and leveraging the benefits of space technologies. The Office was commended for its work in a rapidly growing sector and initiatives in space debris mitigation and management of space resources. Clarification was sought on how the Office's efforts on the sustainability of outer space activities and their outcomes could be further enhanced.

133. A delegation opined that space technologies were vital for economic growth, sustainability and global progress and required effective regulation to ensure long-term safety, and noted that the Pact for the Future recognized the role of space in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several delegations observed that UNISPACE IV would provide a crucial opportunity to advance international cooperation in space governance.

134. Delegations recognized the increase in the work of the Office over the years and noted that space activities had seen growing relevance, with increasing space traffic and an increasing number of objects launched into space. A delegation enquired as to whether such a trend reflected an increase in demand by Member States for the support of the Office, and whether the Office could fulfil its mandate adequately. The Office was commended for maintaining and expanding its programmatic activities despite difficult financial and staffing constraints, while a delegation enquired as to how Member States could help the Office to meet the increasing demand for services. A delegation opined that the Office's extrabudgetary activities should be based on the principle of maximum transparency and subsequent reporting to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Chair emphasized that matters related to the parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

135. With regard to paragraph 6.8, clarification was sought on the Office's role as an inter-agency hub for the procurement of space-based information and the potential efficiencies. A delegation encouraged the Office to use metrics and goals to track the peaceful uses of outer space, such as the number of conjunctions or collisions avoided as a result of communication between space actors, or progress towards the development of a space situational awareness platform enabling better communication and standards between regional systems. The delegation opined that better metrics would demonstrate end results or lack thereof, which was important. Clarification was also sought on the potential metrics that Member States could consider.

136. It was noted that while the rapid development of space science and technology had brought new types of space activities, including a significant increase in commercial space activities benefiting humanity, it had also led to emerging challenges for global governance of outer space. The Office's contribution to global governance and international cooperation in outer space was noted. A delegation opined that the Office should continue to uphold the international order in outer space on the basis of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and enhance the inclusiveness of international cooperation in outer space to ensure the right of developing countries to use science and technology for peaceful purposes and participate in international cooperation. Outer space governance as a critical enabler for development, peace and security, and the protection of current and future generations was recognized, and its potential to support global equity, resilience, peace and development, particularly for the least developed countries, was emphasized.

Programme 6

Legal affairs

137. At its 5th meeting, on 14 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 8\)](#)).

Discussion

138. Delegations expressed appreciation and strong support for the work of the Office of Legal Affairs who coordinated and consulted widely with all parties, including Member States on legal matters. It was recognized that the Office was vital to the functioning of the United Nations and its staff were commended for delivering its mandate with the highest standards of professionalism. Delegations congratulated the Office for its proposed programme plan and expressed the hope that it would be fully implemented in 2026.

139. Delegations welcomed the support to be provided by the Office to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity; the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement; and the support provided to the International Law Commission and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The important role of the International Law Commission in the progressive development and codification of international law was noted and the need for allocating appropriate time for its deliberations to deliver on its mandate was stressed.

140. The view was expressed that the Office should take practical measures to improve equitable geographical representation which would enable the Office to draw on diverse experiences and best practices so as to better carry out its work.

141. With reference to the role of the United Nations Legal Counsel as the focal point of UN-Oceans (General Assembly resolution 68/70), a delegation inquired about the strategy for 2026 and how the Office would leverage the possibilities of the inter-agency coordination mechanism in support of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.

142. With respect to paragraph 8.I.11, support and appreciation was expressed for the Office's work to further the progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of international trade law, and clarification was sought regarding future support to be provided to Member States in the preparation of universally acceptable legislative and non-legislative texts. With respect to paragraph 8.I.12 on the law of treaties, a delegation sought clarification on the actions undertaken to promote wider knowledge of the law of treaties, including through capacity-building activities and workshops.

143. With respect to evaluation activities, the evaluation conducted in 2024 was noted and a delegation recognized the strengthened evaluation culture in the Office. In connection with alumni networks, clarification was sought on how the Office planned to promote strategic relationships with academic host institutions, including maintenance of up to-date alumni and host institution databases to better prepare and implement capacity-building activities.

144. With respect to subprogramme 1, Provision of legal services to the United Nations system as a whole, a delegation noted that paragraphs 8.I.24 (b), 8.I.25 (d), and item E. of table 8.I.6, made reference to the provision of support to United Nations criminal tribunals, their oversight bodies and other international accountability mechanisms. The delegation opined that the text implied that the Office was mandated to support an unlimited number of mechanisms, which it disagreed with, and sought clarification on what "other accountability mechanisms" were, and suggested that the phrase should be deleted.

145. With reference to table 8.I.6 and category E deliverables, the inclusion of the phrase "legal advice to 18 United Nations entities on the interpretation and implementation of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court" was questioned, as not all Member States of the United Nations were members of the International Criminal Court and parties to the Rome Statute. Clarification was sought on whether the International Criminal Court and the United Nations were viewed as separate entities.

146. A delegation expressed its regret on the absence of specific references to the Office's work in assisting the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The view was expressed that General Assembly resolution 79/130, provided a mandate to

the Secretary-General to launch an arbitration procedure under section 21 of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, and that the Office played a key role in that regard. A delegation further opined that the relevant section of the programme plan should include specific steps aimed at resolving the problems faced by the Permanent Missions of the United Nations, including measures to prepare for arbitration.

147. With regard to subprogramme 2, General legal services provided to United Nations organs and programmes, clarification was sought on Result 3, and the progress made to incorporate standard contractual provisions into contracts signed by the United Nations to reduce risks.

148. With regard to subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, delegations acknowledged the work of the Office in the codification of international law and servicing the International Law Commission.

149. Several delegations reiterated their support for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law, and the International Law Fellowship Programme. It was noted that the programmes strengthened national legal capacities and ensured the effective and informed participation of all states in building and developing international law.

150. With respect to the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law and the Programme of Assistance, a delegation expressed its deep appreciation to the subprogramme for the efficient and professional implementation of the programme. It was emphasized that the Programme of Assistance had helped in strengthening national capacities in international law and in the establishment of vital networks of contacts in the international law field. The contribution of the Programme of Assistance for promoting the rule of law and enabling full, equal and equitable access to the international legal system was also recognized by delegations.

151. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation referred to the uncertainty regarding access to regular budget funds in 2024 and observed that this had an impact on the International Law Fellowship program, and the updating of the Audiovisual Library, which prevented the recording of lectures as the Secretariat could not recruit a video producer and webmaster. In that regard, the delegation requested an update including on the Audiovisual Library. The delegation also requested information on the strategy for 2026, with respect to the projected dissemination of materials on international law through the Audiovisual Library and major legal publications, including in other regions such as Asia Pacific.

152. With regard to subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the subprogramme, and its important role in the adoption of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and in supporting the process of its ratification by Member States, which represented one of the greatest achievements of multilateralism in the last decade. The work of the Office as the interim secretariat of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction was recognized, and the subprogramme was commended for the successful conduct of the first substantive session of the Preparatory Commission.

153. The work of the subprogramme on capacity-building for developing States was recognized, particularly in relation to the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. A delegation observed the importance of increasing the participation of landlocked developing countries in capacity-building activities in the framework of the law of the sea and ocean affairs, and the Office was requested to provide more information in that regard.

154. With respect to paragraph 8.I.63 (d), a delegation expressed the view that measures for the promotion of a better understanding of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction were premature, as the treaty had not yet entered into force. The delegation further opined that assistance to developing countries in strengthening their capacity to participate in the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction should be undertaken at the request of those States. With respect to paragraph 8.I.64 (a), the delegation also questioned how the activities of the subprogramme would contribute to increasing the number of States parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea and its implementing agreements.

155. Reference was made to paragraph 8.I.69 and the performance measures reflected in table 8.I.16 under 2023 and 2024, and clarification was requested on the reference to “gaps ... in the effective implementation of international law”.

156. With reference to result 3, it was observed that the subprogramme would support the publication of the third World Ocean Assessment in 2025 and a question was raised on whether there were plans in 2026 to build on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in 2025.

157. With respect to subprogramme 5, Progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of the law of international trade, delegations acknowledged the work of the subprogramme as secretariat of UNCITRAL, and its work on the harmonization and development of international trade law that governs international commercial transactions and strengthening technical cooperation and promoting the participation of developing countries in the law-making activities of UNCITRAL. The subprogramme’s work in supporting Working Group three, on investor State dispute settlement, and Working Group 5, on insolvency, were particularly noted.

158. Efforts undertaken to promote more active participation of developing countries in the Commission’s normative and cooperative activities was highlighted. Clarification was sought on whether additional measures to facilitate a more equitable and substantive participation of developing countries in the work of UNCITRAL was envisioned. A delegation emphasized the importance of having simultaneous broadcasting of the meetings taking place in Headquarters in New York to facilitate greater participation from capitals.

159. With regard to subprogramme 6, Custody, registration and publication of treaties, clarification was sought on the steps taken to support the Sixth Committee in the forthcoming debate on “The role of technology in shaping treaty-making practice”.

160. Regarding the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, several delegations expressed their strong support for the work of the Mechanism and noted that promoting accountability for atrocities and other abuses committed in Myanmar both before and after the February 2021 military coup demonstrated Member States’ commitment to human rights and support for ending the culture of impunity and supporting justice. It was noted that preventing new atrocities and other abuses, addressing the needs of victims and survivors, and ensuring those responsible for atrocities and other abuses were held accountable were essential to addressing the ongoing crisis in Myanmar and helping Myanmar return to a path toward an inclusive, peaceful and prosperous State. Delegations welcomed and recognized the Mechanism’s flexibility and effectiveness in its efforts to address the challenging circumstances and the Mechanism was congratulated on the progress made.

161. With respect to the programme performance in 2024, a delegation noted and welcomed the enhancement of investigations through the use of evidentiary materials as reflected in figure 8.II.I. The delegation also welcomed the ongoing work reflected in results 2 and 3, including the increased engagement with victims, survivors and civil society, and the increased access to evidence and the amount of information available.

162. Regarding the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, delegations expressed their support and appreciation for the work of the Mechanism in ensuring accountability, including its victim-centred approach. It was observed that since the Mechanism was created, it had made great progress in implementing its critically important mandate to collect, consolidate, preserve, and analyse evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses committed in Syria over the last decade, building upon the work members of Syrian civil society provided to it. A delegation welcomed the ongoing work of the Mechanism to building a central repository and its efforts to work with the Syrian authorities in the changed context in Syria.

163. It was noted that the Mechanism had become vital in providing prosecutors and investigators with information and evidence needed to pursue criminal accountability, thereby achieving a measure of justice for the many victims. A delegation noted its strong support for ensuring that such information would be made available to assist in new prosecutions, where jurisdiction exists.

164. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation observed that the work of documenting atrocities, collecting evidence and pursuing justice was resource-intensive and required sustained financial support, and called upon Member States to maintain full funding for the Mechanism's work, including through the United Nations regular budget.

165. It was noted with satisfaction that the Mechanism now served some 16 competent jurisdictions and had expanded its reach and impact in supporting efforts to hold perpetrators accountable. It was further noted that the Mechanism was deepening and intensifying its trusted partnerships with civil society in the Syrian Arab Republic, Member States and international organizations, thereby fostering collaboration and solidarity in the pursuit of justice.

166. The view was expressed that the Syrian people should be heard, and that every individual Syrian victim should have the opportunity to seek justice. A delegation emphasized that accountability and justice were essential to the international community's efforts to ensure that a lasting, United Nations facilitated political process in the Syrian Arab Republic could take hold. It was observed that the Mechanism remained at the forefront and was integral to ensuring accountability. The same delegation stated that without such work, the stable, just and enduring peace that the Syrian people deserved would remain elusive.

167. The view was expressed that the continued inclusion of the Mechanism under programme 6, Legal affairs, was regrettable, and that the two Mechanisms were political instruments that did not have consensus and were artificially linked to the programme. A delegation recalled its proposal to consider the two Mechanisms under a separate programme and noted that such an approach would allow for the full consideration of the programme plan of the Office of Legal Affairs.

168. It was further emphasized that the establishment of the Mechanisms were in violation of international law, that the adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly was a departure from the limits of its statutory powers and the absence of

a resolution of the Security Council adopted pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations was noted. It was opined that these concerns applied to both Mechanisms. The view was expressed that in the context of acute shortage of resources in the United Nations, funding these mechanisms through the programme budget was regrettable.

169. A delegation noted that there remained a wide divergence of view among Member States on the establishment and functioning of the two Mechanisms included under programme 6, Legal affairs, and requested clarification on the reasons for the inclusion of the two Mechanisms under programme 6.

Conclusions and recommendations

170. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 6, Legal Affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 7 Economic and social affairs

171. At its 4th meeting, on 13 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 9)).

Discussion

172. Some delegations expressed appreciation for the proposed programme plan for 2026 and the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs towards the implementation of its development programmes, as well as support towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

173. It was highlighted that the Department was at the heart of the United Nations programme for sustainable development to eradicate poverty and advance inclusive economic growth. It was stressed that support for development must not be weakened within the United Nations system and that the balance among the pillars of the work of the United Nations must be sustained, with development at its centre.

174. Other delegations expressed concerns with elements of the programme, stating that the work of the Department appeared to overlap with other programmes at United Nations Headquarters, such as the work conducted by the programme on Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and that these activities should be streamlined to eliminate duplication. The Department was encouraged to focus on areas where there was a unique need to lead, as opposed to areas where there might be overlap and potential duplication, and to look for opportunities for streamlining.

175. There was a concern raised on the growing number of references in the programmes to certain vague “crises”, for which replacement with “global development challenges” was proposed.

176. A delegation stated that the interpretation of sustainable development was seen to be ever expanding, ignoring each country’s national responsibility for its own development and each country’s national sovereignty to chart that course, to try to set voluntary aspirational goals into a mandate to finance other countries’ development.

As a result, there was no consensus on reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The delegation also stated that diversity, equity and inclusion programmes violated its country's laws by replacing hard work, merit and equality with a preferential hierarchy.

177. Turning to subprogramme 2, Inclusive social development, the discussion included expressing support for the work of the subprogramme, including the Commission for Social Development. Paragraph 9.41, which states that the subprogramme will support the Second World Summit for Social Development and its preparatory process by developing analytical outputs, facilitating intergovernmental negotiations and coordinating inter-agency collaboration, was highlighted.

178. In the discussion on subprogramme 3, Sustainable development, a query was raised on table 9.15 regarding specific achievements since 2023, when the United Nations Water Conference was held, noting that there were more than 700 commitments to promote changes in the world whereby water was deemed a fundamental right. In addition, the mandate of General Assembly resolution [77/334](#), entitled "Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018–2028", had not been implemented, and the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation contained contradictory approaches that had not been agreed upon by Member States.

179. Questions were raised regarding subprogramme 6, Economic analysis and policy, including with regard to progress relating to paragraph 9.85 (j) on advancing the formulation of a specific response plan with respect to middle-income countries.

180. Regarding subprogramme 7, Public institutions and digital government, a positive assessment was given to the Department for its work, as well as for activities of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and the Internet Governance Forum. With regard to figure 9.IX, entitled "Performance measure: number of civil servants supporting the preparation of action plans and road maps on innovation and digital government (annual)", a question was posed on the large difference between the planned and actual results for 2024 and on the lower results in 2025 and 2026.

181. It was recalled that, at the Summit of the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations was approved by consensus; therefore, the Declaration was proposed to be added to paragraphs 9.98 and 9.99.

182. The importance of subprogramme 8, Sustainable forest management, was raised, with delegations referring to it as a key partner in combating the effects of climate change, desertification and diversity loss, as well as addressing sand and dust storms and promoting reforestation. It was noted that, in 2025, the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be held, and Member States were encouraged to give this subprogramme more attention.

183. The Department was asked about the capacity-building support stated in paragraph 9.132 in the context of a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation, under subprogramme 9, Financing for sustainable development. Clarity was also sought on the performance measure in figure 9.XI, number of developing countries engaging in shaping international tax norms (cumulative), as the number of developing countries engaged in shaping international tax norms seemed outdated.

184. Concerns were raised about the impact of the UN80 Initiative (possible structural changes and downsizing of staff) on the area of development, including on forests, and the ability to continue to support progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme 8

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

185. At its 4th meeting, on 13 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 10)).

Discussion

186. Delegations widely acknowledged the necessity of and expressed ongoing commitment to providing support for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Several delegations conveyed their gratitude to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for the crucial work it undertook and for the proposed programme budget, which aimed to address the unique challenges faced by those nations, in line with the Office's legislative mandates. That support was consistently framed as being of vital importance for fostering socioeconomic progress within those countries and for enabling them to effectively pursue the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

187. A theme that had emerged during the discussions was the need to ensure robust programme efficiency and coordination, and to avoid any unnecessary or redundant duplication of efforts within the broader framework of the United Nations system.

188. A delegation raised its deep concerns about the duplication of efforts between programme 7, Economic and social affairs, and programme 8, remarking that the duplication appeared to be explicit and extensive. Another delegation emphasized the importance of removing duplication between programmes. On the same theme, within the context of efficiency, a delegation enquired about the coordination and collaboration within the United Nations resident coordinator system, which was actively working on the ground in those vulnerable countries. That point was echoed by another delegation, which noted that other United Nations entities led activities related to small island developing States, and welcomed hearing more about the approach the Office took to ensure effective coordination and efficiency in delivering the small island developing States agenda in particular. A delegation stated its deep concern regarding the perceived duplication of efforts between programme 8 and programme 7, highlighting the apparent overlap in the mandated work concerning the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Consequently, the delegation strongly advocated for a review to be conducted with the aim of eliminating duplication and emphasizing the fundamental importance of the streamlined and efficient utilization of available resources.

189. Significant concerns were expressed by a delegation, which commented that the Office had interpreted what were intended to be voluntary global goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into legally binding financial obligations on Member States to finance other nations' development agendas, which undermined national sovereignty and responsibility. Consequently, the delegation announced that its Government no longer endorsed the 2030 Agenda. Another delegation contrasted that statement and enquired with the Office regarding the fundamental role that the 2030 Agenda specifically played within the Office's operational framework and overall work, and what the impact would be on the Office's work without the role of the 2030 Agenda to guide delivery.

190. A delegation expressed pleasure in seeing a strong sense of purpose and ambition in the programme plan, but noted that some of the plan's deliverables seemed to be about the activities of the Office, rather than the outcomes for the vulnerable countries. The delegation emphasized the importance of conducting meaningful assessments of the programme's delivery and impact on the ground, noting that the Office should not only measure process and activities, but ensure that ongoing focus was applied to measuring tangible programme outputs and outcomes.

191. On subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, a delegation welcomed the Office's emphasis on the plans in support of the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and noted the benefit that would be provided through the preparation of an up-to-date analysis of the socioeconomic circumstances of the least developed countries with recommendations incorporated.

192. With regard to paragraphs 10.10–10.13, the Office was recognized for its specific priority areas, including vulnerable groups, women, young people and persons with disabilities. The delegation enquired about examples of how that commitment had been translated into concrete actions across the subprogrammes, to avoid duplication of mandates, particularly under the efficiency-oriented approach to initiatives.

193. With regard to paragraph 10.20 (d), a delegation requested more information on the thematic scope of the operational guidelines for the United Nations system's support to least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. With regard to paragraph 10.22, on the Office's work with the resident coordinator system, a delegation noted that 33 of the least developed countries were in Africa and enquired about the criteria the Office used to determine the selection of those countries.

194. Several delegations expressed interest in the food stockholding mechanism for the least developed countries, mentioned in table 10.3. A delegation sought clarification regarding how the new food stockholding mechanism would operate and requested further information on which partnerships the Office would form to improve food resilience following the Summit +4 Stocktake. Another delegation requested an update on the structure and processes that were proposed for the approval and establishment of the stockholding mechanism. The same delegation requested that consideration be given to including representatives from national scientific organizations in the activities of the proposed online university. A further delegation had welcomed the efforts of the Office on the establishment of the online university and enquired as to whether the consultation process prior to the establishment of the university had taken account of the digital access limitations that had an impact on a number of the least developed countries, and how it had been incorporated into the development of the university.

195. On subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, several delegations noted their firm commitment to the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034, commending the Office's efforts to integrate the Programme of Action into national development strategies and relevant global frameworks. A delegation noted the improved quality of the Programme of Action and requested specific details on initiatives mentioned in the deliverables table and a clear and well-defined road map for their practical realization.

196. With regard to paragraph 10.35, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the subprogramme's efforts to enhance trade and connectivity, which were vital for landlocked developing countries to overcome structural constraints linked to their geography. The delegation commended the Office for its increased advocacy for the implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement and its collaboration with WTO during the Global Review on Aid for

Trade, noting tangible progress made by a number of landlocked developing countries in implementing trade facilitation measures in 2024. The delegation underscored the urgency of investing in resilient infrastructure, diversified trade routes and digital connectivity, which protected landlocked developing countries from future shocks, and called for targeted international support for initiatives that built resilience, promoted sustainable transport corridors and facilitated green economic transformation to enable such countries to make meaningful progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. With regard to paragraph 10.42, another delegation suggested that the subprogramme consider focusing assistance on trade, transport corridors and regional economic integration, and noted opportunities for cooperation with regional organizations.

197. The newly proposed subprogramme 4, Advocacy, outreach and analysis, was widely welcomed by delegations, which noted that the centralization of advocacy, outreach and analysis efforts in a specific subprogramme would directly benefit the countries and allow for more coordinated implementation of the programme actions through the streamlining and restructuring of existing resources in the Office. A delegation emphasized that the new subprogramme would strengthen follow-up and review mechanisms, coming at a critical moment as landlocked developing countries continued to face multifaceted challenges that required tailored and well-coordinated global responses.

Conclusions and recommendations

198. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 9

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

Commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063

199. At its 13th meeting, on 20 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union’s Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#)).

Discussion

200. Several delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the goals of the programme and thanked the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Department of Global Communications for the presentation of the programme plan. The continuous implementation of the United Nations-African Union framework for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was welcomed. The view was expressed that the proposed aspirations of the programme, including the effective coordination, coherence and alignment of the United Nations presence in Africa and support to the African Union, helped to ensure a more cohesive and efficient approach to policy delivery across the continent.

201. To strengthen cooperation with African Union organs and institutions, a delegation called for accelerated synergies with the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, as the main framework to accelerate economic cooperation and integration among African countries and to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in the continent. It was noted that the framework also served as a platform to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management. With the participation of stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, among others, the ongoing efforts to fully operationalize the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area were also welcomed to strengthen Africa's resilience, as emphasized in paragraph 11.2. The call for a comprehensive and durable solution to both external and African countries' debt programmes, including through targeted trade capacity-building programmes that supported the efforts of commodity-dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen competitiveness, was reiterated. In terms of strategic partnerships towards implementation of Agenda 2063, it was recalled that in 2016 leaders in Africa had decided that institutional reforms of the African Union were urgent and necessary, given its role in driving and achieving Agenda 2063. The objective of the African Union reforms remained to fundamentally meet the evolving needs of the member States and to effectively and efficiently spearhead the implementation of Agenda 2063. As significant work was still left to be done in the reform process, the delegation urged the United Nations Secretariat to accelerate efforts in its strategic planning to build the momentum necessary for the successful implementation of those African Union reforms.

202. In reference to the work being done regarding the youth of Africa, clarification was sought as to how efforts towards the goals identified in paragraph 11.21 reflected a "One United Nations" approach. A question was also raised regarding paragraph 11.41 on the importance and the benefits of demonstrating tangible progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the impact that subprogramme 3, Public information and awareness activities in support of Agenda 2063, had on other aspects of the programme.

203. A delegation expressed its opposition to the reinterpretation of sustainable development, which ignored the responsibility of each nation for its development, and, in that regard, it was further stressed that the 2030 Agenda was no longer supported. Nevertheless, the delegation welcomed efforts that streamlined activities across United Nations entities to avoid duplication of work. While it recognized that in paragraph 11.43 the planned target of 7,000 audio plays had not been reached since they did not capture the consumption trends across the region, the delegation sought clarification on how the subprogramme planned to capture the consumption trends in 2026.

204. The adoption of the Pact for the Future was also welcomed by a delegation. The view was expressed that the Pact for the Future was built on the basis of existing commitments in line with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In ensuring that duplication of actions was avoided, programmes streamlined and resources shared across the United Nations, the delegation raised concerns regarding the appearance of duplication of activities undertaken by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications. As the three entities shared responsibilities on the development of Africa, a question was raised to elaborate the different tasks of those entities and clarify how they complemented one another. Given the scope of the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in integrating women's and gender perspectives into its operational activities, deliverables and results, information was requested to address the respective strengths of the entities in terms of approaches towards women and gender.

205. With regard to financing for development, a support mechanism was requested for African countries to adopt for debt management. The report of the Secretary-General that would be presented later in 2025 included the mechanism and advocacy regarding the changes expected to be seen in financing for development, including the time necessary for countries at risk of default to engage in negotiations with creditors. It was noted that the report also touched on the need to have a system that was much more accessible to African countries at risk of default. Appreciation was expressed for the launch of the self-paced online training course in 2024 by subprogramme 1, Data and knowledge management for evidence-based policies and advocacy in support of Agenda 2063, which gave participants a holistic understanding of leveraging governance, financing and country systems to address peace and development challenges. The online training course made it possible to address the needs of many of the civil servants in African Governments. Following the participation of officials from 26 countries across Africa, additional information was requested on the strategy to make the training course attractive to a larger number of African countries for increased participation. To enhance coordination of United Nations support for Africa and to improve United Nations coordination for the implementation of Agenda 2063, it was recalled that during the sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions of the Committee a recommendation had been made for the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to report on the regular meetings held between the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the group of high-level government officials of African States in New York. The importance of having structured meetings with the Group of African States was highlighted. The coordination meetings with the ambassadors of the Group were designed to gather their views and opinions on the implementation of African priorities. In taking stock of the achievement of the goals set out under subprogramme 2, Regional coordination of United Nations support for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, the delegation observed that those recommendations were not reflected in the proposed programme plan. A justification was sought to explain why those meetings were not held in New York when it was clear that high-level participation of African States was of crucial importance for Africa, and the need was expressed to see that shortcoming rectified. The delegation also drew the attention of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to the fact that during debates on African development by the General Assembly, one of the documents submitted still made reference to the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Given the importance of reflecting Agenda 2063 as a priority, the need for correction was emphasized in order to reflect the implementation of the priorities of the continent in accordance with Agenda 2063.

206. Another delegation emphasized its continued support of the programme plan, aimed at mobilizing the United Nations system to support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The opportunities for win-win partnerships underscored the spirit of Agenda 2063 and the narrative that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications put forward relative to Africa's role in terms of development. While Africa's own development trajectory was recognized as being linked to global processes, one of the biggest challenges currently had been its exposure to external shocks. At the same time, however, the successful harnessing of Africa's demographic dividend to the right deployment of technology through technology transfer and investment in strategic sectors truly allowed those win-win partnerships to take place. Support to African countries to champion peace, development and cooperation through a comprehensive strategic partnership was further stressed. The delegation highlighted the spirit of friendship and cooperation with Africa, featuring sincerity, equal treatment, mutual benefit, common development, the upholding of justice, openness and inclusiveness, which was a true reflection of solidarity and a source of strength for long-lasting friendly relations

going forward. It was also pointed out that the world needed true multilateralism, standing on the historic threshold of building a community with a shared future in a new era. The delegation also expressed continued support in working with African friends to realize a joint vision so that the spirit of friendship and cooperation could be passed on and carried forward from generation to generation.

207. The desire of the African population and governance to play a proactive role in global affairs was fully supported by a delegation. In recognition of the long-term partnership with African States, it was necessary to take into account the views of African States when reaching agreement on intergovernmental issues. The opportunity for tapping into Africa's demographic dividend, with a large youth population emerging in Africa, was emphasized. In that context, continued support was expressed to help to scale up the status of Africa as an independent centre of strength. The growing popularity of the new framework and the blueprint for Africa reflected a vision for the continent, as well as the role of Africa as a lead player on the global stage. Support was also expressed for greater opportunities in terms of the work with data and the knowledge base to deliver consultative services, raise awareness and conduct communications, as well as relevant outreach campaigns. It was noted that Africa, a continent of prosperity and a continent of the future, was being built by the young generation. It was viewed that by 2050, the African young population would become the fastest growing population group in the world, taking into account the emphasis placed by the programme on helping to design in each thematic area those initiatives that were focused on youth-based policies and proposals. Given the optimism, it was stressed that the relationship with Africa was rooted in history that was genuinely marked with milestone events, robust bonds of friendship and mutual assistance. The delegation expressed continued support to proactively help in building the human capabilities of African countries, including by raising the number of grants being provided, as well as opening schools and branches of universities in Africa and developing a network of educational centres.

Conclusions and recommendations

208. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 10 Trade and development

209. At its 11th meeting, on 19 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 12) and A/80/6 (Sect. 13)).

Discussion

210. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the proposed programme plan and programme performance information. Several delegations stressed the importance of the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) and expressed support for the proposed programme plan.

211. The view was expressed that UNCTAD played a crucial role in global economic governance, particularly by strengthening the voice and participation of developing countries in global decision-making on trade issues and by providing data analysis and technical assistance so that those countries could participate in and benefit from a fairer and more productive global economy in a manner that supported their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

212. The importance of UNCTAD regional workshops and flagship reports, which remained indispensable tools for developing countries and served as a global benchmark for evidence-based policymaking, was underscored. Delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the fundamental pillars of the work of UNCTAD and expressed gratitude for the ongoing support of UNCTAD for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other vulnerable economies, including middle-income countries.

213. A delegation expressed appreciation for intergovernmental consultations in Geneva on the draft proposed programme plan for 2026 of UNCTAD. The view was expressed that a constructive and depoliticized approach needed to be the key principle for UNCTAD, especially in the context of the sixteenth quadrennial conference, during which the new four-year mandate would be adopted. The delegation expressed appreciation for the work of UNCTAD on regional integration and noted that the regional integrations were catalysts for many countries for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD was called upon to more proactively cooperate with regional organizations and associations. The view was expressed that the liberalization of trade and the streamlining of non-tariff and bureaucratic obstacles would provide the most benefit to those countries that could trade high value-added products. The delegation expressed the view that UNCTAD support to developing countries in the development of their own technologies and innovative sectors was necessary.

214. In the context of the UN80 Initiative, a question was raised as to what the contribution of UNCTAD would be over the next four years and where UNCTAD could add best value. Another delegation sought clarification on how UNCTAD saw the coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the area of support to the least developed countries. The delegation noted that its country was confident that UNCTAD would wisely navigate challenging times and implement reforms as needed, for example, those evolving from the UN80 Initiative.

215. A delegation expressed that priorities of its country's development policy included the fight against hunger, poverty and inequalities in developing countries and a just transition towards sustainable ecosystems where "sustainable" meant ecologically, socially and economically viable. The delegation expressed that UNCTAD was an important partner as it provided new information, advised countries on economic and trade-related strategies and policies and helped to lower trade barriers and make them easier to navigate, and because it was a driver for regional economic integration.

216. A delegation expressed the view that a review of duplications must be conducted on the UNCTAD programme plan. It was highlighted that UNCTAD had an entire subprogramme devoted to Africa and the least developed countries while there were entire programmes dedicated to Africa (programme 9) and the least developed countries (programme 8). The view was expressed that the work of subprogramme 5, Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, clearly overlapped with the global role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in development. A review and elimination or streamlining of duplications was requested.

217. A delegation expressed the view that free trade was key to economic development in developing countries and highlighted that its country strongly supported the global multilateral trade system. It was noted that UNCTAD was committed to safeguarding the interests of developing countries, played an important role in promoting trade and development in developing countries and in facilitating North-South dialogue, and served as a think tank for developing countries and a repository of ideas for the global South. The delegation noted that its country and UNCTAD had maintained good relations and carried out productive cooperation in trade and investment. The delegation expressed the hope that UNCTAD would continue to focus on its three pillars of work and promote trade growth and economic development in all Member States, especially developing countries, with a view to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

218. A delegation sought information on how UNCTAD and ITC were implementing results-based management frameworks with strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound indicators. The delegation expressed that such information would help Member States to better assess the effectiveness and impact of programmes.

219. In reference to paragraph 12.5, a question was asked as to how UNCTAD aimed to achieve the goal of transforming multilateralism despite a clear divergence of views on it. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts of UNCTAD to strengthen multilateralism.

220. A delegation highlighted that the proposed programme plan of UNCTAD had no mention of the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on global trade and development. UNCTAD was requested to pay due attention to that topic. The view was expressed that ensuring resilient and inclusive global trade could not be achieved when countries imposed unilateral restrictions on trade which ran counter to the norms of WTO. The delegation expressed the view that financial and economic restrictions imposed by some developed countries obstructed access for developing and the least developed countries to food, fertilizers and vital medicines, complicating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3. Another delegation emphasized the need for UNCTAD to intensify its work in assessing the impact of unilateral economic, financial and trade measures, and highlighted that such an assessment should be captured in comprehensive reports and be supported by a platform for dialogue on the adverse effects of such measures.

221. A delegation noted that its country had concerns regarding some climate change and trade-related elements of the proposed programme plan of UNCTAD. The view was expressed that while environmental considerations were important, trade policy should not be subordinated to multilateral climate frameworks, and countries must retain sovereign authority over domestic trade and economic priorities. The delegation highlighted that its country preferred wording that acknowledged the complementary nature of trade and environmental policies without prescribing specific approaches. Another delegation called upon UNCTAD to adopt a more cautious approach to climate issues and expressed the view that priority attention should be paid to the impact of climate on trade and development. The delegation expressed the view that UNCTAD needed to focus on economic and trade aspects of the green economy, specifically on ensuring the resilience of production and value chains as they faced climate change and on the risks of ecological protectionism and protectionism in global trade and their impact on developing countries.

222. In the light of ongoing global challenges, including debt distress, slow growth and various economic shocks, a delegation expressed appreciation for the focus of UNCTAD on helping developing countries to integrate beneficially into the global economy. The delegation expressed that its country recognized the important role that

trade could play in fostering growth and wealth creation, and expressed appreciation for the work of UNCTAD on productive capacity-building and economic diversification.

223. A delegation stressed the importance of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the sixteenth quadrennial conference of UNCTAD, and expressed the view that those events provided critical opportunities to advance achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation noted ongoing progress for the planned adoption of a new mandate at the sixteenth quadrennial conference, and expressed that UNCTAD could count on its country's continued support for the quadrennial conference and its outcomes.

224. A delegation expressed the view that open, fair and predictable trade was an essential force for economic development and that over the past 30 years it had helped to lift 1 billion people out of poverty. The delegation expressed appreciation for the focus of UNCTAD on digital trade and investment, a key driver of future economic opportunity, especially in developing countries, particularly for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and women traders, and for the mainstreaming of gender perspectives throughout the proposed programme plan. The focus in the programme plan of UNCTAD on investment was appreciated, and the delegation expressed hope to see Member States work towards incorporating the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, which would generate significant economic benefits for developing countries. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the work of UNCTAD with WTO to support developing countries' integration into the multilateral trading system.

225. With regard to result 1 under subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, appreciation was expressed for the work of UNCTAD in supporting priority industrial policy measures in Latin America, and further details were sought on the concept of informal policy networks. Another delegation noted with interest the work of UNCTAD on debt vulnerability and sustainability and on enhancing debt data transparency. The same delegation highlighted that its country had long emphasized the importance of fiscal responsibility and transparency in supporting sustainable economic growth. Another delegation acknowledged the significant challenges posed by debt vulnerability and climate change as developing countries endeavoured to transition to low-emission economies.

226. A delegation expressed the view that enhanced attention and resources were required for subprogramme 1 due to its foundational and cross-cutting importance in helping developing countries to navigate complex global challenges. In reference to table 12.6, clarification was sought as to why the planned activities for deliverables 16 and 19 had been reduced from 5 for 2025 to 2 for 2026 and from 5 for 2025 to 3 for 2026, respectively. The delegation expressed the view that the reductions were concerning and seemed misaligned with global development priorities, and that those areas required increased attention or at least a continuation at current levels, not a reduction.

227. In the context of subprogramme 2, Investment and enterprise, a delegation commended the emphasis placed by UNCTAD on investment facilitation and enterprise development, and noted that the focus on digital government tools for streamlining administrative procedures aligned well with its country's priorities on enhancing the business environment through transparency and efficiency. Another delegation noted that UNCTAD had a specific mandate for development of investment and enterprise, and expressed the view that analytical materials and conferences addressing those issues continued to remain important informational bedrocks for decision-making.

228. In reference to table 12.12, under subprogramme 3, International trade and commodities, a delegation highlighted that the number of planned activities under deliverable 18 was expected to drop from 6 in 2025 to 5 in 2026. The delegation highlighted the complexity of trade negotiations and the pressing need for tailored support, particularly for the least developed countries and developing economies, and expressed hope to see those activities expanded. It was noted that the annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development was not scheduled for 2026 despite its relevance to resource-rich developing countries. In view of the aforementioned trends, UNCTAD was urged to reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of the global South for the delivery of robust, inclusive and data-driven technical cooperation and analytical outputs.

229. A delegation sought further information on UNCTAD field and technical cooperation projects in the areas of trade facilitation and debt management, including the Automated System for Customs Data and the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System, and on the target delivery for those two projects for 2026.

230. UNCTAD was requested to strengthen its contribution to the Committee for Development Policy and cooperate closely with the group of experts for developing criteria beyond gross domestic product and the advisory group of experts on critical minerals.

231. With regard to subprogramme 6, Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development, a delegation commended the work of ITC on digital trade and its efforts to enable micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to adopt digital technologies. Another delegation expressed the view that technical assistance programmes for staff training for the development of trade and international entrepreneurship initiatives to benefit micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises was necessary. The delegation welcomed the focus of ITC on the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, and encouraged ITC to more actively cooperate with institutions responsible for decision-making, including through workforce development programmes to increase the indirect coverage of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. The view was expressed that the mention of the Pact for the Future should be removed since it was not a consensus-based document. In that connection, use of wording from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was proposed as an alternative. In reference to paragraph 13.10, the delegation expressed that its country did not support the idea of reforming public procurement systems aimed at gender mainstreaming, and that the economic considerations, not gender, should play a decisive role in public procurement.

232. A delegation expressed the hope that ITC would continue to strengthen Aid for Trade cooperation with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and would support developing countries to expand exports and improve imports. The delegation noted that its country would continue to support various aspects of the work of ITC, including economic and trade cooperation and capacity-building in developing countries to support economic and social development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the focus of ITC on women and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

233. A delegation expressed deep concern about reports of abuse, harassment and discrimination at ITC. The serious approach taken by the ITC leadership in addressing the reports was applauded, and it was highlighted that transparency would continue to be key. The delegation expressed that its country would be monitoring the progress made by ITC and needed to see tangible results addressing underlying causes of any abuse, harassment and discrimination.

Conclusions and recommendations

234. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.

Programme 11 Environment

235. At its 7th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 11, Environment, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 14\)](#)).

Discussion

236. Several delegations commended the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and expressed support for the critical role played by UNEP within the United Nations system.

237. A delegation expressed support for the advocacy of UNEP with regard to national obligations under the Paris Agreement and urged that efforts be strengthened, considering the alarming findings from the synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

238. A delegation pointed out that, except for references under the legislative mandates section, the programme plan did not address the critical issue of sand and dust storms, which had increased dramatically in frequency in recent years. The delegation stated that sand and dust storms emitted an estimated 2 trillion tons of material each year globally, and recalled General Assembly resolution [77/294](#), by which 12 July was proclaimed as International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms. The delegation stressed the need for global and regional cooperation to manage and mitigate the effects of sand and dust storms. The delegation further stated that the current crisis of sand and dust storms required scaled-up engagement and increased ambitions, expectations and concrete actions, including more attention in programme 11 to mobilizing funds, technical support and training to enhance capacities and implement effective plans of action.

239. Recognizing that climate change and environmental challenges had no borders, a delegation underscored the urgent need for strengthened regional cooperation as a pillar of effective environmental response. The delegation encouraged UNEP to consider a more deliberate and structured engagement with regional bodies, such as the Southern African Development Community and the African Union, to leverage existing regional strategies and mechanisms. The delegation supported region-wide early warning systems and coordinated disaster response mechanisms to promote joint programming and resource mobilization for clean energy, climate adaptation and sustainable land management. The delegation also called for strengthening of the regional knowledge base through shared research, data collection and capacity development and commended the proposed support of UNEP for Member States in developing low-emission development policies, scaling up clean energy investments and advancing ecosystem-based adaptation. The delegation urged UNEP to apply a regional lens to those initiatives, recognizing that many countries in the African region faced similar constraints.

240. A delegation proposed that the leadership of UNEP within the United Nations system be complemented by closer collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United

Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the regional United Nations offices and the regional resident coordinator system. The delegation believed that such collaboration would ensure that environmental strategies were fully integrated into development, humanitarian and peacebuilding frameworks, especially in disaster-prone and post-conflict settings.

241. Recognizing that peace and the upholding of human rights were also part of the work of UNEP, the delegation pointed out that the implementation of resolutions on human development and the right to a safe and clean environment were critical for the enjoyment of all human rights and for development opportunities for current and future generations.

242. A delegation reiterated its opposition to environmental alarmism and the concept of a triple planetary crisis. The delegation proposed to replace the term “crises” in the text with a more balanced term, such as “challenges”. Moreover, the delegation called for the implementation of the principle of equitable geographical representation in the work of UNEP.

243. A delegation stated that it would no longer ignore threats to the natural environment and would support sensible environmental protections. To that end, the delegation believed that UNEP should focus its work within its core mandate, bearing in mind its limited capacity and available resources. The delegation urged UNEP to focus on efforts to ensure the equality of women and girls, and insisted on not including language on diversity, equity and inclusion, gender ideology or environmental justice.

244. The delegation encouraged UNEP to continue its efforts to implement the resolutions agreed at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including the resolution on promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally. The delegation welcomed any further comments from UNEP on its plans in that regard.

245. A delegation expressed appreciation to UNEP for presenting its medium-term strategy for the period 2026–2029 and pointed out that southern Africa continued to experience the devastating consequences of El Niño and La Niña cycles, resulting in prolonged droughts, extreme heatwaves, unpredictable heavy rains, flooding and bushfires. The delegation noted that those events disrupted agricultural production, destroyed ecosystems, displaced communities and deepened socioeconomic vulnerabilities in the region.

246. A delegation expressed the view that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals impinged on State sovereignty as a soft form of global governance, and therefore its State no longer reaffirmed them as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions. At the same time, the delegation expressed respect for the sovereignty of other nations and understood that countries might choose to pursue individual objectives covered within the Goals. In such cases, the delegation asked that entities focus on specific development objectives, such as addressing corruption, improving health, promoting food security or improving education, among others, rather than the blanket references to the 2030 Agenda.

247. Another delegation expressed the belief that the 2030 Agenda, although well intentioned, was made up of non-legally-binding commitments that States had the right to interpret in line with their sovereignty. In that regard, the delegation reserved its right to disassociate from some aspects of those programmes as they might or might not be in line with its State sovereignty.

248. Another delegation stated that, as President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, it had worked with the international community to conclude the ambitious, pragmatic and balanced

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and had launched initiatives for its implementation, and had advanced the building of the green Belt and Road Initiative, thus making its contribution to building a clean and beautiful world. The delegation noted that UNEP had been actively monitoring the state of the environment, providing information to support scientific decision-making and coordinating responses to global environmental challenges. The same delegation stated that UNEP had made an important contribution to environmental protection concepts and the promotion of global sustainable development. The delegation reaffirmed its commitment to actively support UNEP to build a fair and reasonable global environmental governance system, accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, promote stronger, greener and healthier global development and make joint efforts to promote the common homeland of all humankind.

249. On climate action, a delegation described the new-found focus of UNEP on climate action as an unnecessary distraction that would duplicate efforts elsewhere in the United Nations system and draw already constrained resources away from the core mission of UNEP. The delegation stated that it could not support an expansion of the UNEP mandate or new initiatives.

250. On the other hand, another delegation expressed that it placed particular importance on the objectives and results of subprogramme 1, Climate action, and was especially interested in assessments of progress and lessons learned in relation to food security, sustainable agriculture and sustainable food systems, the quadripartite alliance and “One Health”, and the circular economy.

251. A delegation sought clarification on whether the efforts of UNEP to address climate change had become more difficult in the past year and whether Member States’ support had remained consistent.

252. A delegation referenced subprogramme 2, Digital transformations in supporting environmental action, and expressed support for the global environmental data strategy. The delegation added that it supported knowledge generation and transfer initiatives as well as activities that helped with the definition of data management and dissemination strategies in developing countries.

253. With regard to subprogramme 3, Nature action, a delegation noted that it was mentioned in paragraph 14.42 that an online course on the application of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other approaches was provided in seven languages and enquired about the criteria for selection of those languages and plans to expand the list.

254. Another delegation also referenced paragraph 14.42, and requested that UNEP elaborate on the target group and what the resilience programme entailed. The delegation also asked for details on how collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction was carried out.

255. On subprogramme 4, Environmental governance, a delegation referenced paragraph 14.53 and requested more details on the activities and measures being rolled out. The delegation expressed its support for training and technical assistance programmes with a gender perspective and reiterated its full support for the work of UNEP.

256. With regard to the role of environmental governance, a delegation stated that coordination within the United Nations system for a balanced integration of the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development was pivotal, particularly as it related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The delegation said that environmental commitments must be intensified, as delays and, in some cases, reversals in implementation had created critical moments for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The delegation expressed the view that climate policy, sustainable development and poverty reduction were

inextricably intertwined and, therefore, any actions in the context of the post-2030 agenda needed to consider this. In that regard, the delegation stated that UNEP should increase its role in actions towards green financing, green technology and sustainable lifestyles.

257. A delegation highlighted the importance of subprogramme 6, Finance and economic transformations, as it involved actions that addressed the core of sustainable development. In that regard, the delegation recalled the High-level Principles on Bioeconomy of the Group of 20, which aimed to increase multilateral momentum towards sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. The delegation wholeheartedly endorsed the emphasis placed on tailored and contextualized capacity-building and requested more details on the informational tools and products mentioned in paragraph 14.85.

258. A delegation pointed to paragraph 14.81 and stated that subprogramme 6, Finance and economic transformations, helped its national policies towards sustainable development, which meant that more than 98 per cent of electricity in the country currently came from renewable sources.

259. Another delegation expressed concerns about table 14.9 and enquired as to whether UNEP had the necessary expertise to effectively manage the projects mentioned, given that economic transformation initiatives were likely to involve special skills. Furthermore, the delegation asked whether the location of the projects took account of geographical regional balances and whether they were concrete examples of how UNEP helped African countries to gain access to the Green Climate Fund.

Conclusions and recommendations

260. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 11, Environment, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 12 Human settlements

261. At its 7th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 15)).

Discussion

262. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2026.

263. Several delegations expressed their views about the importance of the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and praised the programme plan for being informative, comprehensive and coherent.

264. A delegation expressed that it valued highly the fact of being the host country to UN-Habitat.

265. A delegation commended UN-Habitat for proposing a programme plan that was technically sound and aligned with multilateral commitments.

266. A delegation welcomed the efforts of UN-Habitat to focus on areas where it had demonstrable expertise in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the New

Urban Agenda, as well as on measures that delivered measurable impact in vulnerable urban settings, especially in the least developed countries.

267. Some delegations commended UN-Habitat for an improved programme plan showing the Programme's move away from a siloed approach to urban development.

268. Recognition for advancing significant governance reforms to ensure financial sustainability and increased Member State oversight of the organization and its Executive Director was voiced.

269. A delegation reaffirmed its country's commitment to strengthening the governance of UN-Habitat and ensuring that its programmes were well financed to advance its mandated work.

270. UN-Habitat was commended for its deliberate and strategic efforts to leverage partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, especially across Africa, that were essential in contextualizing and accelerating the implementation of its mandate at a scale that met the unique needs of that continent.

271. The use of metrics and goals that more specifically tracked the impact of cooperation with other international and regional organizations and development banks was encouraged.

272. It was noted that sustainable urbanization did not receive enough attention in the discussions on sustainable development.

273. Support for UN-Habitat initiatives, such as World Cities Day and the Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities ("Shanghai Award") was voiced.

274. Appreciation for the Programme's work in Ukraine was voiced.

275. A delegation showed appreciation for UN-Habitat mobilizing significant investments in the "RISE-UP: resilient settlements for the urban poor" programme as well as for its complementary programme focused on building climate resilience for the urban poor.

276. Support for the contribution of UN-Habitat to paragraph 83 (e) of the Pact for the Future, under action 55, on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, was voiced.

277. Some delegations encouraged UN-Habitat to continue to expand its engagement with African countries, both at the policy and programmatic levels, and to include partners from the private, public and philanthropic sectors.

278. Information was sought about cooperation between UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

279. Information was sought about the Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor initiative.

280. The importance of acting appropriately on recommendations from oversight bodies was highlighted.

281. Information was sought about how the recommendations from oversight bodies helped to strengthen the programmatic and operational effectiveness and the accountability frameworks of UN-Habitat.

282. With regard to paragraph 15.54, under subprogramme 3, Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment, clarification was sought regarding the 160 knowledge gaps and 259 action priorities for climate action in cities, as well as the target group of the activity.

283. With regard to subprogramme 4, Effective urban crisis prevention and response, information was sought about efforts or guidelines put in place to improve collaboration with and avoid overlap of humanitarian and development activities of

other local actors or international organizations in the context of handling displaced populations in urban areas.

Conclusions and recommendations

284. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.

Programme 13

International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

285. At its 5th meeting, on 14 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 16\)](#)).

Discussion

286. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2026. Several delegations expressed their support with regard to the importance of the work of UNODC.

287. Several delegations expressed the view that transnational organized crime could be better tackled through investments in up-to-date technology, intelligence-sharing and cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

288. A delegation acknowledged the United Nations Convention against Corruption as the most comprehensive global agreement on corruption. Another delegation welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime.

289. A delegation gave an example of South-South cooperation and the exchange of information between Member States, reflecting on different challenges depending on their place along smuggling chains.

290. An example of the data presented in the World Drug Report being a basis for evidence-based drug policies was discussed.

291. A delegation welcomed the incorporation of a gender perspective into the Office’s work. Another delegation welcomed involving civil society and giving attention to vulnerable groups, i.e. youth, women, prisoners and persons with disabilities.

292. A delegation reiterated its country’s position that UNODC should focus on its core mandate of assisting Member States to implement their commitments under the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other non-binding policy commitments on drug control, crime and corruption.

293. A delegation stressed its country’s support for the implementation of the monitoring functions of the International Narcotics Control Board and emphasized the importance of the uninterrupted holding of the Board’s meetings and conduct of the Board’s missions.

294. Concern was expressed about an unaddressed issue of duplication of work in counter-terrorism operations between UNODC and the Office of Counter-Terrorism,

which ran counter to the principle of efficient use of resources amid the ongoing liquidity crisis.

295. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the view was expressed that given the liquidity constraints, effective prioritization and efficiency of spending should be ensured so that the scarce resources could reach the ones who needed it the most. The same delegation further sought information about the UN80 Initiative and its reforms. Another delegation expressed the view that UNODC should rely more on increased regular budget resources and reduce its dependence on extrabudgetary funding.

296. Several delegations stressed that support to drug policy should be holistic, comprehensive and evidence-based. An expectation was expressed that the holistic approach be reflected in the programme plan.

297. Several delegations highlighted the negative impact that transnational organized crime had had in their country by undermining peace and security.

298. The issue of sanctions to which a country was subjected that hampered its efforts to combat the drug smuggling problem was raised. The same delegation called for the obstacle of sanctions to be acknowledged in programme 13.

299. A protest against the politicization of drug control efforts and for the shared responsibility enshrined in international drug control treaties was made.

300. The importance of agreements by Parties to the drug treaties to control synthetic drug precursors and other substances through voting in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was raised. The same delegation stated that its country would oppose any initiatives that would displace the Commission as the sole body undertaking reviews and developing recommendations to strengthen the global drug control framework.

301. A delegation emphasized the importance of ensuring that the efforts to combat organized crime, corruption and terrorism were in full compliance with international human rights standards.

302. The importance of international cooperation and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16, was raised.

303. Hope was expressed that the adoption of the Pact for the Future would provide additional opportunity to foster a more collaborative and comprehensive approach to addressing transnational organized crime.

304. An expectation to increase the Office's focus on the development pillar to help developing countries to strengthen capacity-building and to improve the equitable geographical representation of its international staff was shared.

305. Several delegations brought up the issue of the use of metrics and goals that helped better track the results, for example, by measuring outputs rather than outcomes. A remark about the importance of showing results not met was made.

306. An enquiry was made as to how the programme plan reflected the importance of field work.

307. An enquiry was made about the Office's ability to support Member States in addressing cybercrime-related threats through partnerships with the private sector.

308. A concern was expressed about frequent violations of the principle of multilingualism due to the liquidity crisis.

309. With regard to paragraph 16.16, under subprogramme 1, Countering transnational organized crime, a delegation welcomed the highlighting of the importance of fighting against organized crime throughout value chains.

310. With regard to subprogramme 2, A comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the world drug problem, a concern was expressed about the absence of a comprehensive approach, manifesting itself by a missing law enforcement component and focusing only on the world drug problem as a public health issue.

311. Also with regard to subprogramme 2, UNODC was commended for giving attention in the programme plan to the issue of access to controlled substances and to reducing demand and supply.

312. With regard to subprogramme 3, Countering corruption, a delegation noted that it was significantly less detailed compared to other subprogrammes. The same delegation enquired as to how the work of the subprogramme could be made clearer to Member States.

313. With regard to paragraph 16.72, on the highlighted result under subprogramme 5, Justice, a delegation commended UNODC for convening regional expert and stakeholder consultations on femicide in South Africa and enquired as to whether other regional consultations were planned for the future.

314. With regard to result 2 of subprogramme 5, a delegation enquired as to how integrating human rights into crime prevention and criminal justice reform was measured and how the 2025 planned result of 30 Member States was to be obtained.

315. With regard to subprogramme 9, component 1, Provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a delegation expressed disappointment about the cancellation of the meetings of subsidiary bodies on narcotic substances in 2024 due to the liquidity crisis. The same delegation expressed trust that those events would be carried out in full in 2025 and 2026.

316. With regard to result 2 of subprogramme 9, component 2, Provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the International Narcotics Control Board, information was sought about cooperation with the private sector to prevent the trafficking and marketing of synthetic opioids.

Conclusions and recommendations

317. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 14

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

318. At its 8th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 17)).

Discussion

319. Strong support was expressed for programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, in advancing gender equality, women's empowerment and the protection of human rights. The role of UN-Women in addressing all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, was particularly welcomed. Another delegation stated that the prevention of and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence must remain a paramount priority.

320. The view was expressed that UN-Women must uphold a zero-tolerance policy and ensure justice for victims and survivors. Support was expressed for a victim- and survivor-centred approach. UN-Women was called upon to ensure that its programming reflected that commitment, maintaining the integrity and credibility of the institution in its efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

321. It was emphasized that achieving gender parity throughout the Entity must remain a priority, and encouragement was given for ongoing efforts in that regard. The principle of diversity was acknowledged as broad and inclusive, and commitments were reiterated to ensuring equality and professional development without discrimination on the basis of sex, nationality, age, race, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

322. Recognition was also given to the relevance and impact of the thematic focus areas of UN-Women, and delegations acknowledged UN-Women as an essential partner in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other multilateral agreements, including the Pact for the Future.

323. Appreciation and support were expressed for the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as central to sustainable development, peace, human rights, humanitarian efforts, and peace and security initiatives. It was emphasized that the work of UN-Women remained vital in advancing those goals, particularly in the context of rising global challenges such as armed conflicts, the climate crisis and economic and fiscal challenges. Concern was raised that the withdrawal of peacekeeping operations had a significant and disproportionate impact on women and girls worldwide.

324. It was emphasized that the anti-discrimination agenda included gender equality and the empowerment of women, with particular attention to the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The view was expressed that an intersectional approach to gender was essential, and concern was raised regarding the absence of references to the LGBTQIA+ community in the programme plan. Clarification was sought on how the principle of inclusion, especially regarding "all women and girls in all their diversity", would be interpreted and operationalized.

325. Efforts to support women and girls with disabilities, including through leadership in promoting disability inclusion across the United Nations system, were welcomed.

326. It was emphasized that the triple mandate of UN-Women, namely, normative support, operational support and coordination, remained essential and should be fully supported by Member States. Delegations highlighted the need for greater institutional efficiency, transparency and measurable outcomes. Appreciation was conveyed for the focus on performance management, accountability and the digital transformation of the Entity's systems. The streamlining of initiatives and the use of evidence-based assessments to eliminate duplication were also encouraged.

327. The view was expressed that the global political climate, including the rise of populist and conservative politics, posed a threat to the progress made in areas such

as rights related to sexual and reproductive health. It was emphasized that gender equality should be pursued holistically.

328. A delegation commended UN-Women for its achievements in 2024, including the engagement of over 6,572 civil society and youth representatives to participate in consultations and capacity-building workshops on the 30-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

329. Appreciation was expressed for the support provided by UN-Women to the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-ninth session, in particular to the co-facilitators of the political declaration for the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration. It was noted that that support had been instrumental in achieving a consensual and ambitious outcome. In that regard, questions were raised on how the findings and outcomes of the 30-year review and appraisal process were being applied in the Entity's current work, including how UN-Women was supporting finance and sectoral ministries in the design and implementation of gender-responsive budgets.

330. It was emphasized that societies in which all individuals enjoyed equal rights and opportunities, particularly with regard to gender equality, were more peaceful, just, sustainable and prosperous. In contrast, where women were marginalized, mistreated or excluded from participation, entire communities suffered.

331. The view was expressed that gender equality remained far from realized globally, and that women, along with children and older persons, continued to be among the most vulnerable. In that context, a delegation expressed that strong policies in support of the rights and empowerment of women and girls were considered essential.

332. Support was expressed for the pivot by UN-Women to regional- and country-level operations, with recognition of the newly established support centres in Nairobi and Bonn, Germany. Delegations requested clarification on how that shift would improve programme delivery and whether it would affect support to country offices or create risks of deprioritizing certain programmes. Clarification was sought on whether the roll-out of the approach was planned to begin in 2026, and it was noted that it would have been helpful to see that reflected in the programme plan despite time and resource constraints.

333. It was reaffirmed that the commitment to the rights of women and the creation of genuine, substantive opportunities for their empowerment remained grounded in international treaty obligations and national constitutional provisions, including references to gender in legal instruments such as article 7 (3) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which identified male and female as the two genders. In that context, another delegation noted that references to gender in the programme plan were understood to align with biological sex distinctions. The view was expressed that the use of precise terminology supported clearer communication and more effective implementation among the diverse Member States collaborating on gender equality initiatives.

334. A delegation noted the importance of mental health and psychosocial support services, referencing several General Assembly resolutions. It was observed that the programme plan lacked explicit references to those services, and clarification was sought on what efforts had been made to enhance the availability of mental health and psychosocial support services and to mainstream a gender perspective in that area.

335. Delegations reiterated their support for the work of UN-Women and its alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while calling for continued focus on inclusive, evidence-based and results-oriented programming.

336. With reference to subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships, and figure 17.I, clarification was sought on plans for the continued implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2025, including whether a follow-up plan was envisaged.

337. It was further emphasized that gender equality and the rights of women and girls remained a national and foreign policy priority, and that, 30 years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women must continue.

338. In relation to figure 17.II, a delegation requested information on the selection criteria for and geographical distribution of the 28 organizations of persons with disabilities earmarked for partnership through United Nations country offices.

339. Concerns were expressed about the expansion of the UN-Women mandate beyond its founding resolutions. It was recalled that operational activities should be carried out only at the request of the relevant Member State. Questions were also raised about data in table 17.3, including the number of Security Council and Economic and Social Council meetings and the increase in technical materials.

340. With regard to subprogramme 2, Policy and programme activities, it was acknowledged that while the envisaged outputs were fully supported, their achievement might prove challenging. Concerns were raised about the feasibility of expecting Member States to implement policies, strategies and legislation aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly in the light of differing international perspectives on women's rights. It was noted that opposition by some Member States to concepts such as gender ideology, gender parity and accelerated efforts towards equality might hinder progress, and caution was urged to avoid reversing gains already made in that area.

341. In relation to paragraph 17.33, clarification was sought on the role of the programme as a global knowledge centre on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Further information was requested on the scope of the new and emerging issues being examined, particularly those involving discrimination against women and girls.

342. In relation to paragraph 17.36, appreciation was expressed for the Women's Resilience to Disasters policy tracker, with a request for information on the criteria used to identify good practices and how those were operationalized in country-level programming. Interest was also expressed in exploring whether artificial intelligence and digital tools could be leveraged to support the analysis and dissemination of such practices.

343. With reference to figure 17.V, a delegation noted that while ambition was welcomed, performance targets must be realistic and clearly planned. Questions were posed regarding how the targets for the number of institutions benefiting from the Entity's support, 1,050 in 2025 and 1,200 in 2026, had been determined. Clarification was sought on the feasibility of achieving those targets given the current global environment and resource limitations.

344. With regard to table 17.5, category B, a question was raised about the deliverables related to the transfer of knowledge and skills, including seminars and training activities. Clarification was sought on how those activities varied from year to year.

Conclusions and recommendations

345. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly

resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.

Programme 15

Economic and social development in Africa

346. At its 13th meeting, on 20 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 18\)](#)).

Discussion

347. Delegations commended the work of ECA. A delegation said that the Commission’s programme facilitated the establishment of conditions that ensured that the African continent played a role in the system of global socioeconomic relations and encouraged intraregional integration for the development of Africa.

348. The importance of exchanging knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and best practices among all of the regional commissions was emphasized, and ECA was strongly encouraged to continue its focus on areas of economic prosperity. The same delegation discouraged the Commission from expanding its mandates or duplicating the work of other United Nations or multilateral bodies.

349. A delegation applauded the structure of the programme plan because it emphasized areas such as debt sustainability, innovation in development financing, data collection and compilation, human capacity development and challenges faced by middle-income countries.

350. A delegation observed the critical role played by the Commission in providing innovative solutions, together with demand-driven and tailor-made policy and technical advice, that strengthened the social and regional economic resilience of States members of ECA. The delegation supported the strong collaboration between the Commission and the African Union Commission and regional economic communities, to promote intra-African and interregional trade, which it believed would increase the number and momentum of African countries graduating to middle-income status.

351. The Commission was commended for its increased investment in climate action for enhanced national resilience, promotion of the circular economy, and harnessing of the green and blue economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

352. A delegation expressed the view that grants should be provided to give young researchers the opportunity to shore up their skills, to conduct research and to assist with raising awareness.

353. A delegation observed that there was a wave of resistance to neocolonialism in trade, economic and financial practices, which prevented African countries from fully benefiting from their wealth of natural resources. The delegation further observed that the establishment of mechanisms that removed obstacles to expeditious development, industrialization and job creation in Africa with African resources was now fully under way. In that regard, the delegation welcomed the successful launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area and objected to measures that led to greater fragmentation in global trade, greater protectionism and unfair trade. The delegation

stated that those measures ran counter to the rules of WTO, and they politicized international economic relations.

354. A delegation noted that it valued its trade with African States, in particular in agricultural products, food and fertilizers, despite the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, and indicated that it looked forward to continued cooperation to boost agricultural production in Africa.

355. Attention was drawn to the ongoing efforts to define the treaty and legal framework that governed a number of trade-related areas, and to deepening cooperation in areas such as science, technology and innovation. Industrial cooperation in mining, transport, logistics-related infrastructure, digitization and technology transfer was also highlighted.

356. A delegation advocated for increased efforts to consolidate approaches to international nature conservation and climate issues through specialized United Nations platforms by ensuring the right of every State to determine its optimal tools and mechanisms for rational use of the environment, taking into account specific national features. The delegation reaffirmed its commitment to stepping up efforts at the global level to combat desertification, land erosion and drought, enhancing population resilience to ecosystem changes and ensuring access to water in order to foster socioeconomic development and eradicate poverty.

357. A delegation described itself as a true friend of Africa with a long-term commitment to cooperation with the continent within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. The delegation reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening engagement and coordination with the African Union Commission in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, thereby contributing to the integration, development and prosperity of Africa.

358. A delegation welcomed the views expressed at the first African Union Conference on Debt, while another noted the challenges faced by African middle-income countries and expressed appreciation for the initiative of the Commission regarding debt access and concessional financing.

359. Another delegation commended the Commission for the adoption of the shared position of the African Union and ECA on debt in Africa that had preceded the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. The delegation also expressed appreciation for the Commission's efforts to support the drafting of national strategies for the successful implementation of a free trade zone in Central Africa.

360. A delegation expressed the view that the Commission needed to raise its ambitions, given that there were 54 members of ECA, and referred to figure 18.II of subprogramme one, Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance, which indicated that only a small number of members were applying macroeconomic analysis tools. Further, the delegation highlighted that the number of members of ECA that were expected to adopt measures to de-risk investments in regional value chains and establish standardized national reporting platforms on the Sustainable Development Goals was also low, as demonstrated in figures 18.VI and 18.VII.

361. A delegation referenced subprogramme 2, Regional integration and trade, and stated that, from the perspective of a State member of the European Union, all countries could benefit from regional integration. The delegation enquired about the main challenges facing the Commission in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area and how Member States could provide support in that regard. The same delegation also enquired how the use of hybrid meetings helped the work of the Commission.

362. With regard to subprogramme 3, Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development, a delegation referred to table 18.9 and called for streamlining, and possibly reducing the number of workshops, for the benefit of specific projects in areas such as digital transformation, connectivity-related initiatives, Internet coverage and digital technology centres.

363. A delegation commended the focus on gender inclusion, youth and persons with disabilities, as mentioned in paragraphs 18.4, 18.9 and 18.10. However, another delegation referred to subprogramme 4, Data and statistics, and requested that terms such as gender issues, gendered statistics and gender equality be replaced with terms and expressions that were more consensus-based.

364. On component 3, Subregional activities in Central Africa, of subprogramme 7, Subregional activities for development, a delegation applauded the Commission's participation in the third joint session of the intergovernmental committees of senior officials and experts for Central and for East Africa, as well as its establishment of special economic zones, as described in table 18.23. The delegation expressed the hope that similar special economic zones would be established in Central Africa.

365. Referencing paragraph 18.177, under subprogramme 9, Poverty, inequality and social policy, a delegation noted that three members of ECA had initiated the assessment of social protection systems, which did not meet the planned target, and enquired about what was preventing the Commission from successfully assessing the social protection systems and what strategies, if any, had been implemented in 2025 to facilitate those assessments.

Conclusions and recommendations

366. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 16

Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

367. At its 9th meeting, on 16 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)).

Discussion

368. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance information for 2024.

369. A delegation highlighted that the role of ESCAP as the principal intergovernmental platform for the United Nations in the Asia and the Pacific region was pivotal and of utmost relevance for the region in order to assist member States in pursuing solutions for sustainable development and help with research and analysis, the facilitation of intergovernmental consensus-building, technical cooperation and capacity development. The delegation stressed the importance for the Commission's work to adequately reflect the priorities of developing countries in the programme's nine subprogrammes and noted that, according to paragraph 19.3 of [A/80/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#),

the support delivered by the Commission to member States was also provided through the regular programme of technical cooperation and Development Account projects. It was noted by the delegation that the proposed programme covered various aspects of important issues, including the environment, transportation, trade, disaster risk management and statistics and social development in the Asia and Pacific region. The delegation commended the leading role of ESCAP and its various centres in development activities in Asia and the Pacific and expressed its commitment that, as a member of the Commission and the host of its Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management team, its country would continue its support and active participation in the work of ESCAP, including through joint collaboration in the areas of road safety, cross-border paperless trade, the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, the Asian Highway Network, dry ports and the Trans-Asian Railway Network.

370. A delegation reiterated its interest in ensuring that regional commissions exchanged knowledge and experiences among one another, while identifying best practices and lessons learned. The delegation encouraged ESCAP to focus primarily on regional economic cooperation, trade and data-driven policy analysis and noted that the expansion of mandates into areas not grounded in their comparative advantage would risk diluting their effectiveness and duplicating efforts undertaken elsewhere in the United Nations system.

371. It was noted by a delegation that, at the time of the meeting, the Asia-Pacific region remained a global economic growth engine and that the position of ESCAP had become more prominent as the integrated economic and social development organization of the United Nations in the region, with crucial responsibilities. The delegation said that, as an important member of the region, its country highly valued the role of ESCAP and was an active participant in its activities, and appreciated the Commission's provision of support to member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially in helping the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to reach their goals. The delegation affirmed its country's readiness to work with ESCAP to firmly uphold multilateralism, jointly promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, build a high-quality Belt and Road Initiative and make greater contribution to building a community with a shared future for Asia and the Pacific.

372. A delegation expressed its pride at being one of the largest contributors to ESCAP since 2007 and placed a high value on its long-standing and multifaceted cooperation with the Commission. The delegation commended the critical role of ESCAP in supporting countries in the Asia-Pacific region in implementing the 2030 Agenda through regional cooperation and integrated cross-sectoral approaches.

373. With regard to subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development, a delegation noted that 86 per cent of policymakers acknowledged a strengthening policy awareness on macroeconomic and financing for development issues and enquired about the metrics that were utilized to measure the progress and the reason why ESCAP was planning to reach a lower number of policymakers in 2026.

374. With regard to subprogramme 4, Environment and development, a delegation welcomed the strong focus of the subprogramme on enhancing human well-being in both urban and rural contexts through capacity-building support and noted that its country had consistently contributed to knowledge-sharing in that area, notably through the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (Green Growth) since 2005 and, more recently, the fourth edition of the CityNet-ESCAP SDG City Awards, with the City of Seoul, which had helped to recognize

outstanding local efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals across the region. In relation to paragraph 19.76 of [A/80/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#), the delegation commended the development of the Asia-Pacific SDG Localization Platform and requested further insights into how digitalization was concretely enhancing the capacity of local governments and stakeholders and how the Commission planned to assist countries with limited digital access in ensuring that no one would be left behind in the localization of the Goals.

375. With regard to subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management, a delegation expressed its strong support for the Commission's work in promoting regional cooperation on information and communications technology, space technology and disaster risk reduction. As the host of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, the delegation affirmed its country's commitment to helping to bridge the digital divide and accelerate inclusive digital transformation. The delegation also expressed its belief that, as digital technologies evolved rapidly, it was becoming increasingly critical to ensure their responsible and ethical use, and requested the perspective of ESCAP on how it incorporated that consideration when supporting information and communications technology development and transfer.

Conclusions and recommendations

376. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 17 Economic development in Europe

377. At its 9th meeting, on 16 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)).

Discussion

378. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance information for 2024.

379. A delegation encouraged ECE to continue its efforts to facilitate knowledge exchange and experience-sharing among all regional commissions.

380. A delegation attached particular importance to its long-lasting and effective collaboration with ECE on many aspects of sustainable development, and was pleased with the active exchanges between its Government and ECE on the enhancement of transport connectivity, the development of trade, the promotion of the circular economy and environmental management. The delegation recognized the pivotal role of meaningful and inclusive collaboration for advancing sustainable development and prosperity for all, as well as the Commission's key role in that process at the national and regional levels, and commended the particular focus placed by the Commission on the most pressing challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a host country and the president of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

which would take place in 2026, the delegation was pleased to see increased attention to environmental issues and the outlined actions that would contribute to the region's efforts to address them. The delegation expressed its wish to see the active engagement of the Commission in the preparations for that meeting and its contribution to global efforts towards achieving the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a more genuine global biodiversity framework. The delegation stressed the crucial role of the resilience of ECE against the attempts made by some members of the Commission to misuse the platform to propagate one-sided, politically motivated narratives that would undermine cooperation in the European region.

381. A delegation recognized the pivotal role of ECE within the United Nations system in transcending national boundaries to address shared challenges in areas such as environmental protection, sustainable energy, transport and road safety in the European region. Acknowledging the constraints faced by ECE, including limited resources, the delegation expressed its appreciation for the Commission's proactive efforts to mobilize funding from diverse sources to support specific programmes and activities. The delegation valued the normative function of ECE in establishing standards, regulations and guidelines, as well as facilitating the exchange of best practices across the region, thereby contributing to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It underscored the significance of the work undertaken by the Commission in relation to inland transport and environmental policy. The delegation noted that the initiatives undertaken by ECE to establish standards and regulations were instrumental in promoting progress in transport, energy, connectivity and public-private partnerships, thereby enhancing economic cooperation among States members of ECE.

382. It was noted by a delegation that the programme was intended to provide a good balance among three pillars of activity: (a) a platform for dialogue on regional economic integration and sustainable development, (b) the provision of capacity-building support to developing countries in the region and (c) normative work to develop globally applicable standards and best practice in areas such as transport, energy, trade facilitation and statistics. The delegation expressed its strong support for the programme and its particular interest in the third pillar. It noted with appreciation that the programme was underpinned by attempts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as efforts related to sustainability.

383. A delegation stated that it was categorically opposed to the inclusion of the ministerial declaration of the ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and the Nicosia ministerial statement on education for sustainable development (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/2.Add.1 and ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/2.Add.2) among the legislative mandates, as the delegation had not been allowed to participate in the Conference and had not had the opportunity to take part in the development and negotiation of its final documents. The delegation stated that the ministerial declaration contained politicized statements that were unacceptable. The delegation also did not agree with the inclusion in the list of mandates of Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/21](#), on the implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention). The delegation stated that the resolution did not create a new mandate, but only contained a request to the Secretary-General to allocate additional funding from the regular budget in support of the rapid response mechanism. The delegation added that it had repeatedly noted that it considered such requests unreasonable due to the sufficiency of the current number of staff servicing the Aarhus Convention. The delegation also noted that most of the parties to the Convention were developed countries, and expressed the belief that it was unfair to shift the financial burden associated with the functioning of the

mechanism that those countries had created to all Member States. Furthermore, the delegation indicated that the ECE decision entitled “Economic and social effects of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine” and General Assembly resolution [79/135](#), entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative”, should not be considered mandates of the Commission, as they did not contain new instructions from the Commission but only replicated accusations against its country. The delegation stated that it would insist on removing references to those documents from the programme.

384. With regard to subprogramme 2, Transport, a delegation expressed its support for the discussions on transport within the Inland Transport Committee of ECE, which had a positive impact well beyond Europe. The delegation urged the Committee to remain vigilant to ensure that it did not promote one set of regional regulations and agreements over other United Nations agreements. It was stressed by the delegation that a truly global forum must look beyond any one region for creative ideas, listen to the needs of parties from various regions of the world and promote advanced technologies and innovation, in order to meet the long-standing goals of road and vehicle safety, environmental protection and sustainability.

385. The delegation of a landlocked developing country welcomed the well-designed steps set out in subprogramme 2 and stated that, as an active member of the working groups and committees of ECE on transport, it would stand ready to continue its meaningful engagement with the work of those bodies and closely cooperate with the Commission in the implementation of its deliverables.

386. Another delegation requested further information on the measures being implemented under subprogramme 2 to foster knowledge-sharing and collaboration among Governments and key stakeholders.

Conclusions and recommendations

387. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 18

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

388. At its 8th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)).

Discussion

389. Appreciation was expressed for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and for the continuing contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to economic, social and environmentally sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Delegations highlighted the Commission’s influence on national economic policy formulation, its multidisciplinary approach and the interdependence of its 13 subprogrammes. The value of multilateralism and regional cooperation was underlined, and it was noted

that the Commission's intellectual leadership, data and analysis remained essential assets for its member States.

390. While welcoming the overall direction of the document, it was recommended that the Commission continue to focus on areas of comparative advantage and refrain from expanding its mandate. Reference was made to the need for the Commission itself to tailor its strategic frameworks to match its regional functions.

391. Support was voiced for the inclusion, in the programme plan, of work on taxing ultra-high-net-worth individuals, a subject currently on the agenda of the Group of 20 and in the Pact for the Future and the negotiations on an international convention on tax cooperation. Further research and initiatives in that area were encouraged.

392. It was suggested that the emphasis on poverty reduction, combating hunger and addressing income disparities should not only appear under subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, but be treated as a horizontal priority across the entire programme.

393. In view of the statistic that more than three quarters of non-governmental organization-reported killings of environmental and land defenders occurred in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, support was expressed for continued engagement through mechanisms such as the Escazú Agreement.

394. Questions were raised about the "traps" in Latin America and the Caribbean associated with slower economic growth that were referred to in the programme plan, and how the Commission envisaged addressing them in 2026 and beyond. The eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held in Santiago from 31 March to 4 April 2025, was highlighted as a demonstration of effective regional cooperation. One delegation indicated that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while based on good intentions, was not legally binding and remained subject to national interpretation; the same delegation recalled that it had dissociated itself from the Pact for the Future.

395. With reference to paragraph 21.7, the strategy to promote a multisectoral approach to development and to support countries in special situations, including landlocked developing countries such as Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, was welcomed. The approach was viewed as an opportunity to address complex development challenges through coordinated action across thematic areas.

396. With regard to subprogramme 1, International trade, integration and infrastructure, a request was made to specify whether the commitment in paragraph 21.21 (e) to address the special situation of landlocked developing countries involved a new study or an update of earlier analyses. On the same subprogramme, clarification was sought on the comprehensive regional database on infrastructure, transport and logistics noted in paragraph 21.29, including whether similar databases were being developed by other regional commissions and how interoperability would be ensured. In addition, it was suggested that the opportunities and challenges associated with critical minerals also be reflected in subprogramme 1, given their impact on trade and investment.

397. Questions concerning subprogramme 2, Production and innovation, focused on paragraph 21.34, where the programme proposed to link micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to advanced technologies identified as drivers of productivity; details were requested on the concrete actions and pilot initiatives envisaged.

398. Under subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, the inclusion of work on progressive taxation of the super-rich was welcomed and further analytical depth was encouraged.

399. On subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, it was reiterated that poverty eradication, reduction of inequality and the fight against hunger be emphasized across the whole programme and not be confined to a single subprogramme.

400. Turning to subprogramme 5, Gender equality and women's autonomy, additional information was requested on the knowledge exchange initiative referred to in paragraph 21.83, which aimed to develop model guidelines and provide enhanced training for government officials on institutionalizing gender equality policies.

401. In connection with subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements, the recent meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was commended for reinforcing regional ownership of the 2030 Agenda.

402. Regarding subprogramme 8, Natural resources, appreciation was expressed for the focus on critical minerals and the bioeconomy; it was proposed that the macroeconomic, trade and industrial dimensions of critical minerals also be addressed in other subprogrammes.

403. Questions about subprogramme 10, Statistics, concerned whether, during the forthcoming biennium, the Commission would provide statistical support for monitoring implementation of the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034, including indicators relevant to transit States in the region.

404. On activities grouped under subprogrammes 11–13 (on subregional activities and support for integration processes), delegations welcomed the practical assistance provided and encouraged wider dissemination of best practices arising from those efforts. Delegations expressed interest in the plans outlined in paragraph 21.160 to employ foresight and other anticipatory governance tools; further clarification was requested on their practical application for identifying risks and opportunities before they materialized.

Conclusions and recommendations

405. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 19

Economic and social development in Western Asia

406. At its 9th meeting, on 16 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 22\)](#)).

Discussion

407. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme and for the work carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

408. A delegation expressed appreciation for the cooperation with ESCWA, which its country had enjoyed since 2012. The delegation also expressed that it attached particular importance to all projects implemented by the Commission and that those projects aimed to bring about development in the economies of member States. The same delegation expressed the view that the presented proposed programme plan for 2026 was at the heart of the Arab region's concerns and expressed full support for the proposed programme plan for ESCWA for 2026.

409. In the context of the many growing challenges such as climate change, economic and social instability, and many other multidimensional crises faced by the Arab region, the view was expressed that ESCWA played a critical role in helping the region to roll out evidence-based policies for achievement of sustainable development in a holistic way.

410. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts by ESCWA to enhance the business environment, provide support to gender issues, bring about economic development and harness artificial intelligence tools in the best way. The same delegation noted that it was particularly interested in the importance ESCWA attached to the digital economy and, in that connection, thanked ESCWA for the valuable technical assistance provided to various countries of the Arab group.

411. Support was expressed to the initiative to establish an Arab observatory for road safety which would play an important role to bridge gaps between countries and gather the relevant data to strengthen road infrastructure and ultimately save lives. The same delegation expressed that its country was ready to step up its cooperation with the Commission. The view was expressed that middle income countries in the Arab region faced specific difficulties notably in terms of indebtedness while not receiving priority in terms of development aid. In that connection, a question was asked whether the initiatives the Commission was planning to undertake covered those countries.

412. A delegation noted the importance of exchanging knowledge and experience among all regional economic commissions, and the continuation of those efforts was encouraged. The delegation encouraged a continuing focus on area of economic prosperity and abstention from expanding mandates or duplicating the work mandate of other United Nations or multilateral bodies. The same delegation sought inputs on the multidimensional approach to reducing poverty across the region and the metrics utilized to measure the overall progress.

413. In the context of the support provided by ESCWA to its member States, it was noted that various conferences and important meetings were coming up, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development and the meetings on the implementation of the Pact for the Future.

Conclusions and recommendations

414. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 20

Human rights

415. At its 18th meeting, on 23 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 20, Human rights, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#) and [A/80/6 \(Sect. 24\)/Corr.1](#)).

Discussion

416. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2026.

417. Some delegations dissociated themselves from elements of the programme plan, particularly references to resolutions or wording that they did not support, such as the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution [79/1](#)) or specific gender-related terminology. It was recalled by other delegations that Assembly resolutions were binding and should be respected by all Member States.

418. A delegation noted that the Secretariat had issued a corrigendum for the programme plan and thanked the Secretariat for the prompt action in that regard.

419. General observations were made regarding the centrality of human rights as one of the three pillars of the United Nations system. It was emphasized that the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was essential in promoting and protecting those rights globally. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the programme plan and reaffirmed their support for the Office's mandate and field activities.

420. Gratitude to OHCHR for its unwavering commitment to protecting and defending human rights in increasingly challenging times and continued support for its work were expressed.

421. Delegations expressed the importance of fostering consensus to ensure that OHCHR was provided with the tools necessary to effectively continue its vital work in defending human rights globally. Delegations also underscored the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation in the promotion of human rights for all people in the world. A delegation emphasized the need for a people-centred approach to human rights.

422. The view was expressed that OHCHR should assist Member States in meeting their human rights obligations through the provision of tools and support tailored to specific country requirements.

423. Concerns were raised regarding the politicization of human rights. A delegation voiced opposition to politicization and double standards relating to human rights and indicated that human rights exchanges and cooperation should be based on equality and mutual respect and that the right to development and civil and political rights were complementary and equally important for developing countries.

424. A delegation highlighted its country's investment in the human rights system, the active, constructive engagement with OHCHR and in particular the three-year joint programme on human rights.

425. A question was raised about how OHCHR worked to enhance the capacity of Member States to implement recommendations emanating from international human rights mechanisms.

426. Appreciation was expressed for the work of OHCHR in Africa. A delegation highlighted its role in supporting the implementation of the Office's mandate and asked whether the Office's work in Africa would be enhanced in 2026 and whether

an expansion of the footprint of OHCHR in the African region was envisioned in the proposed programme plan for 2026.

427. A delegation highlighted the link between human rights and global security.

428. The view was expressed that the principles of human rights were clearly reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Delegations emphasized the relationship between human rights and sustainable development, and a delegation raised the concern that the 2030 Agenda consisted of non-legally-binding instruments, stressing that Member States had the right to interpret those instruments as they wished.

429. A delegation expressed the view that there was a pivotal link between human rights, global security and sustainable development and that human rights were essential to achieving sustainable development. Another delegation emphasized that the rights to subsistence and development were the primary basic human rights and that OHCHR should take a balanced approach to all types of human rights.

430. A question was raised about the Secretariat's work in the areas of social, cultural, economic and development rights.

431. Delegations commended the work of OHCHR on advancing human rights in relation to climate change. A question was raised about the nature of the Office's work regarding the impact of climate change on human rights.

432. The need to advance human rights for all individuals, particularly vulnerable groups facing significant challenges, was underscored, and a rollback of their fundamental freedoms was noted. A delegation emphasized the importance of addressing sensitive topics, including gender equality, all forms of discrimination and the prevention and elimination of sexual and gender-based violence. It was stated that OHCHR should not focus only on certain groups and should be more inclusive in its work on discrimination, and a delegation expressed its right to dissociate itself from any specific focus.

433. The view was expressed that the term "gender" should be defined as agreed in article 7 (3) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Another delegation welcomed the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of OHCHR.

434. The importance of the Office's work in combating racism and racial discrimination was noted.

435. A delegation asked if a recommendation or strategy could be developed for protecting human rights defenders.

436. Concerns were expressed regarding the decentralization of the activities of OHCHR, including the establishment of new regional and country offices. It was noted that such actions could be perceived as overstepping intergovernmental mandates. Questions were raised about the implications of the United Nations 2.0 and UN80 initiatives for the Office's programme delivery, and a delegation requested more information on efforts made, concrete measures taken and results achieved, as well as on the Office's future plans under the UN80 Initiative.

437. With regard to subprogramme 1 (a), Human rights mainstreaming, the efforts of OHCHR to promote human rights mainstreaming across the United Nations system were welcomed, especially with regard to women and peace and security and to young people.

438. With regard to subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, clarification was sought on how OHCHR selected its evaluation activities and how they informed programme planning. The role of OHCHR in supporting national human rights institutions in line with the principles relating to the

status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) was also highlighted.

439. With regard to subprogramme 4, Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, additional information was sought in relation to the increased cooperation of Member States in special procedures communications, the programme performance result in paragraph 24.84. Another delegation welcomed the work to be delivered through the subprogramme in support of the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies. The same delegation sought additional details regarding how OHCHR assessed the impact of the seminars and training in relation to the strategy as outlined in paragraph 24.82 (b).

440. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, delegations expressed views related to the resources of OHCHR.

441. Concerns were raised about proposed staffing and funding increases. A delegation expressed the view that it was unacceptable to establish new posts under or relocate existing posts to mandates that included tasks that fundamentally contradicted current human rights approaches and that additional funds should be removed.

442. A delegation raised specific concerns about the following: (a) the implementation of the narrative persistently promoted by OHCHR about the need to decentralize its activities through the creation of new country and regional offices, as well as “human rights” units in all structures of the United Nations system, which in fact meant the aggressive imposition of the notorious concepts of a “human rights-based approach” and “human rights mainstreaming”; (b) gross interference with the prerogatives of sovereign States Parties to international human rights treaties by imposing upon them some of the Office’s own methodology for the preparation of periodic reports and exercising direct control over the implementation of the obligations assumed by national Governments, with the involvement of human rights non-governmental organizations on the ground in that process; (c) non-intergovernmental intrusive involvement in the universal periodic review procedure, whereby OHCHR country and regional offices effectively “managed” the preparation of relevant reports by States and monitored their implementation of universal periodic review recommendations; (d) the strengthening of the functionality, arbitrarily created in OHCHR through the decision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, of conducting “investigations”, which equated to collecting “compromising evidence” concerning States that violated human rights, which in turn, according to the collective West, primarily included a specific country, according to its own administrative templates; (e) the bypassing of the decisions of the States Members of the Human Rights Council, empowering OHCHR to manage the activities of the Council, its President and its Bureau, interpret the rules of procedure of the Council and form a certain methodology and “practical instructions” for the implementation of the resolutions of the Council, ascribing to itself the functions of establishing “links” between the Council and other United Nations structures as well as some “international organizations” and carrying out tasks to provide information coverage of the work of the Council and “explain” its mandate and role in the United Nations system in the media and social networks; and (f) the strengthening of the investigative component of the activities of OHCHR, created when the Office assumed the functioning of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic created through General Assembly resolution [77/301](#), which was an entity that was not recognized by the delegation and for which very significant financial resources and new personnel positions had been requested.

Conclusions and recommendations

443. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 20, Human Rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.

Programme 21

International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

444. At its 3rd meeting, on 13 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 25)).

Discussion

445. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide humanitarian assistance and international protection to refugees and forcibly displaced persons and achieve durable solutions. Some delegations acknowledged the crucial role of UNHCR as the main international agency for the protection of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. It was recognized that regional conflicts, economic downturn, climate change and natural disasters were among the multiple factors that perpetuated the grim global refugee situation, in which new displacements outpaced durable solutions. Sustained efforts of the international community in supporting the work of UNHCR were further emphasized by some delegations.

446. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the Office’s courageous personnel who worked in areas of heightened risks and conflict zones, and emphasized that their security should be prioritized. In this regard, clarification was sought on the measures taken by UNHCR to ensure the security of its staff.

447. Several delegations noted that, while humanitarian needs continued to increase, the humanitarian system faced significant financial constraints, and concerns were raised regarding the limited resourcing environment. A delegation emphasized the need for other donor countries to contribute more equitably to humanitarian response efforts and for increased burden-sharing and exploring economic opportunities to better serve the displaced populations. The Chair emphasized that matters related to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee.

448. A number of delegations expressed the view that the persistent issues of protracted displacement and the efficacy of achieving durable solutions necessitated a fundamental rethinking of UNHCR strategies and operations in 2026. The need for UNHCR to prioritize core activities, streamline its operations, reduce duplication and enhance its effectiveness, with a focus on delivering tangible results, was emphasized by some delegations. A delegation requested UNHCR to be transparent in its reports on the number of people whom it could help and those whom it could not as a result of reduced funding.

449. The view was expressed that UNHCR should work to wind down conflicts and afford people an opportunity to return home safely. A delegation expressed its view that refugee protection should abide by the principle of neutrality rather than double standards and politicization, to prevent the refugee issue from interfering in other

countries' internal affairs, or becoming a free pass for terrorists who are subject to legal sanctions.

450. A number of delegations noted that their countries hosted and provided support to large refugee populations, which included employment opportunities, housing, and health and education programmes. Other delegations noted their countries' financial contributions to supporting the work of UNHCR. With regard to host countries, the view was expressed that host countries could not be expected to shoulder the responsibility of hosting refugees alone, that there was a need for stronger international cooperation and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing and that the international community had to take concrete, sustained action. A delegation opined that the General Assembly could request UNHCR to include, in future programmes, more information on solutions for reversing the descending trend of UNHCR resources and the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures. While a delegation expressed the view that the path to addressing the long-standing concern of refugee-hosting countries remained insufficient and needed to be an integral part of UNHCR advocacy efforts with donors and partners, another delegation expressed satisfaction with the heightened efforts of UNHCR to support host countries and its commitment to sending assistance through enhanced partnerships with local partners, regional organizations and refugee-led organizations.

451. A delegation opined that repatriation and reintegration into the country of origin was the most important durable solution for refugees, which should have been reflected more prevalently as a top priority for UNHCR. The delegation expressed the view that, to respond effectively to such a protracted situation, the international community had to prioritize sustainable and development-oriented solutions for the country of origin, which could require support for the reintegration of returnees through predictable multi-year financing, the restoration of infrastructure, and strengthened technical assistance. The delegation emphasized that the implementation of such support should be coordinated and aligned with the rules and regulations of the country.

452. While a number of delegations welcomed the reference made in paragraph 25.3 (b) to the role of the Global Compact on Refugees and to follow-up activities on the pledges made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, another delegation expressed reservations about the Compact, noting that it was not legally binding. The view was expressed that support from UNHCR in terms of pledge accountability and monitoring was important in ensuring that such commitments would result in a tangible impact. Clarification was sought on how UNHCR was increasing cash assistance to recipients and on progress made on the Digital Gateway.

453. With regard to paragraph 25.3 (c), clarification was sought on the reasons for the use of the term "internationally agreed standards". A delegation opined that it would have been better to use the term "international law". With regard to paragraph 25.3 (f), a delegation noted the reference to "enhance the resilience of forcibly displaced persons and their host communities faced with the adverse effects of climate change and disasters, in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies" and expressed the view that it was not under the remit of the UNHCR mandate. The delegation sought further clarification on the reasons for its inclusion in the programme plan.

454. With regard to paragraph 25.7, a number of delegations noted with appreciation the reference made to the Office's increased support and work with local actors. A delegation opined that engagement with local actors and organizations should serve as an increasing part of the solution, particularly in a challenging resource context. The delegation further welcomed the increasing percentage of local and national operational partners in refugee response plans globally, reflected in figure 25.II under planned result 2 and paragraph 25.20. The delegation sought clarification on whether

the targets for 2025 and 2026 could have been more ambitious. Another delegation emphasized that a shift towards sustainable, nationally led responses that aligned humanitarian assistance with the long-term development strategies was critical.

455. With regard to the performance measure for 2024 contained in table 25.1, a delegation applauded UNHCR efforts on the Global Alliance to End Statelessness and noted that more than 560,000 stateless persons had acquired nationality. However, the delegation observed that, notable progress and commitments notwithstanding, millions of people remained stateless, and in that regard sought clarification on the lessons that UNHCR had drawn from its work in this area to address the problem more effectively.

456. With regard to planned result 1: enhanced inclusion of displaced people through digital cash payments, clarification was sought on the objective of providing cash assistance through the refugees' own bank account and how UNHCR monitored the actual use of cash assistance by refugees to ensure that it contributed meaningfully to protection outcomes and self-reliance.

457. With regard to planned result 3: strengthened protection and access to services for refugees and asylum-seekers, and paragraph 25.22 on the planned scale-up of the Digital Gateway by 2026, clarification was sought on how UNHCR intended to address digital literacy gaps and limited access to devices among vulnerable refugee populations. The delegation noted the anticipated surge in registration reflected in figure 25.III, where the number of refugees with digital accounts was projected to increase more than fivefold by 2026, and sought clarification on whether UNHCR had sufficient capacity to respond to the growing demand. Clarification was also sought on how UNHCR was addressing any challenges, including in the context of the broader reform efforts under the UN80 Initiative.

458. With regard to legislative mandates, a delegation welcomed the inclusion of relevant conventions in the programme plan, such as the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, 1969, and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, 2009.

459. With regard to table 25.2 under Deliverables, a delegation noted that 13 field and technical cooperation projects were undertaken in 2024 and 9 were planned for 2025 and 11 for 2026. The delegation sought clarification on how many projects were undertaken in Central Africa and whether the target for 2026 was too ambitious in the light of the current financial constraints. Clarification was also sought on the impact of recent financial reductions on UNHCR work in Central Africa.

Conclusions and recommendations

460. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 22 Palestine refugees

461. At its 17th meeting, on 22 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 26)).

Discussion

462. Several delegations expressed their gratitude for the detailed presentation of the programme plan and the work carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) despite the extremely challenging conditions. The scale and the geographic scope of the work of UNRWA beyond Gaza and its continued commitment to meet the needs of Palestine refugees were appreciated. Delegations believed that aid should flow without impediment in an environment ensuring the safety and security of civilians, including humanitarian workers. The view was expressed that the provision of basic services, including emergency food, water, shelter, primary healthcare, sanitation, non-formal education and psychosocial support, for Palestine refugees must continue and that the humanitarian aid system must not collapse. A delegation condemned the latest attempts to dismantle the operations of UNRWA and expressed concern at the decision taken by some countries to suspend funding. The same delegation urged those countries to reconsider and asked the donor community for continued financing of UNRWA, as the lives of the people in Gaza remained contingent upon the provision of essential support.

463. Another delegation reaffirmed its continued support as UNRWA served as a humanitarian lifeline in extreme situations, such as those affecting Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The call for greater support was needed more than ever, not only because the needs of Palestine refugees on the ground had reached extreme levels, but also because UNRWA had faced unprecedented threats and challenges that were unacceptable. Delegations noted that Agency premises and other facilities had also been the target of military attacks, along with other civilian infrastructure. Given the restrictions on the entry of aid into Gaza, it was emphasized that the United Nations humanitarian entities remained the only ones capable of processing, moving and distributing the material aid to Gaza in strict adherence with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. With regard to gender mainstreaming, the integration of a gender perspective throughout the programme of work and its activities, especially in combating gender-based violence, was welcomed.

464. Delegations also expressed their commitment and full support for the Agency's contribution to the region's stability and the essential services provided to more than 6 million Palestine refugees. UNRWA remained entirely relevant until a political solution for Palestine refugees prevailed. The Agency's focus on developing partnerships with other United Nations agencies, including the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organization for Migration and others in Gaza to improve efficiencies, including through shared services, was noted. In order for those partnerships to materialize, a full resumption of aid into Gaza should be implemented in order to enable the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to work independently and impartially to save lives, reduce suffering and maintain dignity in line with humanitarian principles. In the context of the Independent Review of Mechanisms and Procedures to Ensure Adherence by UNRWA to the Humanitarian Principle of Neutrality (the Colonna report), delegations commended the Agency's efforts to strengthen neutrality measures by implementing the recommendations set out in the report, and welcomed the publication of an action plan to implement those recommendations. In recognition of UNRWA staff members who had fallen since the beginning of the conflict, delegations expressed their condolences to families and colleagues of honourable staff who had lost their lives during the attacks.

465. While several delegations expressed their unconditional and unwavering support for UNRWA, the importance of political and financial support to help

UNRWA discharge its mandate was underscored. Delegations also expressed deep concerns regarding the blockade of the Gaza Strip, which harmed the efforts under way and threatened to cause a complete collapse of the humanitarian situation in the region. A call to lift the humanitarian blockade was made, as the latter was considered a gross violation of the provisions concerning civilians in occupied territories set out in the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War. It was noted that, in October 2024, the Knesset had adopted a bill to prohibit the Agency's work and to revoke immunities and privileges from the United Nations structure. The delegations pointed out that those decisions ran counter to the norms of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and the relevant decisions of the General Assembly. They therefore urged the parties to uphold international humanitarian law by protecting civilians and providing UNRWA with the opportunity to carry out its unique work in assisting the Palestine refugees. As there was also the issue of the physical security and safety of staff members, delegations appealed for a swift and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all forcibly detained persons, the provision of safe and unhindered humanitarian access, the protection of humanitarian staff and the relaunch of a peace process on the broadly recognized international legal basis that would guarantee the enjoyment of the legitimate aspirations and rights of Palestine refugees. Regarding the destruction of United Nations facilities in Gaza, an update concerning the damage inflicted on the Agency's assets and facilities was requested. Clarification was also sought as to whether UNRWA would be able to achieve the proposed programme plan, including the expected goals for 2026.

466. A delegation spoke on a different note and asked the Committee for Programme and Coordination to listen, despite the absence of support from the Committee. The delegation believed that it was not the Agency's mandate to promote hatred and be involved in terrorism. The delegation was also of the view that the problem of the systematic infiltration of terrorist organization into the ranks of UNRWA was fundamental, and yet no substantial steps had been taken to address that matter. The same delegation expressed disappointment that the United Nations had decided not to investigate. It was emphasized that efforts must no longer be made to sustain an organization plugged as dysfunctional and infiltrated by terror. The focus must shift to supporting organizations that were accountable and generally committed to productive development. It was pointed out that the international community must ensure that its support reached those who generally sought to build a better future for Palestine refugees, rather than empowering those who exploited humanitarian efforts for violence. To that end, the delegation expressed its willingness to work with agencies that had a proven track record of efficiency and accountability.

Conclusions and recommendations

467. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.

Programme 23 Humanitarian assistance

468. At its 15th meeting, on 21 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 27\)](#)).

Discussion

469. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Delegations also acknowledged the important role of both Offices in supporting principled and effective humanitarian coordination, and commended humanitarian personnel and leadership for delivering assistance under difficult conditions.

470. Concerns were raised regarding the growing burden on the humanitarian system. It was observed that increasing need, operational constraints and a widening gap between requirements and available resources had placed pressure on the ability of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to deliver. Clarification was sought on how Member States and stakeholders could better support the work of the Office.

471. A delegation commended the Office's coordination role in supporting 123 million forcibly displaced persons, noted that the humanitarian funding model no longer met current challenges, and called for investment in long-term, locally led, self-reliant responses. Clarification on how the Office had reduced redundancy with other United Nations entities was sought, and the delegation indicated that a comprehensive review of its participation in international organizations, conventions and treaties was under way, and urged broader burden-sharing among donors. The need for durable solutions, locally led responses and innovation to address protracted crises was emphasized, and the importance of upholding the Office's core mandate was reiterated.

472. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, the drive for efficiencies, collaboration, focus and elimination of overlaps was noted and supported. A delegation emphasized that future humanitarian action ought to be local, with resources channelled to local organizations and beneficiaries included in aid decisions. Another delegation supported efforts to improve operational efficiency, reduce duplication and strengthen response strategies that were results oriented and cost-effective.

473. A delegation welcomed the Office's efforts to mobilize financing for host communities and populations affected by emergencies, highlighted the importance of predictable, timely funding and expressed support for coordination with other humanitarian actors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross.

474. A delegation referenced its Government's coordination with the Office in implementing national reconstruction plans and welcomed the support provided by humanitarian teams. While the need for continued partnership was emphasized, concern was expressed over the Office's decision to reduce its in-country presence, without consulting government authorities or field offices, which could negatively affect refugees and displaced populations.

475. A number of delegations expressed support for anticipatory action and innovative financing. A delegation welcomed the flexibility of the Central Emergency Response Fund and encouraged continued development of results-based management systems, broadening the donor base and engaging with international financial institutions.

476. A delegation raised concerns about data quality in humanitarian reporting, requested clarification on how the Office ensured impartiality and accuracy when information originated from local sources affiliated with non-State actors, and asked whether slowing the reporting cycle might improve credibility.

477. With regard to ongoing unilateral coercive measures, clarification was sought on whether the Office had completed guidelines to exempt humanitarian assistance from economic sanctions, and the urgency of resolving that issue was emphasized.

478. A delegation reflected on past support received from the Office during natural disasters and reaffirmed the importance of uninterrupted humanitarian assistance, particularly in protracted crisis situations. The delegation expressed the hope that current programme mandates would remain unaffected by ongoing reform processes.

479. Several delegations welcomed the emphasis on gender inclusion, the promotion of women's leadership in decision-making and strengthened gender cooperation across activities and results. A delegation expressed concern about the emphasis on gender analysis, women's participation in decision-making, and the fight against sexual violence, instead of on urgent operational needs and the core functions of United Nations humanitarian entities.

480. A question was raised regarding the Office's internal efforts to combat racism, with a request for concrete examples of measures taken, lessons learned and good practices to inform future efforts.

481. A delegation questioned the selective reference to the Global Humanitarian Policy Forum held in December 2024 and expressed concern that other key humanitarian events had been treated as less important in shaping collective approaches. The delegation referred specifically to the humanitarian debates of the General Assembly and during the humanitarian segment of the Economic and Social Council, and pointed to an imbalance in the assessment of the causes of rising humanitarian needs. It was noted that while armed conflicts played a role in that rise, extreme weather events, natural disasters and economic shocks also contributed. The delegation also questioned the use of the ReliefWeb platform as a source of "reliable" information and recalled that ReliefWeb served only as an aggregator and did not always reflect official United Nations or Member State positions.

482. With regard to paragraph 27.I.3, a delegation welcomed references to anticipatory and innovative financing mechanisms and strengthened partnerships with international financial institutions, and voiced strong support for the language on access, the safety of humanitarian personnel and respect for international humanitarian law. With regard to paragraph 27.I.6 (c), the delegation noted that external factors remained similar to past years and sought clarification on the implications of developments since the start of the year.

483. With regard to subprogramme 1, Policy and analysis, and table 27.I.2, it was suggested that additional details – attendance figures, geographical diversity and the participation of local and national actors – could enable comparison over time, and the same approach could be applied to result 3 on improved collective learning through the integration of local perspectives.

484. With regard to table 27.I.4, clarification was sought on whether related performance measures were linked to the flagship initiative, and whether the initiative and its associated targets remained relevant.

485. A delegation noted that, while the role of local actors was mentioned in tables 27.I.4 and 27.I.5, it was not reflected in table 27.I.6. It was observed that most data focused on meetings and documentation rather than field activity. Greater focus on field operations directly benefiting local actors, and the prioritization of tangible projects over training, were encouraged. The delegation also called for host country views and guidelines to be gathered in advance.

486. With regard to subprogramme 2, Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response, efforts to simplify and shorten the humanitarian assistance cycle

in emergencies, as reflected in table 27.I.7, were welcomed. The absence of indicators specifically addressing internally displaced persons was noted by a delegation which opined that clear, measurable indicators dedicated to their care should be included in accordance with General Assembly resolution [78/185](#).

487. With regard to subprogramme 3, Emergency support services, the Office's assistance in conflict zones and major disasters in a challenging global context was recognized. The delegation noted that, in paragraph 27.I.31, it was highlighted that 2024 had been the most dangerous year on record for humanitarian personnel.

488. A delegation emphasized the role of host countries in providing humanitarian assistance to victims of emergencies and natural disasters, and proposed amendments to the text of paragraphs 27.I.42 and 27.I.43.

489. Another delegation referred to paragraph 27.I.46 and sought clarification on the concept of interlocutors influencing humanitarian access through diplomacy. The delegation enquired whether the planned decrease in the number of trained emergency personnel, noted in figure 27.I.VII, reflected cost-cutting efforts or shifts in programme priorities.

490. With regard to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, a delegation referred to paragraph 27.II.4 (a) and highlighted the value of the Office's work on risk knowledge and management, and the importance of supporting and localizing risk information and establishing open data platforms. The delegation emphasized that if humanitarian action was to be local, risk data should also be locally managed and understood.

491. A delegation commended the Office for its role in building disaster risk reduction platforms and promoting international cooperation. The delegation affirmed its commitment to global disaster risk reduction and noted its active implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. It expressed its intention to deepen cooperation with the Office in the context of the Global Development Initiative: building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for stronger, greener and healthier global development and the 2030 Agenda.

492. Another delegation sought clarification on how the Office ensured that disaster risk reduction efforts remained focused on practical, cost-effective solutions and avoided being used as a platform for advancing political agendas that could detract from its core mandate.

Conclusions and recommendations

493. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 24

Global communications

494. At its 12th meeting, on 19 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 24, Global communications, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 28\)](#)).

Discussion

495. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the mandate of and work carried out by the Department of Global Communications to raise awareness about the principles, values and work of the United Nations in an accurate and timely manner, including its efforts to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; ensure reliable crisis communication during conflict; promote multilingualism and information integrity; and counter hate speech, misinformation and disinformation. The Department's communication efforts to strengthen confidence in the United Nations and unite Member States and the international community around the principles of the Charter of the United Nations were commended.

496. While some delegations welcomed the 2026 programme plan, a delegation opined that the plan was too general and would have benefited from more ambitious key numerical indicators.

497. Several delegations emphasized the importance of promoting multilateralism, especially in the current context, in which there was much scepticism regarding multilateralism. The vital role of the Department and its work in that area were acknowledged. A delegation sought clarification on how the Department ensured compliance with the rules of multilateralism to disseminate information on a wider scale.

498. Several delegations underscored the importance of promoting multilingualism and the equal treatment and representation of the six official languages of the United Nations, and expressed appreciation for the focus placed on that area. The important role played by the network of United Nations information centres in promoting multilingualism was also highlighted by some delegations. The Department's efforts in promoting multilingualism, as set out in table 28.4, which referred to daily multimedia content produced in the six official languages and four non-official languages, were recognized. A delegation sought clarification regarding the recruitment of staff to support multilingualism in languages other than English and French. A number of delegations requested that the Department strengthen the principle of multilingualism across the Organization's platforms, including the timely and equal translation of all content into all official languages.

499. With regard to information integrity, a number of delegations noted with concern the rise in misinformation and disinformation, with the truth being diluted by political agendas. It was highlighted that, in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, misinformation and disinformation could obstruct implementation and undermine trust in the work of the United Nations. Several delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work undertaken by the Department to build trust among global audiences and to deliver accurate, impartial, balanced and objective news and information in a timely manner, including its efforts to combat misinformation, disinformation and hate speech.

500. A delegation expressed its concern over the increase in antisemitism and Holocaust denial; sought clarification on the efforts undertaken by the Department in relation to Holocaust outreach activities and the definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; and asked whether the Department had developed a cross-sectoral global media campaign to raise awareness about Jewish culture, religion and practices and to promote accurate information about the Holocaust. The importance of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance as a practical tool for dealing with the rise in both antisemitism and Holocaust denial was underscored.

501. With regard to peacekeeping, a delegation expressed its view that communication was a key matter of operational relevance, and recalled that, during the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference held in Berlin on 13 and 14 May 2025, support for the Department's role in tackling disinformation campaigns targeting peacekeeping missions had been emphasized. It was noted that peacekeepers were increasingly affected by misinformation and disinformation campaigns, which endangered lives and undermined trust in missions. The need for information integrity as part of the collective peacekeeping toolbox was emphasized, and it was stated that initiatives such as the Service and Sacrifice campaign organized by the Department contributed to preserving the credibility and safety of the United Nations peace operations. In the context of peacebuilding, a delegation opined that communication played a vital role in preventing violence and addressing its root causes. The delegation welcomed the reference, in paragraph 28.14, to the evaluation completed in 2024 of the contribution of strategic communications to fostering public trust in peacekeeping operations.

502. With regard to legislative mandates, a delegation noted the reference in paragraph 28.12 to General Assembly resolution [79/115](#), entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: eradicating colonialism in all its forms and manifestations", and emphasized the need for the Department to begin work on coordinating with former colonies and regional organizations to establish an outreach programme.

503. With regard to subprogramme 1, Campaigns and country operations services, and paragraph 28.22, a delegation sought clarification on the reasons why the planned targets had not been met, and asked whether that situation was due to a shift towards the use of social media accounts and other formats in lieu of websites. With regard to paragraph 28.37, it was noted that the planned target for 2024 had been exceeded, and clarification was sought as to whether that was an indication that audiences preferred live blogging formats to websites.

504. With regard to subprogramme 2, News services, and figure 28.VI, a delegation expressed appreciation for the outstanding results achieved in 2024 relating to audience engagement time on live blogs and sought clarification on how those results had been achieved. Clarification was also sought on how the Department used influencers to achieve quality interaction and greater engagement of subscribers.

505. With regard to programme performance in 2024 under subprogramme 3, Outreach and knowledge services, a number of delegations expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Department related to increased civil society engagement in support of the Summit of the Future and beyond, as reflected in paragraphs 28.46 and 28.47. A delegation expressed appreciation for the work undertaken to leverage partnerships with civil society, academia and the media, but also emphasized the need to ensure political neutrality and the importance of transparency when selecting such partners to avoid the practice of delegating the Department's mandate to external entities. Clarification was sought as to the basis, sources and channels utilized for the selection of influencers and external partners. The view was emphasized that civil society partners and multilateral stakeholders must be vetted and their activities overseen by Member States.

506. With regard to result 2, young journalists gain access and insight into the work of the United Nations, of subprogramme 3 and figure 28.IX, which showed the number of young journalists participating in the Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme and the number of news stories produced by fellows annually, a delegation noted that the bar chart was difficult to comprehend and opined that the presentation would have been more effective in a simpler format.

507. With regard to result 3, advancing implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through higher education institutions, clarification was sought on the criteria and process used for universities to become members of the United Nations Academic Impact network, and the list of current members was requested. Clarification was also sought on the challenges and opportunities which the Department had encountered regarding implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

Conclusions and recommendations

508. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 24, Global communications, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.

Programme 25 Management and support services

509. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 20 and 21 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 25, Management and support services, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 29\)](#), [A/80/6 \(Sect. 29A\)](#), [A/80/6 \(Sect. 29B\)](#), [A/80/6 \(Sect. 29C\)](#), [A/80/6 \(Sect. 29D\)](#), [A/80/6 \(Sect. 29E\)](#) and [A/80/6 \(Sect. 29F\)](#)).

Discussion

510. A delegation expressed appreciation to the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance for the valuable support that the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division and his team provided the Committee, as well as to the Committee secretariat for its support throughout the process.

511. A delegation highlighted the important role of the Department in managing the Organization by assuming crucial functions such as enterprise resource planning, programme planning, finance and budget, human resources, business transformation and accountability. Delegations expressed hope that the Department would continuously enhance performance management and promote quality and efficiency in its management. Another delegation welcomed the Department’s integral role in providing policy and leadership and promoting a management system that was transparent and accountable and delivered effectively in line with its mandate, committing to continuous improvement and driving results-based management practices and policies in the Organization.

512. A delegation welcomed the Department’s efforts on strengthening the exercise of delegation of authority, which empowered managers and brought decision-making closer to the point of mandate delivery. The delegation expressed appreciation for the planned results relating to the greater use of data analytics and requested further information on the next steps for supporting data-driven decision-making.

513. A delegation welcomed the Department’s effort to integrate a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results as well as continued efforts to achieve gender parity, and highlighted the Department’s leadership in driving the Secretary-General’s system-wide strategy on the future of work. The idea of paid internships to account for interns as a valued resource of the Organization was also mentioned.

514. A delegation expressed its support for the Department's core role in leading the efficiency strand of the UN80 Initiative, while another delegation enquired about the measures that would be taken by the Department. A delegation looked forward to continued collaboration as the Department worked to enhance management capabilities while ensuring the most effective and efficient use of limited financial resources. While welcoming initiatives such as automated business continuity planning and the enterprise risk management module now used by 51 entities, the same delegation encouraged quantifying cost savings and efficiencies from those efforts, noting that strong risk management should identify opportunities to eliminate duplication and streamline processes and that sunset provisions for underperforming initiatives should be implemented to redirect resources to programmes with a demonstrated impact. Delegations indicated that changes should be made in a way that considered all Member States and in an inclusive and transparent manner so that Member States were sufficiently informed about reform measures that might fundamentally reshape the Organization.

515. A delegation enquired about the duration of the current hiring freeze and asked about long-term solutions to the financial constraints. Drawing attention to the Secretary-General's austerity measures, another delegation once again requested that the Secretary-General comply with paragraph 6 of section VII of General Assembly resolution [77/263](#) A and that the Department be guided exclusively by the relevant Assembly resolutions. The importance of Assembly resolutions and the texts agreed by the Assembly was reiterated by another delegation in the context of the Secretary-General's bulletin on the values and behaviours of staff. The delegation requested that future policy frameworks and administrative bulletins be based on wording that had been duly negotiated and adopted by Member States through intergovernmental mandates.

516. On external factors, a delegation asked for further information, as the narrative in the programme plan was brief.

517. On subprogramme 1, component 1, a delegation commended the Secretariat for the successful implementation of Umoja enhancement package 8 and the transition to Umoja Analytics described in paragraph 29A.19. Noting that those upgrades represented important milestones in the Organization's digital transformation journey to enhance data-driven decision-making capabilities, the delegation requested further information on how those enhancements were being leveraged across the Organization, particularly in field settings, as well as on efficiency gains and cost reductions as a result of their implementation. On utilizing the Umoja enterprise solution outside the Secretariat, the delegation's view was that expansion could potentially achieve significant economies of scale and standardization of business processes across the United Nations system, while reducing overall costs to Member States.

518. On subprogramme 1, component 3, a delegation was of the view that resolution [76/274](#) should be included in the list of mandates, as paragraphs 60 to 69 of the resolution provided instructions for the Secretary-General, including, first and foremost, the need to comply with the four main procurement principles when organizing tenders and making decisions on the procurement of goods and services.

519. On the performance measure for result 2 under subprogramme 2, component 1, a delegation noted that the planned number of individual clients using debit cards and digital wallets as a preferred mode of payment for 2026 was very high compared with 2024, and requested background information on the high objective.

520. Under subprogramme 2, component 3, in paragraph 29A.84, it was indicated that the proposed programme budget included estimated resource requirements related to the mandates to be renewed by the Human Rights Council during the year.

A delegate enquired whether that practice had been mandated by the General Assembly, and about the reason for presuming that the Council would adopt certain resolutions.

521. On the strategy of subprogramme 3, component 1, referenced in paragraph 29A.95 (d), a delegation requested further information on the concrete steps that would be taken to implement the United Nations System Mental Health and Well-being Strategy across the United Nations system. Another delegation expressed support for merit-based workforce planning that prioritized effectiveness while maintaining budget discipline, and indicated that it looked forward to seeing how the new staff selection system referenced in paragraph 29A.95 (f) would secure qualified personnel efficiently. Another delegation sought an explanation of the adoption of new approaches that incorporated new values and behaviours into talent management also referenced in that paragraph. In addition, the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance was advised by a delegation to take concrete measures to reduce the number of unrepresented and underrepresented Member States within the system of desirable ranges.

522. On subprogramme 3, component 2, a delegation expressed strong support for the Organization's work to strengthen accountability in matters related to conduct and discipline, and to work to prevent sexual harassment through a holistic, system-wide and victim-centred approach. On paragraph 29A.112, another delegate asked whether the roll-out of the ClearCheck database on sexual harassment across the United Nations system had been mandated in any General Assembly resolution.

523. On subprogramme 4, a delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts made to foster greater transparency and accountability in order to engender greater credibility and trust in the capabilities of the United Nations as an organization, as well as efforts to accelerate the culture shift required to implement in full the new management paradigm of increased delegation of authority, transparency and accountability. Another delegation expressed support for the work of the subprogramme, insisting that the Business Transformation and Accountability Division must enable the Department to exercise its role as the second line of defence, as required in paragraph 64 of resolution [79/257](#). Regarding the management dashboard mentioned under paragraph 29A.133, further information was sought by the same delegation on how that tool would help to identify redundancies and opportunities for cost savings across departments, and whether a potential cost reduction metric could be explored.

524. Delegations welcomed and expressed support for the objective of subprogramme 5 and the contributions the subprogramme made towards ensuring a workplace free from racism and racial discrimination, in which every staff member felt valued and respected and was treated with dignity, as well as strengthening accountability mechanisms. A delegation enquired how the Anti-Racism Office attached equal importance to other forms of discrimination, such as antisemitism. Another delegation stated that the States Members of the United Nations could be very proud that they had finally found agreement on a resolution addressing that very important issue, and enquired about the current urgent challenges the subprogramme saw in the field and how Member States could help to deliver on the important mandate.

525. On paragraph 29A.2 (i) and the reference therein to ensuring racial diversity, equity and inclusion, delegations noted that the Secretary-General had a mandate only to address racism and racial discrimination and sought information on the intergovernmental mandate granting the authority to address racial diversity, equity and inclusion. A delegation expressed surprise to see the term "racial diversity, equity and inclusion" reflected in the programme plan, and another delegation requested that

the choice of terminology be judicious, diplomatic and deliberate with regard to the functions to be carried out by the subprogramme. On paragraph 29A.137 (b), in which the empowerment and equitable racial representation of staff at all levels and categories within the Organization is mentioned, an explanation was sought by the delegation of how the Secretary-General intended to achieve it.

526. Delegations thanked the Department of Operational Support for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and expressed support for the important work of the Department. However, it was observed that much work remained to be done to ensure that solutions delivered to Secretariat entities were consistently cost-effective and demonstrated measurable value for Member States' resources.

527. A delegation reiterated the role of the Department as the second line of defence in ensuring that work in the field ran efficiently and correctly, including making sure that the decisions made supported the best interests of the Organization.

528. The Department's approach to embracing technology and innovation and employing foresight methodologies was welcomed. Information was sought on concrete metrics, demonstrating how that approach translated into resource savings and operational efficiencies. Clarification was also sought on efforts to enhance the Organization's capabilities in innovation, data analytics, digital transformation, strategic foresight and behavioural science, reflecting the agreement in resolution [79/1](#), entitled "The Pact for the Future".

529. On paragraph 29B.7, while the advancement of gender equality was recognized, it was, however, stressed that the approach followed in the selection of vendors should be based on the principles of procurement, including professional qualities.

530. Clarification was sought on measures taken to increase procurement from developing countries and the need to consider increasing the procurement of new energy vehicles from a country with advanced technology and an outstanding cost advantage, in order to realize cost reductions and efficiency gains.

531. Recognizing the important contributions of troop- and police-contributing countries, a delegation expressed the hope that the Department would continue its excellent work in reimbursing those countries and in safeguarding their rights and interests.

532. On the drawdown and closure of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, a delegation noted the importance of maintaining rigorous financial accounting for all assets and resources during mission closures. The views of the Secretariat were sought on how efficiency and effectiveness could be promoted if drawdowns were to proceed at short notice. Clarification was also sought on lessons learned regarding the movement of assets in the context of a drawdown. It was emphasized that lessons learned should be systematically applied to future mission transitions to prevent unnecessary costs and delays.

533. With regard to result 2 of subprogramme 1, component 1, a delegation welcomed efforts made to enhance performance management across the Secretariat.

534. On result 3 of subprogramme 1, component 1, it was emphasized that the work to implement a new approach to roster building and management should prioritize merit-based selection, with the identification of the most qualified personnel. The success of that initiative should be measured by improved recruitment time frames and reduced operational costs.

535. On paragraph 29B.26 (c), a delegation stated that it valued the intention to broaden both the scope and content of training programmes and learning resources to

improve multilingualism. Clarification was sought regarding the feasibility of the initiatives.

536. On paragraph 29B.52 (a), efforts to improve the alignment of the Secretariat supply chain with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were welcomed. The view was expressed that the Sustainable Development Goals should not be pursued separately or in a manner that was divorced from the real working conditions of peacekeeping operations. A question was raised as to how the end-to-end supply chain planning incorporated cost containment measures, and what benchmarks were used to evaluate procurement efficiency.

537. With regard to paragraph 29B.60, while noting the need to supplement commercial arrangements, a delegation expressed its view that it would be wise to consider the possibility of adopting a more flexible approach to aviation security matters.

538. On paragraph 29B.83, a delegation took note of the joint African Union-United Nations road map and looked forward to seeing operational frameworks that clearly delineated responsibilities and established accountability for results while minimizing the duplication of efforts, as the work advanced.

539. On paragraph 29B.85, a question was raised as to how the operational support monitoring tool would identify opportunities for cost reductions during mission transitions.

540. Support was expressed for the strategy set out in paragraph 29B.92 (c). However, a delegation called for particular attention to be paid to the practical auditing of expenditures and the cost-quality relationship.

541. Regarding paragraph 29B.94, a question was raised as to what cost savings and efficiency metrics were being tracked to measure the return on investment for the automation of the staff separation payment process.

542. On paragraph 29B.100 relating to the introduction of flexible working arrangements, the view was expressed that such decisions needed to be adopted in a selective way, where they were genuinely justified.

543. With regard to the Office of Information and Communications Technology, a delegation expressed appreciation for the Office's proposed strategy for 2026, while another delegation took note of the Office's important role in the delivery of resilient and secure global network systems for the Secretariat, stressing the importance of a balanced approach to the introduction of new technologies in order to avoid additional risks to the United Nations. A delegation commended the Office for having consolidated secretarial functions in an effort to reduce costs and improve efficiency. A delegation drew attention to the need to supplement paragraph 29C.13 with a reference to section IV of General Assembly resolution [79/258](#) B.

544. A delegation indicated that artificial intelligence technology was developing rapidly and that advanced technologies should be selected to make the Secretariat's work more efficient while significantly reducing the financial burden, and requested information on the decision-making process for selecting artificial intelligence technologies and on whether there would be any outreach to vendors. Another delegation asked how the artificial intelligence initiatives described in paragraphs 29C.21 to 29C.27 would incorporate feedback mechanisms from users to ensure that they addressed operational needs.

545. A delegation noted the critical role that the United Nations Office for Project Services and the United Nations International Computing Centre played in providing shared information and communications technology services across the United Nations system and called on the Office of Information and Communications

Technology to rely more on those system-wide support functions, avoiding the duplication of functions and capacities. The delegation asked how the Office would help to ensure that the International Computing Centre maintained its customer-focused governance model and direct accountability to the organizations it served.

546. The same delegation noted the strategic shift by the Office towards hybrid cloud-based services that could offer significant benefits in terms of scalability, operational resilience and access to advanced technology capabilities with the potential to enhance the Organization's ability to respond to changing operational requirements. It enquired about the criteria used to determine the necessity for retaining on-premises data storage capabilities and what cost-benefit analysis was used to justify duplicative investments.

547. The same delegation also commended the successful implementation of Umoja enhancement package 8 and the transition to Umoja Analytics and sought information on how those enhancements were being leveraged across the Organization, particularly in field settings. Regarding the expanding information and communications technology security challenges described in paragraph 29C.5, the same delegation supported the Office's proactive approach to improving information security and was of the view that continued investment in that area was prudent, though it would welcome more details on how existing capacities within the United Nations system, including the services offered by the International Computing Centre, would be availed of.

548. With regard to paragraph 29C.31 (f), which referred to improving access, including remote access, for participation in intergovernmental meetings, a delegation requested clarification as to whether the reference was about ensuring the remote participation only of Secretariat staff or also of representatives of Member States.

549. Delegations expressed support for all good governance, streamlining and efficiency efforts undertaken by the organizations, commending the work of the offices, and noted the importance of the overarching administrative and financial management of those duty stations. At the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna, discussions had centred on the Secretary-General's UN80 Initiative and the concept of staff and service relocation. A delegation noted that, in the context of the liquidity constraints, any additional construction work that might be required to host relocated staff and entities should be considered by the Committee.

550. With regard to the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna, a delegation stated that across all three offices it would not support any wording referencing diversity, equity or inclusion precepts, programmes or initiatives. The delegation declared its opposition to any policy or programme including any form or reference to diversity, equity and inclusion frameworks or gender ideology, as it believed that those concepts often conflicted with merit-based approaches to staffing and operations.

551. A delegation noted the high level of administrative services and logistical support provided by the United Nations Office at Nairobi and emphasized the need to ensure sufficient funding from the regular budget to maintain its status as a centre for multilateral engagement and coordination on the African continent.

552. Regarding the Kenya Common Back Office, a delegation commended the United Nations Office at Nairobi for its exemplary support for the common back office operating model in Kenya. It noted that the model was a template and standard for future common back offices and demonstrated how administrative functions had been consolidated to reduce duplication, streamline operations and deliver better value for Member States' contributions. The same delegation enquired about the capacity of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to host additional staff and requested

comparative cost data for other duty stations to understand the financial implications of potential relocations. The Chair emphasized that matters related to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee and called on the Committee to focus the discussion on part A of the programme.

553. A delegation noted that the United Nations Office at Nairobi had grown exponentially and emphasized that the relocation of services away from high-cost duty stations had brought the entities closer to their target populations in Africa and the global South. It expressed appreciation for Member States' capital investment at the Office and emphasized the complementary infrastructure support of \$967 million by the Government of Kenya. Another delegation enquired about partnerships with the Government and municipal authorities regarding local infrastructure upgrades to assist in evaluating the sustainability and long-term viability of expanded operations at the Office.

554. Regarding paragraph 29D.63, a delegation requested that the Office provide a status update on how many countries had provided expressions of support and an assessment of where the Office foresaw the expression of support by July 2025.

555. A delegation noted the achievement by the United Nations Office at Geneva of the goals of subprogramme 2, result 2, which were aimed at helping staff and external applicants to better understand the United Nations recruitment process and make informed career-related decisions. Regarding paragraph 29E.31 (b), the delegation asked what was meant by an inclusive work culture and whether there was an intergovernmental mandate for the activity.

556. With regard to paragraph 29E.73, a delegation enquired about the cost savings resulting from the closure of the library and museum for three months in 2024. It reiterated that there was no mandate regarding holding events in hybrid or virtual formats and sought clarification on the difference between blended and hybrid meetings.

557. A delegation highlighted issues related to the strategic heritage plan, including noisy renovation work, and urged the Secretariat to refrain from additional cost-saving measures that had a negative impact on delegations. Another delegation expressed concern that the plan was behind schedule, noting that it had incurred significant expenditure and experienced electrical issues in a newly renovated building, and requested an update on what urgent measures had been taken to address these issues. Another delegation reinforced its expectation that the plan remained on time and within budget.

558. A delegation commended the Office for its efforts to improve and promote equitable geographical representation and requested further information on the efforts made to improve the representation of staff from developing countries. A delegation commended the Office for its provision of procurement and other central support services, noting that the consolidation of common functions represented practical reforms that enhanced effectiveness while respecting budgetary constraints. The delegation commended subprogramme 5 on the digitalization of historical documents.

559. Regarding paragraph 29E.44 (c), a delegation requested more information on the Common Procurement Activities Group and requested clarification as to whether cost-recovery services provided to non-Secretariat entities included the cost of staff time. The delegation enquired about the percentage of meetings that offered hybrid participation and requested an update on how liquidity was affecting the Office's capacity to support mandated and non-mandated intergovernmental meetings and the measures taken to prioritize essential functions.

560. With regard to the United Nations Office at Vienna, in particular table 29F.4, a delegation enquired whether UNODC planned to switch from a biennial to an annual

budget. Referring to paragraph 29F.27 (d), the same delegation requested additional information on any United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) initiatives that the Office had implemented. Lastly, regarding paragraph 29F.29, the delegation requested that human resources videos be shared with the Committee.

561. A delegation expressed its opposition to any undue expansion of support functions that could come at the expense of the core functional and programmatic components of international organizations based in Vienna. It emphasized that administrative support structures should serve the substantive work of those organizations, not overshadow or impede it. The delegation also noted its concern regarding the potential micromanagement of functional and programmatic components by the Office's Division for Management, and emphasized that the operational units must retain appropriate autonomy to execute their mandates effectively and that the relationship between administrative and substantive departments should be one of facilitation rather than control. The delegation reinforced the expectation that efficiency and effectiveness were the guiding principles of administrative support services and that efforts to streamline the work of functional and programmatic components should reduce bureaucratic barriers, not create additional unnecessary ones.

562. A delegation sought clarification on the Office's local approach to enhancing geographical representation and emphasized that General Assembly resolutions and the general principles of the Charter of the United Nations were still applicable and in force, and that any innovation in that area required a political mandate. Another delegation enquired about the taxonomy being utilized to enhance geographical representation and requested clarity on the group memberships.

Conclusions and recommendations

563. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 25, Management and support services, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 26 Internal oversight

564. At its 6th meeting, on 14 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 26, Internal oversight, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 30\)](#)).

Discussion

565. Delegations thanked the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the presentation of the programme plan and expressed strong support for its commitment to ensuring robust internal oversight and accountability measures, including efforts to drive improvement across the Organization.

566. Delegations welcomed the work being done by the Office to ensure coordinated efforts with JIU and the Board of Auditors. The priority given to internal oversight coverage of management areas in order to strengthen the operational organizational culture was also welcomed.

567. In relation to the list of legislative mandates as reflected in paragraph 30.10 of the report, a delegation pointed out that General Assembly resolution 79/282, on the review of the implementation of resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, 59/272, 64/263, 69/253 and 74/257, should be added and incorporated into the work of OIOS. Clarification was sought concerning why the Office continued to be involved in ethics and what measures had been taken to avoid duplication in the work of the departments.

568. In the context of the Pact for the Future, a delegation recognized that the role of internal oversight was indispensable in ensuring a more acceptable, transparent and effective United Nations system. The work of OIOS, in particular in integrating innovation and digital transformation across the audit and investigative functions, was commended. Additional information was requested on how information and communications technology, as reflected in paragraph 30.13 of the report, was being applied to enhance the functions of the Office.

569. With regard to subprogramme 3, Investigations, several delegations expressed concern over the 2024 performance in results 1 and 2, which fell significantly short of the planned targets. It was noted that, in paragraph 30.47 of the report, the target of 80 per cent was not met owing to an increased number of complaints but the target for 2026 remained the same as in previous years.

570. More important, the disturbing data on sexual exploitation and abuse contained in paragraph 30.49 of the report, indicating that 9 per cent of investigations into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were completed within the target of six months, which did not meet the planned target of 80 per cent, was alarming. A delegation expressed the view that this was a challenge for the entire United Nations and beyond. The lack of transparency during investigations and related disciplinary processes was highlighted. In that context, specific examples of programmatic measures that could be taken to address the challenges and to overcome those obstacles were requested. Clarification was also sought regarding the plan for how to regain the trust of victims and retain the trust of donor States. A question was raised regarding whether any adjustment to the six-month target time frame, with a view to better aligning the goal with the actual performance, was being considered.

571. Another delegation welcomed the efforts of OIOS to strengthen the protection against retaliation (whistle-blower) system, foster a culture of accountability and implement a gender perspective in its victim-centred methodology for all investigations. It was emphasized that a culture of accountability stemmed from the leadership of an organization and that, therefore, the United Nations was encouraged to continue to demonstrate a joint commitment to the zero-tolerance policy, uphold the trust of the Organization and provide justice for victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse. Information was requested on how protection against retaliation should be strengthened and what measures had been taken to ensure improvements in timely investigations. An update on those efforts, including on improving the clarity of reports, was requested.

572. While the programme continued to focus its mandate implementation on exercising internal oversight of the Organization's resources and staff by providing internal audits, inspections, evaluations and investigations, another delegation stressed that fraud and corruption caused huge financial losses to the Organization and that this should be the focus of investigations. It was pointed out that OIOS focused heavily on sexual harassment and dedicated significant resources to investigating it annually without effectively curbing the problem. By contrast, it was emphasized that little attention was allocated to fraud and corruption issues that resulted in direct financial losses to Member States. It was imperative that cases of fraud and corruption be reprioritized and receive the investigative attention warranted.

Conclusions and recommendations

573. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 79/247, consider the programme plan for programme 26, Internal Oversight, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.

Programme 27

Jointly financed activities

574. At its 15th meeting, on 21 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 27, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 (A/80/6 (Sect. 31)).

Discussion

575. Delegations thanked the representatives from the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), JIU and CEB for the presentation of the programme plan and the committed work carried out by the entities.

576. With regard to ICSC, delegations expressed gratitude for its important work to ensure harmonized conditions of service for staff in the common system. The work of the Commission on updating the revised standards of conduct to reflect new ethical challenges, including the roll-out of the new standards in 2026, was supported. Given the interest expressed by the delegations in the comprehensive review of United Nations compensation and benefits, the guidance provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 79/252 A, in which it noted “the importance of the premise of overall cost containment and sustainability”, was re-emphasized. In the context of the UN80 Initiative, it was pointed out that the guidance was more important than ever, and that it was expected to contribute to the greater effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system. Delegations raised concerns regarding paragraph 31.I.11 of the report, which mentioned that 24 out of 28 organizations had adopted the requested changes to the Commission’s statute by the end of 2024. A delegation questioned why the remaining organizations had not yet agreed to the amendments and further requested a timeline for when the conclusion of the process could be expected. Another delegation noted that paragraph 31.I.11 provided a historical overview of existing problems in the common system. In reference to the deliverables reflected in table 31.I.5, it was noted that the Commission had been able to release the 2024 salaries and allowances booklet as planned. However, neither of the two post adjustment booklets had been issued. A question was raised as to whether those booklets would be released in 2025 and 2026.

577. Regarding JIU, delegations strongly supported the Unit’s goal of improved reporting on the acceptance, implementation and intended impact of the recommendations by organizations of the United Nations system in 2026. Efforts to improve the usefulness of the Unit’s reports and the improvement demonstrated in the timely availability of its reviews compared with previous years were welcomed. To better understand the methodology for assessing effectiveness, clarification was sought on how the Unit would measure the intended impact of its recommendations on organizations of the United Nations system for its 2026 report. In reference to paragraph 31.II.15 of the report, which addressed the development of the Unit’s strategic framework for its recommendations, clarification was sought on how the implementation of the Unit’s recommendations had been monitored in organizations in which the governing bodies that had approved the recommendations. A question

was also raised as to whether a tracking system for monitoring the status of implementation of those recommendations was available.

578. Appreciation was expressed by several delegations for the important work of CEB in fostering inter-agency coordination and encouraging system-wide coherence in administrative practices across the United Nations system. Specifically, efforts to promote mutual recognition and the work on interoperability, including the first application on the use of the United Nations digital identification, were commended. In addition, the work carried out in collecting and disseminating system-wide statistics, including information related to the financial and human resources statistics of the United Nations, was highlighted. Delegations were pleased to see the focus placed on accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the Pact for the Future. In addition, questions were raised as to how artificial intelligence would be factored into the work of the High-Level Committee on Management on the development of innovative approaches to improving efficiency and simplifying innovative business practices. Interest was expressed in seeing how emerging technologies might contribute to streamlining operations. As the proposed programme plan for 2026 had been prepared before the announcement of the Secretary-General's proposed UN80 Initiative, clarification was sought on the role of CEB in the development and implementation of the Initiative. In reviewing the programme plan, a delegation stressed its position of not supporting any language that questioned the oversight role with regard to jointly financed activities, taking into account that the functions of those entities were essential to maintaining appropriate accountability and coherence across the United Nations system. Furthermore, the same delegation emphasized its position of not supporting language related to gender-based, gender-responsive, gender-balanced or gender-perspective frameworks. Similarly, references to diversity, equity and inclusion concepts, or language implying obligations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda or United Nations climate negotiation goals, was considered unacceptable.

579. With regard to geographical representation, a delegation expressed serious concern about the imbalance in the staff composition of United Nations agencies and hoped that a more equitable geographical representation could be achieved. To ensure improved representation of staff members from developing countries, the delegation reiterated that the three entities should take practical measures to coordinate the work and exert more efforts to promote active implementation across the Organization. The vital importance of multilingualism in the work of the United Nations was also emphasized. It was noted that all six official United Nations languages should be used on an equal footing and that the gap between the use of English and the other five languages should be narrowed to ensure the full and fair treatment of all official languages in the United Nations. The importance of opposing racism and racial discrimination was further emphasized. Delegations expressed the view that all entities should fight racism and racial discrimination to ensure the protection of all staff members of the United Nations.

Conclusions and recommendations

580. The Committee commended the work carried out by JIU to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of the United Nations system, and underlined the importance of its long-standing commitment to strengthening transparency and accountability across the United Nations system.

581. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request JIU, in the course of its work, to contribute to enhancing oversight and reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations.

582. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to foster a coordinated approach to multilingualism, which is a core and fundamental value of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions.

583. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of CEB, to explore options to improve the effectiveness of reporting and analysis with a view to enhancing the content of the report on the budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system, with a focus on its analytical component.

584. The Committee welcomed the work of the CEB secretariat to provide financial data on its public website and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of CEB, to provide more detailed data on human resources, finance and procurement of the United Nations system on the public website in a timely manner.

585. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 27, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed programme budget for 2026, subject to the following modifications:

I. International Civil Service Commission

Programme of work

Table 31.I.2

Column “2026 (planned)”

Replace “a proposal” with “proposals”.

II. Joint Inspection Unit

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

Add “[79/281](#) Joint Inspection Unit”.

III. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

Add “[79/257](#) Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2025”.

Programme 28

Safety and security

586. At its 16th meeting, on 21 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)).

Discussion

587. Delegations thanked the Department of Safety and Security for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and expressed appreciation and support for the Department’s committed work and role in enabling United Nations system entities

to implement their programme activities, both at Headquarters and in the field, while keeping United Nations personnel safe.

588. Appreciation was also expressed for the Department's staff working in complex and difficult operational environments, and, in that regard, the Department's emphasis on resilience and its efforts to draw on rapidly deployable assets to respond to sudden or large-scale crises were welcomed.

589. A delegation welcomed the Department's leadership role in the Inter-Agency Security Management Network and its work to implement recommendations arising from the in-depth review of the United Nations security management system. With regard to participation in the system, another delegation enquired about the justification for excluding certain United Nations entities, such as UNRWA, from the framework of the system. Clarification was sought on the operational implications that would arise when entities operated outside the unified security structure, particularly in high-risk environments.

590. The Department was also commended for its efforts to modernize towards a security risk management-based approach, given how inextricably linked programming and safety and security were in humanitarian operations. A question was raised as to what criteria the Department was using to prioritize delivery of security services in the field in order to enable the continued delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance where it mattered most.

591. A delegation emphasized that the presence and effective functioning of United Nations personnel in its region depended on mutual trust, professionalism and shared responsibility for safety and accountability. In that regard, it emphasized the high importance of protecting the reputation of the United Nations and upholding its integrity. The delegation expressed concerns regarding allegations of misuse and abuse of UNRWA facilities and raised questions as to what actions had been taken to address the situation and how the Department was addressing risks posed to the integrity and safety of the Organization.

592. With regard to accountability and contextual reporting of security incidents, a question was asked as to whether the Department had a mechanism to cross-reference or vet personnel affected by security incidents with available information regarding their potential involvement in unlawful or non-neutral activities, particularly when such involvement might have contributed to the incident.

593. A delegation recognized the Department's efforts to improve its information and knowledge management systems and encouraged the use of public and transparent risk incident systems in cooperation with regional and non-governmental organization partners. The delegation also expressed support for using all tools available to promote accountability, consistent with international law, for those responsible for unlawful attacks on medical and humanitarian personnel.

594. Questions were raised on how the Department and the United Nations could improve cybersecurity programmes, what management metrics Member States would be best advised to consider when looking at improving and increasing the effectiveness of safety and security, and whether success meant that a security incident did not occur.

595. With regard to racism, a delegation requested information on the efforts made, including concrete measures taken to counter racism and racial discrimination, and the results achieved.

596. With regard to paragraph 34.5, the Department's implementation of a digital transformation project was welcomed, with the expectation that it would help enhance the Department's analysis and reporting.

597. Regarding paragraph 34.7, on the Department's aspiration to achieve gender parity, a delegation expressed the hope that when implementing that strategy, the actual conditions on the ground would be considered, especially in high-risk areas.

598. Sharing the Department's concern about ongoing high security risks, especially during the drawdown period of peacekeeping operations, a delegation expressed support for the assumption set out in paragraph 34.10 regarding the need for active engagement with Member States during such periods. In that regard, the delegation welcomed the objective of ensuring adequate extrabudgetary resources to mount a swift response to crisis situations.

599. With regard to subprogramme 1, Security and safety services, delegations expressed support for the introduction of digital badges, a contemporary and convenient solution that had already proved its worth in the United Nations Office at Geneva, as described in paragraph 34.19. A delegation called for the roll-out of digital badges in New York, provided that doing so would not require additional resources. Another delegation, while recognizing the benefits of digital badges, pointed out the risks of false or unrecognized documents being used to gain access to United Nations premises, and, in that regard, sought clarifications on measures taken by the Secretariat to prevent such risks.

600. With regard to paragraph 34.25, appreciation was expressed for the Department's efforts to ensure safe access for persons with disabilities.

601. Regarding paragraph 34.39, a delegation welcomed the use of data-informed approaches and commended the Department for drawing effectively on the lessons learned.

602. Finally, with regard to subprogramme 3, Partnerships and specialized support, the Department was commended for its clear focus on specialized training programmes, operational planning improvements, and the alignment of United Nations protection services with global best practice. Additional information was sought on the timelines or targets for the provision of the training programmes mentioned in paragraph 34.52.

Conclusions and recommendations

603. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

Proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

604. At its 10th meeting, on 16 May 2025, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation ([A/80/69](#)).

Discussion

605. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the clear presentation of the report and for the informal briefing held on 12 May. They underscored the importance of the Organization's regulatory framework in ensuring that the planning, programming,

budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle fostered, in the most effective manner, coordinated activities and the alignment of available resources with the legislative intent of Member States.

606. Some delegations supported the approval of the amendments and highlighted the technical nature of the document in translating decisions made by the General Assembly into the Regulations and Rules, including new terminology and the decision by consensus on the shift to an annual budget cycle, as well as the sequential nature of the review process and the respective roles of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination. It was recalled that the role of the latter Committee was not to question decisions made by the General Assembly in other forums, but rather to consider the technical adjustments triggered by those decisions and to ensure that the Regulations and Rules would be actionable and would enhance the agility and efficiency of the United Nations.

607. One delegation expressed the view that it was premature to make a decision on the proposed revisions, recalling paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [77/267](#), in which the Secretary-General was requested to conduct a comprehensive review on the annual cycle and to submit a report for consideration by the Assembly at its eighty-third session, in 2028. Another delegation enquired as to the consequences of not approving the proposed revisions. A third delegation recalled that the adoption of Assembly resolution [58/269](#) of 23 December 2003 had led to the replacement of the four-year medium-term plan framework with a biennial strategic framework, which had been promulgated in the Regulations and Rules some 15 years later, in 2018 (see [ST/SGB/2018/3](#)), presumably after an evaluation of that replacement had been made. The same delegation recalled that, in its resolution [72/266 A](#) of 15 January 2018, the Assembly had approved the change from a biennial to an annual budget period, and questioned whether that change should be reflected after only seven years of implementing the annual budget cycle, or after its comprehensive review had been presented to the Assembly in 2028. Other delegations questioned whether it was appropriate for the Committee to deliberate on the merits of the annual budget cycle as decided by the Assembly and observed that the time had come to act in recognition of the work that had resulted in the proposed revisions and that had provided the Secretariat with an updated framework.

608. It was highlighted that the staff of the United Nations was an invaluable asset (General Assembly resolution [77/278](#), para. 1) and that its views should be taken into account. A delegation observed that both Secretariat staff and staff unions had protested against the annual consideration of the budget owing to the increased workload it represented and to the fact that it distracted project managers from implementing intergovernmental mandates and cooperating with Member States. Another delegation expressed the view that Secretariat staff had successfully adapted to the annual budget cycle, stating that parliamentary documentation had been available in time for the start of the Committee's session.

609. The view was expressed that the annual budget cycle had significantly contributed to the financial difficulties facing the United Nations. In referencing the UN80 Initiative of the Secretary-General to reduce costs and increase efficiency, a delegation observed that creative solutions should not be ruled out during periods of transition, including a possible return to biennial budget planning. The same delegation questioned how the Committee would review any programmatic changes resulting from the submission, at the main part of the eightieth session of the General Assembly, of revised estimates pertaining to the Initiative, as well as how it would review the possible impact on mandate implementation, deliverables and key performance indicators.

610. Particular appreciation was expressed for the presentation, in the annex to the report, of the existing regulation or rule, the proposed regulation or rule and the explanation for the change. The suggestion was made that future programme plans could follow the same structure and include the previous programme plan, the new programme plan and justifications and explanations for changes, such as outcomes adopted by the General Assembly or stemming from other intergovernmental processes.

611. While the change in terminology in existing regulation 5.6 was noted, the revised regulation 5.5 on the role of the Secretary-General in presenting discontinued deliverables to the General Assembly was considered less detailed than the existing formulation. With regard to existing regulation 5.7, the removal of the timeline to submit the proposed programme budget to the Advisory Committee was questioned. A delegation sought clarification on the rationale for the numerous changes made to revised rule 105.1 compared with existing rule 105.2, which were considered to have made the text too succinct. It also enquired as to the rationale for deleting existing rule 105.4 (a) (ii) e., entitled “Technical cooperation”.

612. In the context of the delegation of authority framework, clarification was sought on how the Secretary-General’s role in monitoring progress towards planned results and corresponding performance measures had been reflected in revised regulation 6.1. Clarification was sought on the proposed deletion of existing rule 106.1 (d) and the revision of existing rule 106.2 (a). The point was raised that the timing of the Committee’s session in May and June meant that any new mandates issued in the second half of the year were taken up by the General Assembly as revised estimates and were not reviewed by the Committee.

B. Evaluation

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

613. At its 6th meeting, on 14 May, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives ([A/80/65](#)).

Discussion

614. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the report and emphasized the importance of evaluation. A delegation highlighted the importance of ensuring that evaluations measured outcomes rather than outputs. The delegation asked how the United Nations could be steered in that direction and to what extent that shift was being implemented across entities.

615. With regard to the Secretariat modality of good offices and mediation, one delegation referred to language in paragraph 33 of the report, in which it was stated that mediation had helped to bring about a cessation of hostilities in Gaza in 2022. It requested further elaboration on how effectiveness in those efforts was measured.

616. A delegation highlighted that decision makers and taxpayers expected United Nations-supported organizations to self-regulate, improve and apply lessons learned. It underscored evaluation as a vital management tool. The same delegation welcomed the growing number of entities with evaluation policies and plans and asked how digital transformation and data analytics could be leveraged to strengthen evaluation.

617. A delegation expressed concern that the report contained unwarranted generalizations. It noted interest in the practical findings of the evaluation, in

particular regarding shortcomings in capacity-building efforts for developing economies, knowledge transfer, support for national development strategies and the establishment of reliable partnerships with civil society and the private sector at the local level.

618. The same delegation noted the use of non-agreed terminology in the report. It emphasized that Our Common Agenda and the United Nations 2.0 had not been approved by Member States and that the Pact for the Future was not a consensus document, and suggested referring only to its consensual provisions.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-second session on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth

619. At its 8th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-second session on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth ([E/AC.51/2025/2](#)).

Conclusions and recommendations

620. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the programme evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth and expressed its appreciation to OIOS for the review.

Chapter III

Coordination questions

A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2024

621. At its 16th meeting, on 21 May 2025, the Committee considered the annual overview report of CEB for 2024 ([E/2025/13](#)).

Discussion

622. Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Secretary of CEB for her presentation. It was observed that CEB played a vital role in providing coordination and improving coherence across the United Nations system. A delegation welcomed the efforts of CEB to support the effective implementation of United Nations priorities. In particular, support to Member States on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Pact for the Future was highlighted. The work of CEB would continue to be critical in the context of the UN80 Initiative, especially the efforts of the High-level Committee on Management to consider potential efficiencies in the United Nations system.

623. A delegation attached great importance to strengthening inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system, at the same time stressing that system-wide approaches should not be imposed on United Nations system organizations without the consent of their respective governing bodies.

624. Welcoming the annual overview report, another delegation observed that it identified valuable areas for system-wide collaboration that could yield greater efficiencies across United Nations operations. By leveraging the collaborative mechanisms of CEB and enhancing data-driven decision-making, the pragmatic reforms necessary for a more efficient multilateral system could be achieved.

625. A delegation appreciated CEB efforts to improve transparency and accountability, support effective and efficient humanitarian work (paras. 16 and 17), amplify climate action priorities (paras. 23 and 24), foster risk management (paras. 40 and 41) and drive behavioural change in the organizational culture of the United Nations system (paras. 42–52). Key initiatives that represented important opportunities for cross-pillar integration were identified, including the proposed normative foundations for international data governance: goals and principles (paras. 11 and 12), the United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation (paras. 25–29) and the framework for a model policy on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in United Nations system organizations (para. 32). Furthermore, a delegation commended such initiatives as the United Nations Digital ID programme (para. 53), while noting the concerning redundancy of more than 700 initiatives on artificial intelligence under way across the system (para. 33). That delegation stated that all efforts must operate within existing resources, utilize clear metrics and prioritize integration to support core functions.

626. As Member States required timely, reliable, verifiable and comparable data at both system-wide and entity levels to properly evaluate their investments in the United Nations system, the essential role of CEB as the central repository and publisher of system-wide financial and human resources statistics was emphasized. The delegation commended the ongoing collection and publication of United Nations system-wide statistics by the CEB secretariat (paras. 36–38) and urged the expansion of available data sets on the CEB website to enable more robust interactive analysis. It was observed that enhanced data collection remained essential for targeted reform.

627. A delegation noted that paragraphs 7, 9 and 42 mentioned the Pact for the Future and United Nations 2.0. It recalled that only certain provisions of the Pact had been adopted by consensus and that United Nations 2.0 did not have a mandate, and underscored the importance of CEB taking those circumstances into account in its work.

B. United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

628. At its 13th meeting, on 20 May 2025, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled “United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want” ([E/AC.51/2025/3](#)).

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Committee

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

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

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

Draft provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [72/266 A](#), [77/267](#) and [79/247](#));

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (in fascicle form) (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [58/269](#), [59/275](#), [62/224](#), [72/266 A](#), [77/267](#) and [79/247](#))

- (b) Evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-third session on the evaluation of the Development Coordination Office regional support

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-third session on the thematic evaluation of United Nations Secretariat support to the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the

Committee at its sixty-third session on the evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: subprogramme 3, Shared economic prosperity

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-third session on the evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: subprogramme 4, Environment and development

4. Coordination questions:

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

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2025 (Economic and Social Council resolution [2008 \(LX\)](#))

- (b) United Nations system support for Agenda 2063.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

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

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its sixty-fifth session

E/AC.51/2025/1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/AC.51/2025/L.1/Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/2025/L.2	Note by the Secretariat on the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2025: part II: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (in fascicle form)
A/80/6 (Sect. 2)	Programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
A/80/6 (Sect. 3)	Programme 2, Political affairs
A/80/6 (Sect. 4)	Programme 3, Disarmament
A/80/6 (Sect. 5)	Programme 4, Peacekeeping operations
A/80/6 (Sect. 6)	Programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space
A/80/6 (Sect. 8)	Programme 6, Legal affairs
A/80/6 (Sect. 9)	Programme 7, Economic and social affairs
A/80/6 (Sect. 10)	Programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
A/80/6 (Sect. 11)	Programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want
A/80/6 (Sect. 12)	Programme 10, Trade and development
A/80/6 (Sect. 13)	Programme 10, subprogramme 6, International Trade Centre
A/80/6 (Sect. 14)	Programme 11, Environment
A/80/6 (Sect. 15)	Programme 12, Human settlements
A/80/6 (Sect. 16)	Programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice
A/80/6 (Sect. 17)	Programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women
A/80/6 (Sect. 18)	Programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa
A/80/6 (Sect. 19)	Programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/80/6 (Sect. 20)	Programme 17, Economic development in Europe
A/80/6 (Sect. 21)	Programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/80/6 (Sect. 22)	Programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia

A/80/6 (Sect. 24)	Programme 20, Human rights
A/80/6 (Sect. 24)/Corr.1	Programme 20, Human rights: corrigendum
A/80/6 (Sect. 25)	Programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees
A/80/6 (Sect. 26)	Programme 22, Palestine refugees
A/80/6 (Sect. 27)	Programme 23, Humanitarian assistance
A/80/6 (Sect. 28)	Programme 24, Global communications
A/80/6 (Sect. 29)	Programme 25, Management and support services
A/80/6 (Sect. 29A)	Programme 25, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
A/80/6 (Sect. 29B)	Programme 25, Department of Operational Support
A/80/6 (Sect. 29C)	Programme 25, Office of Information and Communications Technology
A/80/6 (Sect. 29D)	Programme 25, Administration, Nairobi
A/80/6 (Sect. 29E)	Programme 25, Administration, Geneva
A/80/6 (Sect. 29F)	Programme 25, Administration, Vienna
A/80/6 (Sect. 30)	Programme 26, Internal oversight
A/80/6 (Sect. 31)	Programme 27, Jointly financed activities
A/80/6 (Sect. 34)	Programme 28, Safety and security
E/AC.51/2025/4	Note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan for 2026 by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
A/80/69	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/267)
A/80/65	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives
E/AC.51/2025/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-second session on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth
E/2025/13	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2024 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2025/3	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

[E/AC.51/2025/L.3](#)

Note by the Secretariat: draft provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-sixth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))

[E/AC.51/2025/L.4/Rev.2](#)
and addenda

Draft report of the Committee

