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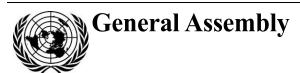
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Item 27 (b) of the provisional agenda*
**Social development: social development, including questions
relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing,
persons with disabilities and the family**

Policies and programmes involving youth

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/121. It provides an overview of the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution, with a focus on mental health, climate change and biodiversity loss and global technological commons, in the context of rebuilding trust in multilateralism and advancing the common agenda. It was prepared based on input received from Member States, United Nations entities and youth organizations. It concludes with key recommendations for consideration by the Assembly.

I. Introduction

1.   In its resolution 74/121 on policies and programmes involving youth, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at the seventy-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution, to be prepared in consultation with Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work of the United Nations system. Further to that request, the Secretariat consulted relevant entities, receiving responses from 18 Member States[1] and 22 United Nations entities that are members of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development,[2] and consulted youth partners.[3]

2.   Section II contains information on the current global context and the state of youth within it, especially in relation to the United Nations system and the theme of the present report.

3.   Section III contains information on three issues relevant to youth in the context of rebuilding trust in multilateralism in relation to key areas in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the follow-up to the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, namely: mental health, climate change and biodiversity loss and global technological commons. In addition, those issues are anchored in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. For each issue, an overview of the current situation at the global level is provided, followed by a summary of efforts by Member States and United Nations entities to address the issue.

4.   Section IV provides an overview of additional relevant activities of United Nations entities at the national, regional and international levels to address areas covered in the resolution. Section V contains recommendations.

II. Context and setting the stage

A. Coronavirus disease pandemic[4]

5.   The world is facing a global crisis unlike any in the 75-year history of the United Nations. In addition to its effects at the human level, the coronavirus disease

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[1] Azerbaijan, Brazil, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia, Thailand.

[2] CTBTO, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO, IOM, ITU, Office for Outer Space Affairs, Office of Counter-Terrorism, Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Peacebuilding Support Office, Regional Office for the Pacific of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNODC, World Tourism Organization.

[3] Global Youth Biodiversity Network; Global Youth Health Caucus; Global Youth Initiative on Human Rights; children and youth major group; United Nations Foundation Next Generation Fellows; Platform for Youth Mechanisms to Multilateral Organisations; Sendai Stakeholders Children and Youth Group; Youth Caucus of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development; Youth Coalition on Internet Governance; Children and Youth Constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change; Youth Science-Policy Interface Platform.

[4] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following sources: United Nations, "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: responding to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19", March 2020, available from www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_report_socio-economic_impact _of_covid19.pdf; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Risk Informed financing", Policy Brief, No. 98 (April 2021), available from www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/ publication/un-desa-policy-brief-98-risk-informed-finance/; and ILO, *World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals* (Geneva, 2017).

(COVID-19) pandemic has exposed the global impact of systemic risks throughout society. It has a caused a regression in efforts to achieve the sustainable development agenda, experienced most harshly by communities that are already vulnerable and marginalized. Development that is not risk-informed is neither inclusive nor sustainable. The unprecedented situation continues to require a collective and concerted response founded on solidarity.

B. Youth and the pandemic[5]

6.   Before the onset of the pandemic, youth (persons aged between 15 and 24 years) were three times more likely to be unemployed compared with adults, while 126 million young workers were in extreme and moderate poverty worldwide. Young workers are more likely to be in precarious employment than other age groups. While 77 per cent of youth are estimated to be informally employed globally, the percentage is even higher for young women in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

7.   The increasing unemployment owing to the COVID-19 pandemic could exceed the rise seen in the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2009. Without targeted policy intervention, it is likely that youth will be disproportionately affected by a global recession, with a higher percentage unemployed compared with adults, and experience a slower uptake of employment during the recovery. Given that threat to livelihoods, measures to ease the financial impact on households must be comprehensive and sufficient to bridge the gap caused by loss of earnings.

8.   The pandemic is also having an unprecedented impact on education systems. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 191 countries have implemented school closures, resulting in more than 91 per cent of enrolled pupils, or 1.5 billion youth, not being able to attend and thus facing disruptions of uncertain duration and varying levels of alternative delivery methods.

9.   Such disruption has a negative impact on learning, access to nutrition and, consequently, graduation rates. It adversely affects poorer pupils, those without stable Internet access and children relying on help from schools to meet their nutrition and health needs. The situation is especially acute for girls and young women, who are disproportionately excluded from education.

10.   To alleviate the situation and bridge the large digital divide, there is a need to ensure continuity in learning by promoting high-technology, low-technology and no-technology models. Pupils with special needs, such as those with disabilities, require additional attention and support as remote learning poses particular challenges for them and their families.

11.   Vulnerable and marginalized youth feel a disproportionate impact from the pandemic, and the threat of the pandemic-induced recession may further exclude them from access to health care and maintaining their livelihoods.

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[5] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Protecting and mobilizing youth in COVID-19 responses", Policy Brief, No. 67 (May 2020), available from www.un.org/development/desa/ youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/05/PB_67.pdf; ILO, *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture*, 3rd ed. (Geneva, 2018); ILO, *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Technology and the Future of Jobs* (Geneva, 2020); UNESCO, "Education: from disruption to recovery", available from https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse; and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, art. 12.

C. Common agenda and multilateralism[6]

12. The world is increasingly complex and evolving. The challenges are systemic, interconnected and cascading. They exacerbate collective vulnerabilities, while also creating opportunities for joint action. In addition, growing mistrust in the current global environment endangers twenty-first-century progress, while jeopardizing a shared future.

13. The declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations signifies revitalized efforts to achieve the desired future and the desired United Nations. Acknowledged therein are the successes and failures of the Organization and the fact that the interconnected challenges can be addressed only through reinvigorated multilateralism.

14. Deliberations on the topic are becoming more prevalent. In addition to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our common agenda", the Security Council has held a high-level meeting on multilateralism, focusing on the future of the United Nations and the international order. A key issue at the 2021 edition of the high-level political forum on sustainable development was strengthening and delivering international solidarity and multilateral cooperation.

D. Youth and multilateralism[7]

15. Globalization and participation, as priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth, are intrinsically linked to the current discourse on youth and multilateralism.

16. In the World Programme, the full and effective participation of youth in society and decision-making is recognized as a priority area and Governments are asked to assess the extent to which the benefits of globalization are accessible to youth and to implement programmes to enable youth to better harness them. In the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the case is made for meaningful engagement by listening to and working with youth.

17. More than half of the respondents to the surveys conducted as part of the global conversation to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations were below 30 years of age. The findings are clear. There is a need for more multilateralism, but it must rapidly evolve to remain fit for purpose.

18. More than 87 per cent of the respondents believe that global cooperation is vital to deal with current challenges and that the pandemic has made international cooperation more urgent.

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[6] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following sources: António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, remarks to the General Assembly on his priorities for 2020, January 2020, available from www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-01-22/secretary-generals-remarks-the-general-assembly-his-priorities-for-2020-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english-version; United Nations, "Security Council upholds role of multilateralism in a complex world", 7 May 2021, available from https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1091532; high-level political forum on sustainable development, "Concept note", 4 June 2021; and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, "Inclusive, networked multilateralism vital for better world governance", remarks during the General Assembly's seventy-fifth anniversary meeting, 21 September 2020, available from www.un.org/press/en/2020/sgsm20264.doc.htm.

[7] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following sources: www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-programme-of-action-for-youth.html; https://un75.online/results/; and www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp.

19. Some 60 per cent of the respondents believe that the United Nations has made the world a better place, while 74 per cent see it as essential in tackling the world's challenges. However, respondents want the Organization to change and innovate, to be more inclusive of the diversity of actors in the twenty-first century and to become more transparent, accountable and effective.

20. That narrative is further strengthened by the fact that, while overall global confidence in the United Nations remains low, young people around the world remain more confident about it than older people.

21. Given the declining trust in the institutions of multilateralism and global governance, the increasing alienation of young people and the shrinking youth civic space, the need to meaningfully deliver on the Organization's promise is greater than ever. If the United Nations seeks to be fit for purpose, it needs to include institutional space for continually strengthening meaningful youth engagement.

22. As the discussions about rebuilding trust continue, young people are moving forward and building effective systems of change, with or without the Organization. They are already organizing, mobilizing and having an impact, both globally and in their communities.

23. There is, therefore, a need for a deliberate analysis of the causes of mistrust and how the multilateral system can work better with, in relation to and for youth. More specifically, there is a need to create an enabling environment, that is, working better with youth; to build coherence, that is, working better on youth issues; and to amplify youth priorities, that is, working better for youth. Responding to those issues remains indispensable to realizing a multilateral system that is effective, accountable and inclusive.

24. The impact of a networked and inclusive multilateralism that brings together, among others, the United Nations system, regional organizations and international and financial institutions, while drawing on the indispensable contributions of civil society, businesses, cities and regions, can only be enhanced with the meaningful engagement of youth.

III. Thematic overview

A. Mental health[8]

1. Overview

25. Mental health is a state of mental well-being in which people cope well with the many stresses of life and are able to realize their own potential, function productively and fruitfully and contribute to their communities.

26. The mental health and well-being of youth have recently gained significant attention in the United Nations. In addition to being highlighted by youth organizations and official youth delegates, the subject has been emphasized by Member States, as seen in General Assembly resolution 74/121, in which it is

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[8] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following sources: WHO, "Mental health: strengthening our response", 30 March 2018, available from www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-strengthening-our-response; António Guterres, "Mental health services are an essential part of all government responses to COVID-19", United Nations, 13 May 2020, available from www.un.org/en/coronavirus/mental-health-services-are-essential-part-all-government-responses-covid-19; and United Nations, "Policy brief: COVID-19 and the need for action on mental health", 13 May 2020, available from www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_policy_brief-covid_and_mental_health_final.pdf.

identified as an area for further action, including by addressing its social determinants. Furthermore, it is included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Sustainable Development Goal 3 (resolution 70/1) and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage (resolution 74/2).

27. It is estimated that, of every five young people, one is experiencing a mental health condition. The prevalence of mental health issues among young people is increasing, in part because of social and technological changes. It is important to note that around half of all mental health conditions start by 14 years of age and 75 per cent by the time that a person is in his or her mid-twenties. That context highlights the need for a life-course approach, given that early intervention during younger years can have a greater impact over time.

28. Mental health, just as physical health, is affected by a wide range of factors, from access to health care to social, economic and environmental aspects, which are broadly termed "social determinants" in health literature. It is thus an integral aspect of health and a key foundation for lifelong individual well-being and social inclusion.

29. Mental health is, however, one of the most neglected areas of health. The impact of mental health conditions on individuals, families and society notwithstanding, there has been little investment in mental health, especially in community-based services. Countries spend on average only 2 per cent of their health budgets on mental health; the average spent by other, non-health sectors is unknown but expected to be a tiny fraction of that. International development assistance for mental health is estimated to be less than 1 per cent of all development assistance for health.

30. In addition, gaps remain in service delivery in many countries. Even in locations with mental health services, their accessibility and inclusion of young people, in particular marginalized and vulnerable young people, are uneven.

31. Given the strong links between mental health and the social determinants of health, and the need to reduce the stigma and discrimination experienced by persons with mental health conditions, improving mental health and well-being requires a coordinated policy response, not only from government bodies responsible for health service provision, but also from government bodies responsible for social policy.

32. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a systemic, deep and disproportionate impact on young people's mental health. Family stress, social isolation, increasing abuse, disrupted education and worry about the future all harm emotional development in children and teenagers. Individuals trapped in fragile humanitarian and crisis contexts risk having their mental health needs completely disregarded.

33. Mental health is critical to national responses to and recovery from the pandemic and remains a core concern even as countries embark on the social and economic recovery.

34. Mental health services that are inclusive of young people, in particular those who are marginalized and vulnerable, enable them to live healthier and more productive lives now and in the future. Policies that promote inclusion and reflect the full spectrum of youth experiences play a key role in promoting youth well-being and mental health.

2. Action by Member States

35. Member States have taken various approaches to planning, implementation and engagement.

36. In Azerbaijan, a youth development strategy includes a focus on mental health. In addition, State programmes are focused on diverse social groups of youth, with

projects implemented to expand psychosocial services for young people, including those at risk and young families.

37. Brazil has youth statutes, the focus areas of which include citizenship, social and political involvement, youth representation, education, employment, income, diversity and equality.

38. In Ecuador, an intersectoral partnership created a national strategy for preventing suicide and substance abuse among youth. Under a national strategic mental health plan, a community health model is used to provide counselling services and scientific information on behavioural disorders and substance use, in addition to services in emergencies and disasters.

39. Finland has a national youth work and youth policy programme, together with a national mental health strategy covering the period 2020–2030, in which young people's mental health is included as a focus area. Approaches include early intervention and support in schools, access to substance abuse services and digital infrastructure to provide access to online services.

40. Georgia adopted a new national youth policy concept for the period 2020–2030. It follows an early detection community-based model to improve young people's mental health and emotional well-being by raising public awareness, providing social support, encouraging positive parenting skills and offering tailored non-stigmatizing services.

41. In Guatemala, the National Youth Council works with youth to identify and address problems, including limited access to mental health services. Its strategic action plan is focused on young people and education, as well as mental health.

42. Honduras has adopted a national youth policy for the period 2021–2030, in which it accords priority to mental health by emphasizing suicide and substance abuse prevention, self-esteem for adolescents and youth and primary prevention.

43. Hungary promotes pupils' physical and mental health at the primary and secondary levels of education. Its integrative approach includes schools, pupils, parents, health-care providers and social workers.

44. In Italy, the Ministry of Youth Policy has launched a working group on youth distress and the pandemic. A project on mental health for children affected by the pandemic is also under way.

45. In Lithuania, the Ministry of Health has identified the provision of psychological support for youth as a priority and is assigning psychologists to work in youth centres and spaces. In addition, the Department of Youth Affairs is training youth workers to enhance their emotional well-being.

46. Malta is rolling out its new youth policy, to cover the period up to 2030. It is aimed at reaching out to, working with and supporting youth to fulfil their potential, address their concerns and enable active citizenship.

47. In Mexico, the National Institute for Youth contributes to mental health and enhances quality of life by working with youth. It has established a quick-response psychological support network, including remote availability, to address, among other things, stress, depression and substance abuse.

48. Namibia launched a national youth policy in June 2021 in which it included health and well-being as one of four pillars.

49. Peru has a national youth policy that includes a focus on mental health, especially in relation to the societal impact of COVID-19. Peru promotes adaptive

and resilient behaviour in youth through personalized psychological care and open virtual events.

50. Romania has adopted a national youth strategy for the period 2021–2027 that includes a focus on access to modern medical facilities.

51. Singapore launched a youth action plan in 2019. In 2020, a cross-sectoral COVID-19 mental wellness task force was initiated to review the psychosocial impact of the pandemic on population groups, including youth, and take stock of mental health and well-being initiatives and identify gaps. The Youth Action Challenge connects youth with government agencies and industry experts to identify problems and initiate solutions, including for mental health.

52. Slovenia is working with youth on such topics as mental health by supporting the National Youth Council. It has set up an expert group of youth organizations and other stakeholders to enhance those organizations' work on mental health, including through advocacy, and participation.

53. Thailand, working with the Children and Youth Council, assists young people in shelters in several provinces by providing services, including those related to mental health.

3. Action by the United Nations

54. Efforts by the United Nations include initiatives to enhance existing programmes to encompass mental health. They range from global to local in scope.

55. The next edition of the *World Youth Report*, prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is focused on the role of inclusive social policies in improving young people's mental health and well-being. The Department will bring together new data, insights and lived experiences to chart an agenda on the determinants of youth mental health, including education, work, online environments, family and society.

56. The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action launched a technical guide, entitled "COVID-19: working with and for young people", which includes mental health and psychosocial support as an integral part of the continuation of health services during the pandemic.

57. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have jointly coordinated an indigenous youth academy since 2019, designed to address the needs and interests of indigenous young professionals, academics and representatives, with an emphasis on mental health.

58. In 2020, the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) hosted a webinar series using the hashtag "Coping with COVID" (#CopingwithCOVID), which provided young people with a platform to learn from one another and experts, generate mental health awareness and strengthen the call for youth-centred mental health support and services. More than 40 young people in 20 countries were engaged.

59. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in partnership with youth organizations, the private sector, the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, launched a youth against COVID-19 campaign addressing risk communication and community engagement, including for mental health and psychosocial support. In addition, UNFPA conducted internal workshops on mental health and psychosocial support.

60. The Peacebuilding Support Office has launched an initiative promoting the meaningful participation of women and youth in local peacebuilding processes. It is prioritizing proposals that include strengthening mental health and psychosocial well-being.

61. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict engages in advocacy for the protection and reintegration of children under the age of 18 years. It is focusing on mental health and supporting Member States in relation to initiatives by the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict.

62. The Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth participated in the WHO Mental Health Forum 2020, at which participants considered the changing landscape of global mental health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlighted the urgency of supporting young people's mental health needs.

63. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has published *Words into Action: Engaging Children and Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building*, which provides people-centred guidance on such issues as mental health. At the regional level, the upcoming second Arab Youth Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction will include emphasis on mental health.

64. UNICEF uses digital platforms to engage with youth and enable them to share experiences and combat stigma. Its global multisectoral operational framework on mental health for 2022 includes strategies for youth engagement at all stages of the programme cycle.

65. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has utilized innovative responses to support youth offenders during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on psychosocial interventions. It also co-created the Youth Co:Lab, which benefits young entrepreneurs, including in terms of mental health.

66. Under the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme run by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, young people are enabled to influence policies on violent extremism in their countries. Findings include the need for investment in free mental health services for youth through schools and youth centres.

67. Under the Listen First programme run by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), support has been galvanized for science-based substance abuse prevention and positive mental health development, as well as strengthening familial relationships. Its youth forum supported youth to learn about mental health and preventing substance abuse. In addition, a science-based package with elements of family therapy for adolescents affected by substance abuse has been developed.

68. UNHCR published a document entitled "Strengthening mental health and psychosocial support in 2021", expanding on the operational guidance for mental health and psychosocial support in refugee programming and offering strategies for improving the integration of mental health and psychosocial support into regular programming, including for youth.

B. Global technological commons[9]

1. Overview

69. For many decades, the General Assembly has been mindful of the difficulties and opportunities presented by technological change.

70. In 2015, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism was established under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (resolution 69/313) and the 2030 Agenda to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Subsequent resolutions, in particular resolutions 72/242 and 73/17, pertain specifically to rapid technological change and its impact on the achievement of the Goals. In addition, information and communications technology is highlighted as a priority area in the World Programme of Action for Youth, with specific action items such as providing training to promote its use and protecting youth from its detrimental elements.

71. The spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness can accelerate human progress, bridge the digital divide and develop knowledge societies, as can scientific and technological innovation across diverse areas.

72. However, there are also negative consequences, including labour displacement, concerns about privacy and respect for human rights and the possibility that harnessing technology to advance towards achieving one of the Goals could negatively affect others.

73. Numerous problems are exacerbated by the digital divide. The possibility that improvements in digital technology could benefit the already connected while increasing inequality within and across countries must be addressed through effective policies that achieve the shared objective of leaving no one behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the pre-existing digital divide and technological inequality, adversely affecting young people's access to education.

74. As of 2020, while 93 per cent of the world's population were living within physical reach of mobile broadband or Internet services, only 53.6 per cent used the Internet, leaving an estimated 3.6 billion people without access.

75. Promoting access does not immediately guarantee a reduction of inequalities. The proliferation of digital technology, without inclusive policies and governance, can be a driver of inequalities, as represented by the rural-urban divide within countries. That can further contribute to low social mobility and uneven development, which has an impact on many vulnerable and excluded groups, especially young people.

76. In addition, those without consistent, reliable access to the Internet or other technology face drastic barriers to inclusive social development. The digital divide reflects and amplifies existing social, cultural and economic inequalities, especially

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[9] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following sources: United Nations, "Report of the Secretary-General: roadmap for digital cooperation", June 2020, available from www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/assets/pdf/Roadmap_for_Digital_Cooperation_EN.pdf (see also A/74/821); https://sdgs.un.org/tfm; *World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World* (United Nations publication, 2020); *World Youth Report: Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (United Nations publication, 2020); *United Nations E-Government Survey 2020: Digital Government in the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development* (United Nations publication, 2020); UNICEF, *Programme Guidance: Strengthening Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems* (New York, 2019); and UNICEF, "UNICEF Innovation Fund welcomes six drone startups to help solve global challenges", 6 December 2019, available from www.unicef.org/innovation/venturefund/dronescohort.

for traditionally marginalized groups, including young women, indigenous youth and youth from low-income areas.

77. As the decade of action for the Goals begins, digital technology will be essential in accelerating efforts to achieve the Goals for young people, especially in low-income and middle-income countries. To forge a COVID-19 recovery that truly bridges the digital divide and leaves no one behind, innovative approaches to technology and its use and governance are needed.

78. Devising policies that incorporate new technology and align with Goal implementation will be critical to building back better. In his report entitled "Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation" (A/74/821), the Secretary-General laid emphasis on the need for an inclusive digital economy and society, in addition to utilizing new technology to accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals. A key recommendation is digital public goods, which are "open-source software, open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable international and domestic laws, standards and best practices and do no harm" (ibid., footnote 18). As with conventional public goods, digital public goods are made available to all members of society, including youth, regardless of socioeconomic circumstances. They offer an opportunity to transform social protection and reduce inequalities by empowering digital public services, social enterprises and youth as co-designers. Their successful implementation pushes the world towards a new social contract, in part by enabling greater digital access for young people.

2. Action by Member States

79. Member States' efforts vary in their approach to planning, implementation and engagement.

80. Azerbaijan has a youth development strategy that includes a focus on access to technology by promoting digital skills, including for those with special needs. It is also focused on protecting young people from extremist and discriminatory propaganda through technology. A State programme pertains to strengthening the information technology infrastructure.

81. In 2018, Ecuador joined the Open Government Partnership, which is focused on applying new technology to improve governance. In addition, it launched a plan for Internet for all, aimed at bridging the digital divide, including through improved access for underserved populations.

82. In Guatemala, the issue of scarce scientific and technological knowledge is part of the national youth policy. The Government promotes science and technology as fundamental components of national development, including by recognizing them as media for cultural expression, sports, education, health, economy, work and participation.

83. Mexico, through collaboration with stakeholders, has initiated a digital skills laboratory, which develops digital skills for employability and enhances access to and use of technology.

84. In Peru, the "I Learn at Home" strategy, implemented in collaboration with telecommunications companies, is intended to support education by providing interactive multichannel platforms, including radio, television and the Internet, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations.

85. Romania has an education system digitalization strategy through which it aims to create a high-performing digital ecosystem to foster inclusive digital education, social equity and resilience, while emphasizing innovation, sustainability, lifelong learning and accessibility.

86. Slovenia has established a strategic council for digitalization, which includes youth participation and is focused on young people's digital work and digital participation. The National Youth Council has been using digital tools and producing publications for effective online learning processes.

87. Thailand supports youth participation through online platforms. To tackle some threats posed by information technology, the Department of Children and Youth has drafted an action plan, covering the period 2020–2026, for prevention and mitigation with regard to children and youth and online gambling, as well as building social responsibility with regard to electronic sports. It has also published learning material for elementary schoolchildren.

3. Action by the United Nations

88. Action by United Nations entities includes increasingly utilizing technology to implement programmes and expand reach and initiating new or enhancing existing programmes that include a technology component as an enabler. Fewer programmes, however, directly take the agenda of the global technological commons forward.

89. The Peacebuilding Support Office collaborated with the Folke Bernadotte Academy, UNFPA, UNDP and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to launch *Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook*, intended to guide field practitioners and increase capacity, including related to technology.

90. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction collaborated with UNESCO, the African Union Commission and the Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction to develop a mobile application to enable a better understanding of disaster risk reduction. It is also engaging youth in regional and global science processes and developing knowledge products, including the *Hazard Definition & Classification Review: Technical Report*. The European Science and Technology Group includes two young scientists.

91. UNDP and the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area were awarded an innovation grant to launch a gamification project that integrates gaming technology into awareness-raising and supports real-world, impact-driven climate action.

92. UNFPA, with UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO, has developed an inter-agency framework for youth-centred digital health interventions. It provides guidance on the effective planning, development and implementation of digital solutions to health challenges, with and for young people.

93. FAO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization have co-hosted an event discussing how youth can benefit from innovation and technology in relation to agribusiness digitalization.

94. The Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Cybersecurity Tech Accord and the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth partnered to promote innovative thinking on open, secure, stable and accessible cyberspace for all. In addition, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in partnership with the children and youth major group, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations and the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology, hosted an event on the impact of COVID-19 on technology and digital space.

95. Leading up to the high-level thematic debate on digital cooperation and connectivity, on 27 April 2021, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on

Technology, the children and youth major group and the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth launched the Youth Media Expression Campaign.

96. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is according priority to reducing the digital divide among youth and using technology to achieve the Goals. Its Youth4Cyber initiative is aimed at empowering a global network of students to create a community of passionate cybersecurity professionals and providing guidance on career paths in technology. Its partnership with the children and youth major group is engaging with youth to share impactful innovations.

97. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict supports young people's inclusion and access to technology as essential elements of integration into communities and access to education, especially in the COVID-19 context.

98. In its new Innovation Strategy, UNICEF uses a portfolio approach to select and invest in promising innovations that can be scaled up. It has nine thematic portfolios, including climate change and mental health.

99. UNFPA is tracking and preventing online sex trafficking, with a focus on young women and girls, while also creating safe digital spaces for youth to collaborate and manage the impact of COVID-19, as well as offer access to mental health and psychosocial support.

100. UNDP, working with the private sector, has increased the impact of its work through access to technology and mentorship.

101. FAO has a rural youth action plan and a strategic framework for the period 2022–2031. Both include a focus on access to technology, innovation and data, especially for rural youth. FAO is using the Open Tenure tool and participatory methodologies to empower youth to effectively participate and ascertain, demarcate and protect their customary land rights.

102. UNODC global and regional initiatives include working with youth on blockchain-based solutions for anti-corruption issues, promoting technology-based solutions for issues of rule of law, partnering with Governments and civil society to boost youth capacity with regard to digital technology, preventing cybercrime, using technology to address violence, cyberbullying and online sexual exploitation and promoting digital rights.

103. The Regional Office for the Pacific of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that Pacific youth were suffering greatly from the digital divide and that new ways must be found to overcome it, as it was preventing marginalized youth from being able to engage effectively.

104. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean published *Educación, Juventud y Trabajo: Habilidades y Competencias Necesarias en un Contexto Cambiante*, in which it discussed risks of automation in the Ibero-American region and the skills required for youth education and training. It also published *Childhood and Adolescence in the Digital Age: A Comparative Report of the Kids Online Surveys in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay* and held a webinar thereon.

105. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) collaborated with partners to develop Earth School, an online platform for nature-focused lessons. It is also working with the video gaming industry through the Playing for the Planet Alliance to reduce carbon emissions and use its influence and creativity to address pressing environmental issues.

106. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) works on building capacity for youth on technology related

to its functions and to receive input on its strategic direction. It also accords priority to youth participation in its science and technology conference.

107. The Office for Outer Space Affairs works with youth to support the United Nations Programme on Space Applications by raising awareness and facilitating an exchange of ideas. It is also working to create enabling environments through global digital convenings focused on access to space technology and data to tackle climate challenges.

108. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, working with regional partners, organized an event to present green technology, including an interactive exhibition showcasing examples of youth-led efforts and green technology transfer.

109. UNESCO is working to tackle high youth unemployment by improving youth knowledge of digital skills, including through massive open online courses. It is also implementing low-cost distance education solutions for rural communities using radio.

110. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed a mobile application with partners to educate migrants, including youth, about safe, regular and dignified migration. In addition, its digital portal is used by stakeholders, including youth in origin and destination countries, to facilitate skills and knowledge transfer.

C. Climate change and biodiversity loss[10]

1. Overview

111. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the past four years were the four hottest on record. The world is at least 1°C above pre-industrial levels and close to what scientists warn would be "an unacceptable risk". In the Paris Agreement on climate change, calls were made for holding eventual warming to "well below" 2°C and for the pursuit of efforts to limit the increase even further, to 1.5°C. If global emissions do not slow, however, temperatures could rise to above 3°C by 2100, causing further irreversible damage to ecosystems. In the face of that reality, human activity is producing greenhouse gas emissions at a record high, with no signs of slowing. According to a 10-year summary of UNEP reports on emission gaps, the world is on track to maintain a "business as usual" trajectory.

112. The environmental crisis is a manifestation of growing systemic risks that have widespread cascading effects across countries and economies. There are direct interlinkages between biodiversity loss, natural hazards and disasters. Disasters cause massive damage to the environment, while degraded environments exacerbate disaster impact. No corner of the globe is immune from the devastating consequences of systemic environmental degradation. The world is seeing a rise in natural disasters,

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[10] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following sources: World Meteorological Organization, "Global climate in 2015–2019: climate change accelerates", 22 September 2019, available from https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-climate-2015-2019-climate-change-accelerates; UNEP, *Emissions Gap Report 2019* (Nairobi, 2019); United Nations, "The climate crisis: a race we can win", 2019, available from www.un.org/en/un75/climate-crisis-race-we-can-win; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Report of the UN economist network for the UN 75th anniversary: shaping the trends of our time", September 2020, available from www.un.org/development/desa/publications/report-of-the-un-economist-network-for-the-un-75th-anniversary-shaping-the-trends-of-our-time.html; Rajendra K. Pachauri and others, eds., *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report – Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (Geneva, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2014); and UNDP, "Consideration for integrating nature-based solutions in nationally determined contributions illustrating the potential through REDD+", 2021, available from www.undp.org/publications/consideration-integrating-nature-based-solutions-nationally-determined-contributions.

weather extremes, food and water insecurity, economic disruption, conflict and terrorism. Business as usual is not good enough. To prepare for these risks, investment is needed to strengthen resilience.

113. The year 2021 is crucial for the environment. It is the year of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The science is clear that the world is far from achieving the climate and biodiversity goals, but also that it is not too late to reverse the trend. That will require fundamental transformations in all aspects of society – how food is grown, land is used, goods are transported and economies are powered.

114. Nature-based solutions provide "breathing room" while fundamental shifts are tackled. Ecosystems can be systematically harnessed to prevent, mitigate or provide buffers against natural hazards and the impact of climate change. Such solutions allow the world to mitigate risk while providing vital ecosystem services.

115. A key factor in the global effort to take on climate change and biodiversity loss has been the participation and engagement of youth. They have shaped the narrative, pushed Governments and enabled other stakeholders to act more swiftly and be more ambitious. Collaboration between Governments, businesses, civil society, youth and academia is essential to create a future in which suffering is diminished, justice upheld and harmony between people and planet restored.

116. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in youth activity worldwide concerning environmental action, including through new mechanisms. To catalyse such efforts and increase their effectiveness, it is important to build coherence and strategic coordination across intragenerational and intergenerational efforts and bring the United Nations system together on youth, environmental action and resilience-building, including by building on existing mechanisms.

2. Action by Member States

117. In Azerbaijan, the national priorities for socioeconomic development include a clean environment and green growth. The Sustainable Development Goals Youth Ambassadors project is intended to combat climate change, increase environmental knowledge among youth and develop skills for environmental protection.

118. Ecuador has adopted a national plan for adaptation to climate change to strengthen the capacities of youth. Other programmes are intended to encourage countrywide youth participation to find mitigation solutions.

119. Finland has a national youth work and youth policy, the aim of which is to bring youth voices in the climate change debate to the fore. The theme for the 2022 Youth Barometer will be "Resilience in the era of uncertainty" and include a focus on climate change.

120. In Georgia, the Environmental Information and Education Centre directly and indirectly engages with youth on initiatives, including environmental education, environmental awareness for rural youth and scaling-up of multi-hazard early warning systems.

121. In Guatemala, the National Youth Council is working with relevant ministries on a reforestation initiative.

122. Honduras has established dialogue spaces to learn about youth perceptions of national climate action and strengthen the dialogue between national decision makers and representatives of youth groups.

123. Hungary has launched a national climate change strategy for the period 2019–2030 and a national youth strategy in which it emphasizes the role of youth engagement in tackling climate change and places high importance on awareness-raising and education.

124. In Italy, the Ministry of Ecological Transition involved youth in the process of revising a national strategy for sustainable development.

125. In Mexico, the National Institute for Youth launched environmental leadership projects promoting collaboration for national climate solutions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other partners carried out a national youth consultation on biodiversity. Within the framework of the Pacific Alliance, Mexican youth engage in volunteering programmes for regional environmental development.

126. In Peru, under a national youth policy, youth capacity-building and engagement in environmental management are promoted. The Youth Promotion Group strengthens decentralized youth participation to monitor compliance with climate change policies and create suggestions.

127. Romania has a United Nations youth delegates programme managed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes education for sustainable development initiatives.

128. Singapore works with youth to raise awareness about climate change, encourage sustainability practices and leverage community partners for environment-related learning opportunities. Key projects include volunteering through the Youth Corps Singapore. Singapore also works with schools, communities and families to build a culture of sustainability through stewardship programmes.

129. In Slovenia, the National Youth Council has organized workshops and is working with youth organizations to raise awareness about climate change and promote pro-environmental policies and legislation through dialogue with policymakers.

130. Thailand collaborates with the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to implement the ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience Day.

3. Action by the United Nations

131. United Nations entities have enhanced their focus on climate change and biodiversity loss. Their activities include capacity-building for youth to better understand climate change and biodiversity, collaborative programming and direct engagement of youth in United Nations processes related to climate and biodiversity.

132. The Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other partners supported the Youth Climate Summit during the 2019 Climate Action Summit. In addition, Italy, the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and the World Bank coordinated a youth climate dialogue series. The Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security has recently initiated discussions on climate action.

133. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO, the children and youth major group, UNDP and UNEP work with youth on the "Youth for Nature" campaign.

134. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is working with youth to address disaster risk and climate change, including through capacity-building, education, leadership development and enabling more spaces for youth regionally and globally.

135. UNICEF is ramping up its support for youth engagement on issues related to environment and climate change using digital platforms, toolkits, capacity-building and partnerships.

136. UNFPA has established a joint youth working group on climate change to facilitate youth engagement on problems such as climate change and sexual and reproductive health. It has also created the Climate Hack Lab to examine how innovation may be used to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the climate adaptation goal.

137. UNDP is contributing to developing a youth engagement plan under the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership to strengthen work with and for young people on climate action. It is also engaging in national youth capacity-building initiatives.

138. FAO, through partnerships, is working with youth on climate change at the national, regional and global levels, with a strong emphasis on indigenous youth. Its initiatives include building capacity, enabling engagement and fostering interlinkages with other thematic topics.

139. ITU is working with youth on electronic waste through a global multi-stakeholder engagement initiative, including an icon design contest.

140. Under the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme run by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, young people are supported in shaping national policies on violent extremism. The results of its consultations reflect specific youth priorities on climate change.

141. The Regional Office for the Pacific of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is working with partners to coordinate capacity-building for youth, including on such issues as a human rights approach to climate change and climate-induced migration.

142. The efforts of the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth include providing safe online spaces for youth to share stories, present initiatives on climate and access resources, supporting the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change and moderating a dialogue between youth and the Deputy Secretary-General.

143. UNEP initiatives include *GEO-6 for Youth*, an interactive publication created by and for young people to make high-level scientific information on the environment accessible to a youth audience, and the *Little Book of Green Nudges: 40 Nudges to Spark Sustainable Behaviour on Campus*, a publication that includes example of possible behavioural changes to bring about greater sustainability.

144. CTBTO capacity-building for youth is focused on its International Monitoring System, which provides access to data for climate change research and extreme weather warnings.

145. The Office for Outer Space Affairs and partners have launched initiatives for students and young professionals to present new ways to combat and mitigate climate change.

146. The creation of the Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network has galvanized extensive and theoretically diverse work by UNESCO on climate change. In addition, its Programme on Man and the Biosphere is engaging with youth living or working in biosphere reserves for activities concerning biodiversity.

147. The theme for the International Dialogue on Migration in 2021 was "Accelerating integrated action on sustainable development: migration, the environment and climate change". The event included diverse youth speakers who shared their perspective.

IV. United Nations efforts at the international, regional and national levels

A. United Nations Youth Strategy[11]

148. In *Youth2030: A Global Progress Report*, the achievements and impact of the United Nations Youth Strategy are outlined, drawing on input from 33 United Nations entities and 130 United Nations country teams.

149. The global coordination structure includes a high-level steering committee, a joint working group and a secretariat.

150. Highlighted in the report are the following:

(a)   The United Nations response to the needs of youth during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b)   The rowing momentum in the United Nations system in relation to youth and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels;

(c)   The fact that the United Nations reform process is reflected in youth programming of the new generation of United Nations country teams, including joint planning, implementation and coordination;

(d)   The effective tracking of results and resources for youth, and transparency of reporting on youth in the United Nations system;

(e)   The fact that two foundational areas of the Strategy – internships and the youth workforce – need particular attention;

(f)   An assessment of how the United Nations system is delivering for and with youth across entities and country teams.

151. The fast-track countries are Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Jordan, Morocco, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Uzbekistan. They serve as case studies to model joint United Nations work on youth, test new knowledge products before the global roll-out, support cutting-edge research and innovation and foster strategic partnerships for results and resources.

152. Current priorities include facilitating transformative youth development shifts to achieve the Goals, recovering better from the pandemic and ensuring coherent United Nations country team delivery for and with youth.

B. Economic and Social Council youth forum

153. The Economic and Social Council youth forum, an initiative of the President of the Council, is an annual global convening of young people at the United Nations. It provides a platform for youth to contribute to policy discussions through their collective ideas, solutions and innovation.

154. The year 2021 marked the tenth anniversary of the forum. The theme was "A decade of action: building a resilient recovery", and the participants specifically looked at the Goals under review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development: Goals 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 12 (sustainable consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 16 (peaceful, just and inclusive

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[11] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following source: *Youth2030: A Global Progress Report* (United Nations publication, 2021).

societies) and 17 (partnership), in the context of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.

155. Aside from being virtual, changes were made to make the forum even more open, accessible and inclusive. For example, regional preparatory events included the participation of youth organizations and government representatives. In addition, it used an open registration process, enhanced the role of youth in organizational functions and broadened the scope of partners involved.

C. Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development

156. The Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development facilitates cooperation among United Nations entities on matters related to youth. It currently brings together 56 entities and includes a designated youth engagement and co-chairing mechanism through its Youth Caucus. It enhances coherence and effectiveness by identifying joint priorities, sharing good practices and ensuring meaningful coordination across the United Nations pillars and areas of work: peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian action. It does so by providing a space for planning jointly, developing knowledge products, providing advice and enabling system-wide capacity-building. Furthermore, it convenes thematic inter-agency initiatives and organizes dedicated labs for relevant areas of interest.

157. In 2021, after 11 years of operation, the Network undertook a forward-looking reflection exercise to remain fit for purpose and better deliver as one United Nations with and for youth.

158. ITU succeeded UNODC as the rotating Co-Chair and, together with the permanent Co-Chair, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Youth Caucus, hosted the virtual annual meeting in 2021.

D. *World Youth Report*[12]

159. The *World Youth Report 2020*, prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, contributes to understanding how youth social entrepreneurship can support youth development and accelerate the achievement of the Goals. The Department synthesizes the current discussion on social entrepreneurship and assesses challenges. It also analyses social entrepreneurship's impact on youth employment and explores the role of frontier technology and digital public goods in further enabling social entrepreneurship to contribute to sustainable development throughout a country's development cycle. Lastly, it offers policy suggestions for an enabling, responsive and sustainable national ecosystem for young social entrepreneurs.

E. International Youth Day

160. In 2020, International Youth Day was celebrated under the leadership of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNODC. The theme was "Youth engagement for global action". It presented an opportunity to highlight and mainstream youth voices, action and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement in response to global concerns.

161. In 2021, International Youth Day was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, FAO and the children and youth major group, under the theme

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[12] The information presented herein has been drawn from the following source: *World Youth Report: Youth, Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda* (United Nations publication, 2020).

"Transforming food systems: youth innovation for human and planetary health", maintaining momentum in the lead-up to the Food Systems Summit.

F. Additional United Nations efforts

162. The youth delegate programme of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs remains a critical channel for enabling youth to participate in United Nations processes by formally joining their national delegations at intergovernmental meetings. The seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly saw 67 youth delegates from 32 Member States and 1 from a Permanent Observer, while the seventy-fourth session saw 66 youth delegates from 39 Member States.

163. Identifying and addressing emerging and frontier issues is critical in keeping the United Nations relevant, fit for purpose and forward-looking. An initiative on emerging issues in youth policy coordinated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs works with youth constituencies to identify emerging issues and co-develop knowledge products to inform relevant processes with insight and solutions. In 2021, the initiative has been working on mental health, climate change, global technological commons, gender equity and rebuilding trust in multilateralism.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

164. **In the present report, emphasis has been laid on the progress and challenges that youth face in relation to the multilateral system, more specifically in relation to mental health, climate change and biodiversity and global technological commons, all of which are of particular concern to youth and are becoming increasingly important for the United Nations.**

165. **Rebuilding trust in multilateralism in relation to youth requires a renewed, genuine and action-oriented effort to operationalize the conditions for delivering as one United Nations, with and for youth.**

166. **Such measures will generate positive momentum towards increased effectiveness and legitimacy by addressing perceptions of fragmentation, gridlock, indifference and a lack of accountability and diversity.**

167. **On the basis of the information received and analysis performed, the following recommendations are made:**

   (a) **There should be an all-of-society and all-of-government approach to make mental health services inclusive of youth, in particular those who are marginalized, vulnerable and stigmatized, through, among other things, targeted investment in COVID-19 recovery efforts;**

   (b) **Governments and other stakeholders should work individually and collaboratively to ensure that youth have secure, meaningful and open access to technology and digital public goods, usable by all, with and without disabilities, and in particular those on the wrong side of the digital divide;**

   (c) **Governments, the United Nations system and other stakeholders should consider engaging diverse youth in joint forward-looking planning and implementation in relation to climate change and biodiversity across intragenerational and intergenerational efforts.**

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