



United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

**Sixty-first session
(1–25 June 2021)**

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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.

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Chapter I

Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session on 15 April 2021 and its substantive session from 1 to 25 June 2021.
2. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the precautionary measures implemented at United Nations Headquarters, the Committee met by virtual means during its substantive session from 1 to 24 June and held an in-person closing meeting on 25 June.

A. Agenda

3. The agenda for the sixty-first session, adopted by the Committee at its organizational session, was as follows:
 1. Election of officers.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget for 2022;
 - (b) Evaluation.
 4. Coordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
 - (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
 5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
 6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-first session.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

4. At its organizational session, held virtually on 15 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat ([E/AC.51/2021/L.2](#)), in which it was stated that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee had been invited to select the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of management and administration in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean" ([A/75/874](#)) for consideration at its sixty-first session.

Programme of work

5. At the same meeting, the attention of the Committee was also drawn to the annotated provisional agenda ([E/AC.51/2021/1/Rev.1](#)) and the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation ([E/AC.51/2021/L.1](#)) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.
6. Also 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. The Committee decided

that meetings held during the substantive session would be predominantly virtual, with the exception of the closing meeting, which would be held in person on 25 June.

7. Following the meeting on the organization of work held on 1 June during the substantive session, an informal briefing was given by the Secretary of the Committee, on organizational matters.

B. Election of officers

8. At its organizational session, on 15 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Giovanni Buttigieg (Malta), from the Group of Western European and other States, as Vice-Chair for the sixty-first session.

9. On 8 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Menzisi Mkhululi Mabuza (Eswatini), from the Group of African States, as Vice-Chair for the sixty-first session.

10. On 11 June, the representative of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the month of June, informed the Committee that the Group would relinquish its turn as Chair of the Committee at its sixty-first session, without setting a precedent and without altering the established pattern of rotation.

11. Consequently, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Giovanni Buttigieg (Malta), from the Group of Western European and other States, as Chair and Federico González (Uruguay), from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, as Vice-Chair at its sixty-first session.

12. On 24 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Arman Khachatryan (Armenia), from the Eastern European Group, as Rapporteur for the sixty-first session.

13. Accordingly, the members of the Bureau for the sixty-first session of the Committee were:

Chair:

Giovanni Buttigieg (Malta)

*Vice-Chairs:*¹

Menzisi Mkhululi Mabuza (Eswatini)

Federico González (Uruguay)

Rapporteur:

Arman Khachatryan (Armenia)

C. Attendance

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

Angola	Italy
Argentina	Japan
Armenia	Liberia
Belarus	Mali

¹ In the absence of any nomination for the position of Vice-Chair from the Asia-Pacific Group, the seat remained vacant.

Brazil	Malta
Cameroon	Mauritania
China	Pakistan
Comoros	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Philippines
Cuba	Poland
Eswatini	Republic of Korea
Ethiopia	Russian Federation
France	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Germany	United States of America
India	Uruguay
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	

15. The following States Members of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Botswana	Morocco
Israel	Syrian Arab Republic
Kenya	European Union

16. Also present at the session were the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions; Acting Head, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization; Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services; Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office, United Nations Environment Programme; Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships, UN-Women; Executive Director of the International Trade Centre; Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist and Officer-in-Charge, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights; Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, New York Office; Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa; Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs; Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar; Assistant Secretary-General and Head of 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; Secretary of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and Director of its secretariat; Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Inspector and

Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit; Executive Secretary of the Joint Inspection Unit; Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management; Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management; Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance; Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Controller; Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources; Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support; Assistant Secretary-General for Support Operations; Assistant Secretary-General for Supply Chain Management; Acting Assistant Secretary-General/Chief Information and Technology Officer; Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security; and other senior officials of the Secretariat.

D. Documentation

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

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

18. At its substantive session, on 25 June, the Rapporteur of the Committee introduced the draft report of the Committee ([E/AC.51/2021/L.4](#) and addenda) and the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-second session ([E/AC.51/2021/L.3](#)).

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-second session ([E/AC.51/2021/L.3](#)) and decided that it would be updated in the light of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session and by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

21. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation, Costa Rica, the United States and China. The Chair made concluding remarks.

Chapter II

Programme questions

A. Proposed programme budget for the year 2022

Programme 1

General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

22. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 2\)](#)).

23. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management introducing the programme. The Under-Secretary-General, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

24. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the excellent work of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and for the programme plan presented. The Department's compliance with the simultaneous issuance of documents in the six official languages was commended. It was the view of several delegations that there was a need to continue to strengthen and support the principle of multilingualism, which was of utmost importance and which was a core and fundamental value of the United Nations aimed at promoting, protecting and preserving the diversity of languages. Equal treatment of all languages in each organ of the United Nations was advocated, and in document publishing, translation and interpretation in all entities, including United Nations Headquarters, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Office at Nairobi and regional commissions. Appreciation was expressed for the work carried out by the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, who was responsible for Secretariat-wide coordination of multilingualism, as well as for the efficient, transparent and successful implementation of relevant objectives. A delegation stressed the importance of maintaining multilingualism as a key performance indicator.

25. Appreciation and support were expressed for the consistent indicators of the Department, which were quality, timeliness, multilingualism, cost-effectiveness and sustainability, as well as the accessibility of its services, and the Department was encouraged to continue to follow those indicators and improve its high quality of work. A delegation reaffirmed its desire to see clear, measurable and time-bound performance measures in the programme plan and expressed the view that there was room for performance measures, such as the survey results presented in figures 2.XVIII, 2.XIX and 2.XXX, to be further contextualized and that the binary nature of the performance measures might not provide much context on further ways in which the Department could enhance its services and also enable Member States to provide the Department with the means to increase resources if needed.

26. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Department in ensuring the smooth provision of mandated services during challenging times conditioned by safety and health measures owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had changed the working modalities of the United Nations. It was observed that business continuity

in that new environment had required new and innovative solutions and that conference services had quickly adapted to the unprecedented situation. One delegation commended the professionalism of the Department's staff, which, it stated, went beyond mere client orientation and a service delivery approach with a great sense of responsibility for the global mandates of the Organization. Another delegation commended the Department for the way in which it had adapted and worked tirelessly to help to keep the intergovernmental process operational during the pandemic, including enabling the adoption of decisions and resolutions during that time.

27. Delegations welcomed and expressed support for the Department's strategy of continuous modernization and improvement, which made the shift to virtual and hybrid environments possible. Noting the way in which the Department had harnessed technology and different ways of working to enhance the services that it provided and maximize its use of resources over the years, a delegation stated that it considered the Department to be an example for other parts of the Secretariat of how technology could improve their work. Another delegation encouraged the Department to embrace new working methods as appropriate to the context. The Department's assessment of the efficacy of the hybrid format, as well as its impact on the participation of smaller delegations, was sought. Noting paragraphs 2.40 and 2.41, which described decision-making during the pandemic, when there were no in-person meetings and decision-making came to a standstill, the same delegation sought the views of the Department on lessons learned, including on the possibility of remote decision-making, should there be another unprecedented event that prevented the United Nations from meeting physically.

28. A delegation stressed the importance of ensuring the proper functioning of the language sections and preserving the provision of high-quality conference services at all duty stations, including the simultaneous availability of all documents and the provision of conference services in the six official languages. The delegation welcomed the Department's focus on recalibrating the skills and occupational orientation of language professionals as a viable option to ensure a supply of talented linguists who had the skills required by the United Nations. The same delegation expressed support for the Department's work in reaching out to universities and other institutions around the world, as that would enable universities to prepare young and talented experts to work in language sections. The delegation observed that language posts were not subject to geographical distribution because language staff were recruited through rigorous competitive examinations to identify professionals with the superior and highly specialized skills required by United Nations conference services and stressed that the Department's methods of recruiting such staff should therefore be fully based on that principle. Another delegation highlighted that language staff should be recruited and trained in a timely manner.

29. As host of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a delegation welcomed the continued work of the Department to pursue environmentally friendly and sustainable practices that would contribute to the carbon neutrality of conference servicing and encouraged the Department to go even further in those efforts in 2022.

30. With regard to the matter of issuance of documentation, a delegation made reference to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, whereby the Council reiterated that the Secretariat should circulate relevant documentation in all working languages six weeks before the opening of the sessions of the Council and its subsidiary organs. The delegation pointed out that fewer than half the programme budget documents had been available a week before the session of the Committee, thus undermining the ability of the Committee to do its work effectively. In that regard, the delegation expressed the view that one of the main

reasons for the late issuance of the reports was the volume of documents and sought clarification thereon. The delegation noted that the programme budget as currently constituted consisted of approximately 1.5 million words. In that context, another delegation noted that the objectives and strategies for duty station components within a subprogramme were similar and enquired as to whether, vis-à-vis reporting in the budget document, consideration could be given to merging the objectives, strategies and some of the performance measures for similar components into similar reporting units, such as interpretation across the four duty stations. The delegation stated that such an approach could reduce the length of the document.

31. With regard to subprogramme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs, under result 3: enlarged procedural toolkit for intergovernmental meetings, where it was indicated that the subprogramme would transform, as appropriate, the original scaffolding that it had provided during the pandemic into new modalities that Member States could use, including with regard to new working methods (para. 2.55), a delegation enquired as to whether the Department was planning to undertake that transformation into a new modality, considering that the Assembly had not taken a decision on the so-called “new modality”. Another delegation sought clarification on the new working methods mentioned in the programme narrative, specifically on the definition of those new working methods and how they were different from business continuity. The delegation sought confirmation that developing new working methods in terms of the provision of conference services to Member States was not going to change the working methods recognized and established by Member States and that the prerogative of the Assembly in terms of definition of working methods was not going to be undermined.

32. With regard to conference management, Geneva, subprogramme 3, Documentation services, under result 3: gender-inclusive language in United Nations documentation, a delegation enquired as to what the mandate on utilizing gender-inclusive language was derived from. Another delegation was of the view that the use of gender-inclusive language in the preparation of United Nations documentation had never been mandated by the General Assembly. It was emphasized that the list of legislative mandates, as provided in paragraph 2.168, was very specific and did not provide guidance to the Department on the use of gender-inclusive language in the preparation of all of its documents. Conversely, another delegation welcomed the work that was being done to develop guidance on gender- and disability-inclusive language in the six official languages and to apply that to the documentation that was produced by the Secretariat. While noting that that result had been provided for Geneva, the delegation expressed the hope that the use of gender-inclusive language in documentation would be deployed across all parts of the Secretariat, including in the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and sought clarification on how the Department had been working with other United Nations entities in that regard.

33. With regard to conference management, New York, subprogramme 4, Meetings and publishing services, a delegation noted that there had been a decrease in the printing of published United Nations documents, owing in part to the reduction in the number of meetings (para. 2.109). In that regard, while the need for the preparation and translation of documents was noted, clarification was sought as to why documents needed to be physically printed, given that there was very little demand for them.

Conclusions and recommendations

34. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

Programme 2

Political affairs

35. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 2, Political affairs ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)](#)).

36. The Chair drew attention to the statements of the representative of the Secretary-General for the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and the representative of the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism introducing the programme. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, and the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

37. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in conflict prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and sustaining peace, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Support was expressed for the implementation of the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#). Delegations commended the Department for its work in promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes and mediation, including through its special political missions, and it was noted that that work was crucial to support the mandate of the Council for international peace and security. A delegation noted that the pandemic had the potential to heighten tensions in already difficult circumstances, and welcomed the efforts of the Department, as well as special representatives, envoys and missions in the field, to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19, by combining virtual and in-person work and by accepting calculated risks related to safety in connection with the pandemic.

38. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the Department's work in the areas of subprogramme 4, Decolonization, subprogramme 5, Question of Palestine, and subprogramme 6, Peacebuilding Support Office, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission. Several delegations expressed their support for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and commended the Department for having integrated a gender perspective in its work. The Department's commitment to disability inclusion was also welcomed.

39. A delegation reiterated the principles of peaceful settlement of disputes, the non-use of force and State consent and requested the Department to continue to step up its efforts to promote the political settlement process, increase its good offices and mediation and better fulfil its responsibilities in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The same delegation observed that the implementation of the reform of the peace and security pillar was a long-term process and encouraged the Department to draw on the experiences and lessons learned for further improvement. The view was expressed that underdevelopment was a root cause of many problems, especially in the countries and regions in conflict, and that increasing investment in the field of development to strengthen economic and social weak links was a fundamental way to eliminate various risk factors, laying a solid foundation for peace and achieving long-term stability. Another delegation noted that peace and security

had to be addressed with a multidimensional approach, recognizing the continuum from prevention to long-term development.

40. A delegation emphasized its support for further strengthening the United Nations partnerships with regional organizations and the reinforcement of the Peacebuilding Fund. Referring to paragraph 3.7, another delegation requested further elaboration, including on the mandate for the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility. It was noted that that work also related to the cooperation with the resident coordinator system, and in that context, the same delegation requested further information on such cooperation. The question was raised as to whether the work with the resident coordinator system was limited to coordination with the double- and triple-hatted resident coordinators in special political missions.

41. With regard to subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, support was expressed for the work of the subprogramme and United Nations efforts to improve the capacity of Member States and regional organizations to identify, prevent and address conflict situations. The view was expressed that the work of the subprogramme was at the heart of the Secretary-General's reforms and therefore very important. A delegation welcomed the self-evaluation of United Nations transitions and the increased attention to early transition planning; it noted that the Secretary-General had recently carried out a review of United Nations integration and requested clarity on the steps being taken to ensure greater compliance with the United Nations integrated assessment and planning tools. A delegation noted that the results of the subprogramme remained difficult to evaluate, since it was not possible to determine whether the role of the United Nations in a conflict area had directly improved the situation. Another delegation expressed regret that some areas of the Department did not have sufficient capacity to fully discharge its functions. In reference to paragraphs 3.25 and 3.26, on the programme performance in 2020, the delegation recalled the call by the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire and expressed its support for the mediation efforts of the subprogramme. The same delegation also expressed its support for the work of the special political mission for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, including strengthening the independent capacities of the Office. With regard to the list of legislative mandates for the subprogramme, a delegation questioned whether there was a typographical error in the list, with respect to General Assembly resolution 70/5, since the most recent mandate on that subject was Assembly resolution 74/7.

42. With regard to subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance, a delegation expressed support for the work of the subprogramme, which was critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16. It was emphasized that the Department's work in electoral assistance was of key importance to strengthen democratic States and would play a key role in the upcoming elections in Iraq and Libya. It was observed that the technical support provided by the subprogramme to requesting Member States contributed to capacity-building, and a delegation voiced the expectation that the 2022 programme plan of the subprogramme would be successfully implemented. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the subprogramme's objective, noting that the subprogramme acted and provided electoral assistance on the request of Member States. In respect of coordination across the United Nations system, further clarity was requested as to how the subprogramme ensured that its elections support was appropriately coordinated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant parts of the United Nations system. A question was raised about how many of the 27 projects on electoral assistance in 2020 had been delivered in cooperation with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. With respect to paragraph 3.55 and result 2: increased capacity of Member States to conduct

inclusive, transparent and peaceful elections and increased support to regional organizations, a delegation requested further clarification on the reference to “platforms for electoral capacity-building, institutional memory and knowledge-sharing at the global level”. Another delegation noted that, while the subprogramme had achieved its benchmarks in 2019 with respect to a number of assistance missions, no information had been provided on the results of those electoral missions; the delegation encouraged a more rigorous results-oriented assessment of the benchmark, rather than a simple count of assistance missions.

43. With regard to subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, several delegations commended the subprogramme for its responsive and agile support to the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies, particularly during COVID-19-induced virtual working during the past year. It was noted that, with the subprogramme’s support, the Council had been able to introduce some innovations to virtual working methods, such as recorded video statements. A delegation expressed appreciation for improvements to the Council’s website and enquired as to why engagement time on the website was the preferred metric for measuring results and why other metrics, such as click-through rate or site hits, were not considered. The same delegation also expressed appreciation for the subprogramme’s support for the work of the Council in sanctions activities, including the establishment of expert panels, and the subprogramme’s work to update and maintain a list of experts.

44. With regard to subprogramme 4, Decolonization, a delegation recognized the contribution of the subprogramme to promoting the decolonization process of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions. With respect to result 3: diversified and comprehensive information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the same delegation took note of the text contained in paragraph 3.109 on “other diversified and official sources that would best inform the Committee when considering the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”. In that regard, the delegation emphasized the need to use official sources and ensure the impartiality of those sources of information, in particular, on aspects that could have implications on the final status of territories, and requested clarification with respect to: (a) which other diversified sources would be consulted; (b) what tools and platforms would be used to gain access to the diversified and official sources; and (c) whether result 3 would lead to changes in the elaboration of working papers for the deliberations by the Special Committee. Another delegation expressed the view that the subprogramme’s work was of limited value and emphasized that it was important that consultations take into account the views of those living in those territories.

45. With regard to subprogramme 6, Peacebuilding Support Office, several delegations offered encouragement to United Nations peacebuilding efforts, and the subprogramme was recognized as the backbone of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. It was observed that the subprogramme supported the Peacebuilding Commission in its functioning and provided proper administration of the Peacebuilding Fund. A delegation recognized the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Commission’s planned activities and commended the Commission for its work in quickly adjusting its programmes. The subprogramme was encouraged to enhance closer collaboration between United Nations offices and agencies and broaden the scope of countries engaging with the Commission. A delegation observed that deepening the support to the Commission was important, and information was requested on how the subprogramme aimed to explore opportunities to increase the effectiveness of the Commission.

46. With regard to subprogramme 7, Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, a delegation expressed its understanding of the impact of

the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the subprogramme's planned engagements and noted its expectation that postponed activities would take place in 2021, as conditions allowed, including improved information-sharing and consultations.

47. With regard to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, a delegation welcomed the updates made to the programme plan for the Office as a means of improving its effectiveness, including the outreach to civil society. The same delegation expressed its concern that the exacerbation of political and economic inequalities resulting from COVID-19 could fuel the threat of terrorism and requested clarity on how the Office had addressed those factors in its planned coordination activities with United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

48. Another delegation expressed its support for the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts across the United Nations system to ensure a balanced and more effective implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The same delegation encouraged the Office to continue to focus on the priorities identified in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review and emphasized the importance of repatriating, prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating foreign terrorist fighters and their accompanying families; addressing evolving threats of racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism; and ensuring counter-terrorism measures were based on promoting the rule of law and whole-of-society approaches. A delegation thanked the Office for the updated information related to its prioritized programmatic activities and the preparation of the respective programme plan for 2022 and noted that, as pointed out in the programme narrative, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its consecutive reviews constituted the primary legislative mandate for the Office. The same delegation observed that the General Assembly was planning to adopt a new biennial review resolution by 21 June 2021 and that it was still difficult to say to what extent it would affect institutional arrangements within and beyond the Office, its funding and its priorities in terms of capacity-building. Several delegations expressed concern about the provisions of the proposed programme plan for 2022, which contained references to the initiative aimed at awarding grants to civil society organizations. In that regard, it was noted that none of the previously adopted decisions of the Assembly or the Security Council had provided grant-making authority to the Office. A delegation requested further information on why a proposal on grant-making authority was reflected in the programme plan for the Office when the issue was still under review by Member States. Several delegations observed that, for that reason, they were not ready to endorse that provision in the report, especially before the approval of the new resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review, which was still under consideration.

Conclusions and recommendations

49. **The Committee commended the work undertaken by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to advance the prevention, management and resolution of conflict by peaceful means.**

50. **The Committee welcomed the work undertaken by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to support the work of the Security Council during the exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and noted that the use of an online platform for virtual discussions had facilitated the broad continuation of the work of the Council.**

51. **The Committee also welcomed the work undertaken by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to strengthen the effective role of the**

Peacebuilding Commission in bringing attention to peacebuilding needs, convening key actors and proposing peacebuilding strategies.

52. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen coherence, synergy and coordination in the work of the Organization in the fields of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and development, in accordance with the respective mandates of United Nations entities.

53. The Committee reiterated the importance of promoting political settlement processes, increasing good offices and mediation and implementing the Secretary-General's global ceasefire appeal.

54. The Committee emphasized that efforts needed to be taken to address both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism and to integrate political, economic, judicial, social and other measures in striving to eradicate the root causes of and conditions conducive to terrorism and extremism.

55. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

Section V

United Nations Office to the African Union

Strategy

Paragraph 3.296

Delete “, and with a special focus on,”.

Section VI

Office of Counter-Terrorism

Strategy

Paragraph 3.342 (d)

Replace the existing text with the following:

In requesting Member States, integration of human rights norms and standards in relevant measures taken in the context of preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Planned results for 2022

Result 3: improved security of major sporting events and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism through sports and its values

Paragraph 3.375

In the second sentence, after “grants”, insert “, by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute,”.

Programme 3 Disarmament

56. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 3, Disarmament ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 4\)](#)).

57. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General introducing the programme. Representatives of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

58. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs on multilateral efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, including its substantive engagement and unwavering support for the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council decisions and resolutions.

59. It was emphasized that the Office's performance was of the utmost importance and that its efforts should be unbiased, tailored, focused and ergonomic and should explicitly and directly respond to the needs of Member States as set out in relevant mandates. A delegation highlighted that the programme, although practical in nature, had far-reaching political consequences. The programme was described as a practical instrument to guide the efforts of the Secretariat within its technical mandate and should therefore not include any political conclusions, especially when it came to such sensitive issues as disarmament and non-proliferation. The delegation further expressed the view that the programme was designed to contribute to the implementation of existing United Nations mandates and noted that, in several instances, the programme plan failed to meet that criterion. In particular, reference was made to paragraph 4.3, in which the initiative of the Secretary-General, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, was listed as a guide for the Office's activities. It was highlighted that the Agenda for Disarmament had not been formalized in any United Nations mandate.

60. A delegation welcomed the emphasis on gender equality and the participation of women throughout the programme. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the launch of the Office's strategic plan for 2021–2025, which would further strengthen internal accountability and continuous effort towards achieving organizational excellence and efficiency.

61. Some delegations expressed concern over the inclusion of and references to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in the foreword and under subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, in particular, in paragraphs 4.35, 4.46, 4.47 and 4.48, as well as in table 4.9 (2022 planned performance). The view was expressed that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was a controversial treaty that had not gained universal support among delegations or consensus, and its elaboration could be detrimental to the global non-proliferation regime, with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at its core. It was emphasized by several delegations that the programme plan should clearly reflect that the costs related to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons should be borne only by States parties to that instrument, as it was not desirable that the otherwise limited resources (both financial and human) of the Office should be devoted to supporting and promoting the Treaty. Other delegations expressed their support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and stressed the importance of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It was recalled that one of the main objectives of the

Committee was to ensure respect for mandates conferred by Member States through resolutions approved by the General Assembly. A delegation stated that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon had been adopted by a United Nations conference mandated by the Assembly, with a favourable vote of almost two thirds of Member States, and that the mandate should continue to be implemented, as questioning it would mean questioning the decision and authority of the Assembly. The delegation opposed any attempt to undermine the implementation of the programme and commended the Office for its serious and professional work with full respect for intergovernmental deliberations.

62. The importance of using the consensus-based term “security in the use of information and communications technology” throughout the programme plan instead of “information and communications technology security” or “cybersecurity”, on which a consensus had never been reached in the United Nations, was emphasized.

63. With regard to strategy and external factors, a delegation recalled that, in the context of its consideration of the programme plan for 2021, the Committee had discussed a number of unrelated and indirect elements which had not gained consensus and noted that some of those elements had been included in the programme plan for 2022. The delegation requested the Office to reduce references to those elements in the programme plan.

64. With regard to paragraph 4.10, delegations noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted planned events and multilateral disarmament meetings and negatively affected the work of bodies and conventions. Some delegations commended the Office for the actions taken to switch to virtual and hybrid formats to ensure the continuity of its work despite the challenges. Clarification was sought in relation to the Office’s experience with holding disarmament meetings in a hybrid format and whether it had allowed a more inclusive approach, including the possibility of having more women participate in deliberations on disarmament issues, in view of the fact that hybrid meetings would minimize the travel costs of participants. A delegation disagreed with the positive assessment of hybrid meetings as a new working method of the United Nations system and suggested that paragraph 4.10 be deleted. The delegation highlighted that the use of video teleconferencing in lieu of in-person attendance in several instances had been forced by the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic and should not be replicated for future meetings, in view of the fact that delegations had experienced difficulties during hybrid meetings, including numerous glitches and procedural problems. The delegation further expressed the view that the Office should facilitate a return to in-person meetings and diplomacy rather than promote hybridity.

65. A delegation expressed the view that the information provided in relation to programme performance in 2020 was quite limited and pointed out that, in some subprogrammes, only one example of 2020 performance was provided, and the example in such instances did not relate to the 2019 or 2020 planned results. The delegation requested the Office to continue to improve the quality of the programme narratives and looked forward to receiving more comprehensive information on achievements that would elaborate on the overall performance of the past year. The delegation also highlighted that more new elements had been included in the narrative of the programme plan for 2022 under each subprogramme, specifically, new planned results, elements and terms, compared with the programme plan for 2021, considered by the Committee the previous year.

66. On subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, a delegation raised concern over the following sentence in paragraph 4.35: “The subprogramme will support efforts to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons by supporting [Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons] efforts in this regard and by

working with members of the Security Council in order to build unity.” The delegation suggested that, because a number of delegations had repeatedly raised concerns about the malpractices of Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the increased risks to its credibility, in particular with regard to the investigation of the incident in Douma in 2018, more general and neutral language in relation to Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) could have been used. It suggested that the sentence be rephrased as follows: “The subprogramme will support efforts in this regard by working with members of the Security Council in order to build unity.” With regard to the same paragraph, a delegation suggested that the reference to “the Syrian Arab Republic” should be deleted. Another delegation, however, welcomed the inclusion of OPCW in subprogramme 2 and looked forward to further discussions.

67. With regard to paragraph 4.36 (b), a delegation pointed out that the Secretariat did not have a mandate to monitor the compliance with global chemical weapons non-proliferation regimes and proposed that paragraph 4.36 (b) be rephrased to read as follows: “The above-mentioned work is expected to result in assistance in the further strengthening of norms against chemical weapons.”

68. A delegation proposed to delete language on the adoption by consensus of the outcome document for the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in paragraphs 4.44 and 4.48, noting that the result of that process could not be predetermined and therefore should not be reflected as such in the programme plan.

69. On subprogramme 3, Conventional arms, a delegation disagreed with the reference to a hypothetical new resolution or statement by the President of the Security Council on the issue of small arms and light weapons mentioned in table 4.13 (performance measure, 2021 (planned)), as it seemed to prejudge the outcome of discussions in the Council, which went beyond the mandate of the Secretariat. The delegation stated that the outcome of any discussion in the Council was subject to a collective decision by its members only.

70. With regard to subprogramme 4, Information and outreach, the view was expressed that the programme plan failed to impartially reflect the two co-existing United Nations mechanisms on international information security, namely, the Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and the Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security. It was noted that, in table 4.17 (performance measure for result 1: promoting inclusivity and raising awareness in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security), no reference was made to the concluding session of the Open-ended Working Group in March 2021, which had resulted in the successful adoption of the outcome report and at which the Office had played an instrumental role. Furthermore, the actual performance measure for 2019 in the same table did not include a reference to the engagement of the Open-ended Working Group with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, notwithstanding a dedicated informal intersessional meeting in 2019. Another delegation, however, emphasized the importance of both mechanisms and looked forward to further discussions in that regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

71. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan for programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

Programme 4

Peacekeeping operations

72. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 4, Peacekeeping operations (A/76/6 (Sect. 5)).

73. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peace Operations introducing the programme. The Assistant-Secretary-General, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

74. Delegations expressed appreciation and strong support for the work of the Department of Peace Operations and United Nations peacekeeping operations in maintaining peace and security. Delegations also expressed support for the work undertaken by the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and their critical role in maintaining peace and security. Several delegations welcomed the measures taken to advance the women and peace and security agenda. A delegation expressed particular support for and encouraged the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of peacekeeping, including senior leadership.

75. Delegations noted that peacekeeping operations were often deployed in complex and extremely dangerous conditions, complicated further by difficult humanitarian and socioeconomic situations, the cross-border proliferation of weapons that resulted from internal conflicts, organized crime and drug trafficking and, most recently, the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a detrimental impact on peacekeeping operations. It was noted that the international community was forced to respond quickly to those processes by developing and adapting modern peacekeeping in conceptual and operational terms. A delegation noted that the pandemic presented one of most challenging crises as it had not only ruptured the economic and social fabrics, but also had brought about new challenges for international peace and security, including delays in capacity-building programmes, the suspension of political activities and drawdowns in active engagement efforts that slowed down the peacebuilding process. In such conditions, another delegation emphasized that the provisions of the Charter, the unconditional respect for the sovereignty of host States and the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping – the consent of the host country, neutrality and the use of force strictly in accordance with the mandate – should remain critical guidelines for maintaining peace and security. It was further expressed that improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations should be based on those principles and serve as the main purpose for maintaining peace, promoting political processes and ensuring the safety of the civilian population.

76. At the same time, delegations were encouraged by and acknowledged the response efforts and changes implemented by United Nations peacekeeping operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Delegations expressed strong appreciation for the work undertaken by United Nations peacekeepers and the blue helmets and thanked troop- and police-contributing countries for their ongoing contributions to United Nations peacekeeping, while recognizing the risks that uniformed personnel took every day. A delegation noted that peacekeepers had nurtured peace in some of the most dangerous conflict zones, supervised ceasefires, disarmed non-State actors, provided humanitarian assistance and contributed to State-building in some other instances. The delegation also expressed concern about the

number of peacekeepers who had laid down their lives for the cause of building peace. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers, and the Secretariat was requested to take action in that regard by supporting peacekeepers to better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, have convenient access to vaccines, be free from explosive devices and to enhance information capacity and improving situational awareness and access to basic first aid. Similarly, a delegation also highlighted the need to ensure that peacekeepers were informed about the situation on the ground and possible threats, received proper training, had proper equipment, had access to vaccines and medical care and/or hospitals in the field and were fully supported by the Secretariat. The same delegation expressed its view that the gathering, analyses, storage and use of information should be carried out in strict accordance with the parameters defined by the Member States through the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The delegation highlighted that the use of “peacekeeping-intelligence” was not a panacea and that paramount importance should be given to the proper planning and organization of missions. A delegation requested the Secretariat to continue its coordination with Member States, especially with the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform, in order to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in carrying out activities to ensure the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers. The same delegation also stressed the importance of continued coordination with troop- and police-contributing countries and called for the timely payment of troop- and police-contributing countries by the Secretariat.

77. A number of delegations expressed strong support for the Action for Peacekeeping initiative of the Secretary-General and welcomed the increased focus on the initiative. Delegations also welcomed the continued alignment of the initiative with the programme plan and under the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The view was expressed that political solutions were fundamental to peacekeeping reform and made missions more efficient and effective. It was further highlighted that the initiative set the basis for ensuring that peacekeeping missions could and would fulfil their mandated work. A delegation highlighted the importance of partnerships and joint efforts of the international community in ensuring the successful functioning of United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the need for clear and strict compliance by all participants in the process with the agreements and commitments reached in inter-State formats, primarily in the Special Committee. The delegation also noted that some elements of the Secretary-General’s initiatives, in particular the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations or the action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers, were supported by some Member States with certain reservations.

78. A delegation highlighted that the cooperation of peacekeeping operations and the Secretariat with the national authorities of the host State, primarily responsible for protecting civilians and addressing the causes of crises and post-conflict reconstruction, should be at the forefront, as civil society and non-governmental organizations would not be able to replace those functions. The same delegation emphasized that peacekeepers should observe neutrality in all circumstances, as the passion for robust actions and implementation of proactive operations could turn the blue helmets into active participants in conflicts, thereby threatening their security and reducing the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts. Similarly, the delegation noted that the idea of prioritizing secondary tasks that were more common and specific to other United Nations pillars rather than peacekeeping, including in the field of human rights, should not be supported, as that could lead to the use of Chapter VII of the Charter, entitled “Action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression”.

79. A number of delegations welcomed the continued refinement and implementation of the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework, which would address the performance of uniformed and civilian peacekeepers, provide greater consistency on how the United Nations measured performance and uphold accountability across missions. It was further acknowledged that the framework would enhance transparency and improve the safety and security of peacekeepers. It was emphasized that, to enhance planning and accountability, it was important that the United Nations centrally and in its missions continue to improve the collection and use of data and ensure integrated planning structures in missions. A delegation noted that the Security Council had demonstrated its commitment to that framework in its landmark resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#) on peacekeeper performance and accountability, which had been unanimously adopted by the Council in September 2018. The view was expressed that reforms must enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers, as well as increase operational effectiveness and address underperformance. The work of the Secretary-General in that area was commended. Clarification was also sought on the parallelism between the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework and the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System.

80. A delegation stressed the need for supervision by the Member States over the quality of services provided to peacekeeping operations and highlighted that the development of programmes related to United Nations peacekeeping activities should be carried out with full consideration of the views of interested States, including troop- and police-contributing countries and host States, in accordance with the framework set by them. In that regard, the delegation said that the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should be the main reference point on that issue.

81. A delegation was of the view that, in order to avoid a “conflict of competencies”, it was inappropriate to link peacekeeping programmes with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It was pointed out that the Security Council set the mandates of peacekeeping missions based on their considerations with regard to maintaining international peace and security and establishing a political process in a particular country. The delegation further expressed the view that the implementation of the Goals was focused on the socioeconomic development of States and was a separate area of United Nations activity that fell under the purview of Economic and Social Council mandates. Attempts to combine those programmes were not an efficient or an effective use of resources. Notwithstanding, the delegation recognized that effective and long-term conflict resolution, the stabilization of post-conflict situations and the prevention of the recurrence of crises would be impossible without providing countries with peacebuilding assistance. The delegation also recognized the work done by peacekeeping missions, peacebuilding offices and the Peacebuilding Commission in that area. It was further recognized that the challenges presented required the close attention of Member States and the systematization of the peacebuilding processes through concerted efforts by Member States, United Nations funds and programmes, regional organizations, the Secretariat and international financial institutions. It was pointed out that solutions were impossible without the close attention of Member States and the systematization of peacebuilding processes. The delegation also expressed support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and noted the added value of the Commission’s coordination and advisory role in supporting the Security Council.

82. With regard to strategy and external factors, a delegation expressed appreciation that the priorities for conflict prevention and the quest for political solutions and sustainable peace were reflected in the strategy of the Department of Peace

Operations for 2022, including its commitment to further advance the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. The delegation stressed that peace and security issues must be addressed in a multidimensional and inclusive approach that came from the development, political, security, justice and human rights dimensions, and took account of the entire peace continuum, from conflict resolution and peacekeeping to peacebuilding and long-term development. The delegation also stressed the importance of protection of civilians, in particular the most vulnerable categories, such as women, children and people with disabilities, as a priority in current peacekeeping activities. In that regard, the delegation was of the view that training and capacity-building activities were crucial to guarantee the efficiency and effectiveness of the blue helmets, and should not be considered as one-off activities but rather as tools to enhance operational effectiveness and should be calibrated to the mission-specific contexts.

83. In respect of paragraph 5.2 (g), a delegation expressed its concern with the information presented on improving peacekeeping partnerships by strengthening the United Nations-African Union cooperation on political efforts. Clarification was sought on whether that suggested that peacekeeping operations and conflicts were exclusive to Africa and how the strategy correlated with paragraph 5.5, on partnerships with peace and security actors which were more extensive. In respect of paragraph 5.3, clarification was sought on the association between COVID-19 and the rule of law.

84. With regard to subprogramme 1, Operations, specifically in relation to the ending of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, a delegation requested confirmation on whether the African Union supported the process of the smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Darfur (para. 5.23), including the role of the African Union and the level of collaboration between the Department of Peace Operations and the African Union. The delegation was of the view that the participation of the African Union, if applicable, should have been clearly stated and explained in the paragraph.

85. Concerning performance measures contained in table 5.3 under result 1: United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo shifts its attention to protection in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and prepares for a gradual exit, clarification was sought on why the indicators were limited to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo when the data were relevant for most of the operations conducted by the Department of Peace Operations.

86. In respect of table 5.6, subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, clarification was sought on the reason for the low number of days reported in 2020 under seminars, workshops and training events, compared with the planned number of 18 days, and whether it was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Clarification was also sought on whether the use of other means and tools to deliver the planned seminars, workshops and training events had been explored and not used.

87. With regard to subprogramme 2, Military, a delegation suggested that, in the performance indicators, it would have been important to have an indicator reflecting the number of personnel killed or injured per mission so as to measure the impact of protection and security measures taken pursuant to the report on improving security of United Nations peacekeepers by Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz.

88. Clarification was also sought on the differences and similarities between the military performance evaluation system and the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, including the related mandate for establishing such systems, the criteria used for evaluation and to whom the evaluation results would be reported.

89. With regard to subprogramme 3, Rule of law and security institutions, clarification was sought on the new result 3: increased capacity of States hosting United Nations peace operations to strengthen the rule of law and security institutions, and the information contained in paragraph 5.76, specifically the reference to “under the aegis of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law”. Clarification was sought on how the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law, which was not an intergovernmental body, became the aegis, and what the role entailed.

90. With regard to subprogramme 4, Policy, evaluation and training, clarification was sought on who the recipient would be for the results obtained from the Troop- and Police-Contributing Country Knowledge Management System, and whether they would be provided to the troop- and police-contributing countries or to the Member States.

91. With regard to UNMOGIP, clarification was sought on the current status of operations, and how the situation on the ground had evolved, noting that the Mission was one of the oldest peacekeeping missions established. Further clarification was requested on how the Mission had responded to the recent developments of the COVID-19 pandemic.

92. Appreciation was expressed for the important work carried out, the critical role played and the continued relevance of UNMOGIP in ensuring regional, as well as international, peace and security. A delegation noted with concern that UNMOGIP had had to reduce its field visits and field trips owing to the precautions required because of the pandemic protocols. Concerns were also raised about the challenges faced with regard to the deployment of troops, and the delays in the implementation of security sector reforms. The same delegation sought clarification on decreases in the proposed budget resources for subprogramme 1, Operations. The Vice-Chair of the Committee emphasized that questions 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.

Conclusions and recommendations

93. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan for programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

Programme 5 Peaceful uses of outer space

94. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 6\)](#)).

95. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General introducing the programme. The representative of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

96. Delegations expressed broad support for the programme as an important mechanism to strengthen international cooperation in space and in the use of space science and technology for peaceful uses. A delegation welcomed the information provided, which it found to be more comprehensive and instructive than previously. The

delegation acknowledged and welcomed the continued increase in programme activities to strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to use space science and technology for peaceful uses. Another delegation encouraged the Office for Outer Space Affairs to link its work to the development pillar so as to better assist developing countries in promoting the peaceful use of outer space for development, poverty reduction and post-pandemic recovery.

97. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the Office, noting in particular the efforts to advance international cooperation in space with the launch by Mauritius of its first satellite in June 2021. In follow-up to discussions on the programme at the sixtieth session, a delegation noted that no updates on the Timbuktu programme, a novel development in the context of promoting the utilization of outer space, had been included in the report and asked whether there were any new inputs to ensure that the programme had an effect on populations, especially in developing countries.

98. A delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the Office and its role in assisting countries during the pandemic. It was noted that the Office operated in a cutting-edge area of work and had responded well to the unexpected disruption wrought by the pandemic. The delegation welcomed the shift in the delivery of activities, such as the series on space law and policy, to online formats, which had expanded their reach to more participants. The delegation asked which countries and stakeholders had been reached. Clarification was sought on whether the Office had managed to reach more small island developing States by using virtual platforms. The delegation welcomed the innovations and flexible delivery approaches by the Office to advance more tailored and specific opportunities for learning and noted that the Office had reached more participants by increasing the number of training sessions delivered virtually, such as the webinars on the space economy.

99. With regard to the mandates and background, a delegation expressed concern that the transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities mentioned in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.37 exceeded the mandate of the Office, suggesting that the previously agreed language should be maintained. It was noted that the Office's mandate was derived from relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, as set out in paragraph 6.1. The delegation said that it was not convinced of the conclusion in paragraph 6.3 that new technologies and the increasing number of actors were rapidly changing the structure and content of space activities and that the increasingly complex environment, combined with the relevance of space science and technology and their applications for achieving the goals of the global agenda, as well as the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, were the main drivers of the responsibilities of the Office. It was of the view that, rather, paragraph 6.3 provided the conditions under which the Office would realize the programme.

100. With regard to the strategy, a delegation stressed the importance of setting out in paragraph 6.5 further improvement of the secretariat services provided to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The delegation asked how the Office's planned activities mentioned in paragraph 6.10, relating to its strengthened approaches that incorporated lessons from the pandemic, would result in greater participation in the work of the Committee, mentioned in paragraph 6.11 (a). The delegation stressed that, pursuant to the rules of procedure, States members of the Committee, States and international organizations that were granted observer status by the Committee participated in the work of the Committee. The delegation also noted that, for efficiency purposes, enhanced transparency as to the programme activities of the Office, including the provision of regular information on the Committee, projects and partnerships formed with space agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, referenced in paragraph 6.14, was crucial.

101. With regard to the programme performance in 2020 and planned results for 2022 (paras. 6.21, 6.28 and 6.33, and annex II, recommendation B), a delegation stressed the importance of reflecting the fact that assessments of the space capacity needs of Member States had to be conducted upon request of the interested Member State.

102. With regard to new result 3: a more secure global navigation satellite systems spectrum, a delegation expressed concern that the information presented in paragraph 6.35 on the lessons learned for the Office and planned change gave the impression that the Office worked to protect the spectrum, a function that it did not have the technical capacity to perform nor was it mandated to do. The delegation suggested that the paragraph be amended.

103. A delegation noted the omission, in table 6.1 on the deliverables for the period 2020–2022, of additional meetings that would be expected following the election of the Bureau for the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities at the fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in April, and the expected subsequent meetings to agree on the terms of reference, working methods and plan of work. The delegation said that such meetings should have been reflected in deliverable 8, which pertained to intersessional consultations on the Bureau.

Conclusions and recommendations

104. **The Committee noted with appreciation the contribution of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to the promotion of international cooperation in space activities, in particular its efforts to strengthen the capacity of a greater number of developing countries to use space science and technology, and encouraged the Secretary-General to further leverage cooperation with other United Nations agencies and Member States in that respect.**

105. **The Committee recalled the importance of the Office continuing to focus on its core functions, in particular being the secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, performing its duties as the register for space objects and raising awareness of the need to coordinate action regarding space debris.**

106. **The Committee noted the delay in the completion of the self-evaluations of the activities of the Beijing Office of the Programme on the Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), reiterated its great interest in the related results and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to integrate the results in the proposed programme budget for 2023.**

107. **The Committee welcomed the recommendations from the Office of Internal Oversight Services regarding registration processes of objects launched into outer space and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to modernize the corresponding processes and ensure capacity for a high registration rate.**

108. **The Committee underlined the importance of effective monitoring and reporting and encouraged further quantifiable reporting on programme activities, including UN-SPIDER and the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space.**

109. **The Committee welcomed the launch of the Space4Women platform and stressed the importance of increasing women's empowerment in space, including through relevant educational, capacity-building and training programmes, as well as awareness-raising activities.**

110. **The Committee noted the exponential increase in the number of satellites launched annually, emphasized the importance of strengthened efforts and**

cooperation to protect the spectrum and noted with appreciation the intended focus of the Office on the matter.

111. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

A. Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

Paragraph 6.1

Replace “74/67” with “75/69”.

After “on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities,”, insert “as appropriate,”.

Paragraph 6.3

Replace “This increasing complex environment, combined with the relevance of space science and technology and their applications for achieving the goals of the global agenda, as well as the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” with “The Office will implement the programme in this increasingly complex environment, which, combined with the relevance of space science and technology and their applications for achieving the goals of the global agenda, as well as the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities”.

Programme of work

Peaceful uses of outer space

Strategy

Paragraph 6.11

Delete “(a) Greater participation in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Legal Subcommittee and their working groups;”.

External factors for 2022

Paragraph 6.14

At the end of the paragraph, add “In this regard, the Office will enhance transparency in its programme activities and regularly inform the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the project being implemented and of its partnerships with space agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector.”

Programme performance in 2020

Greater access to capacity development during the pandemic

Paragraph 6.21

After “initiatives to assist”, insert “interested” and after Member States”, insert “upon their request”.

Planned results for 2022

Result 1: access to space for all

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 6.28

After “The Office has continued to support”, insert “interested”, and after “Member States”, insert “upon their request”.

Result 3: a more secure global navigation satellite systems spectrum

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Lessons learned and planned change

Paragraph 6.35

Replace “The lesson for the Office was the need to support the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems in fostering greater awareness and understanding of the need to protect the spectrum, with actions being required at both the international and national levels” with “The lesson for the Office as the executive secretariat to the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems was the need to support its activities in fostering greater awareness and understanding of the need to protect the spectrum, efforts at both the international and national levels”.

Replace “In applying the lesson, the Office will include in its portfolio of capacity-building activities a greater focus on spectrum protection, interference detection and mitigation in order to trigger and facilitate more discussion among the experts and regulators, including from developing countries” with “In applying the lesson, the Office will include in its portfolio of capacity-building activities a greater focus on promoting and facilitating more discussion among experts and regulators, including from developing countries, on spectrum protection, interference detection and mitigation”.

Legislative mandates

Paragraph 6.37

Delete “[68/50](#); [75/69](#) Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities”.

Annex II

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of oversight bodies

Action taken to implement the recommendation

Recommendation B

In the second sentence, after “non-space-faring countries” insert “upon their request”.

Programme 6
Legal affairs

112. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 6, Legal affairs ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 8\)](#)).

113. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the statements of the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of 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 introducing the programme. The Assistant Secretaries-General, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

114. Delegations expressed support and appreciation for the work of the Office of Legal Affairs as the central legal service of the United Nations dealing with a broad range of issues, including the promotion and development of international law, the protection of the oceans, the development of trade law, ending impunity and the promotion of accountability.

115. Delegations welcomed the positive results achieved by the Office and its effective response to requests for urgent legal advice arising from the COVID-19 pandemic on topics such as business continuity, medical evacuation support and the Organization's humanitarian response to the pandemic.

116. A delegation commended the Office for its special efforts to promote multilingualism and welcomed the dissemination of information on websites and the distance learning programme in the two working languages. The same delegation encouraged the Office to continue its efforts in that area within the framework of its programme and expressed the view that the Office should also play a greater role in raising awareness in all United Nations departments of respecting the two working languages of the Organization in accordance with the relevant texts and resolutions.

117. A delegation noted that, while the proposed programme budget tended to increase year by year, it did not necessarily reflect the increased complexities of the work of the Office, but rather the activities of States Members and organs of the United Nations, which did not have direct bearing on the mandates granted to the Secretariat. Consequently, it was suggested that necessary changes should be made to have the programme focus on the activities of the Office.

118. Regarding the strategy and external factors for 2022, a delegation suggested the deletion of the reference to "the development of international justice and accountability" in paragraphs 8.6 and 8.27 of the report and requested clarification as to what "reform initiated by the Secretary-General" in paragraph 8.6 referred to.

119. Regarding subprogramme 1, Provision of legal services to the United Nations system as a whole, and the related programme performance in 2020, a delegation requested additional information about the legal and procedural support provided to ensure business continuity measures that enabled decision-making by intergovernmental bodies, in particular the main challenges faced by the programme when adapting to working under the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Information was also sought on lessons learned from the experience and how they could be applied in carrying out future activities.

120. Regarding subprogramme 2, General legal services provided to United Nations organs and programmes, and the performance measure contained in figure 8.I on the continued reduction of actual legal liability of the Organization, clarification was sought in relation to the lessons learned from the performance measure and whether a more ambitious target could be applied, compared with the current 35 per cent.

121. Regarding subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, a delegation sought clarification on the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, specifically

in relation to: (a) adaption of the activities during the pandemic; (b) lessons learned; and (c) subprogramme activities envisaged to be carried out in the future. A delegation expressed the view that all International Law Commission projects should be treated equally, unless the General Assembly decided otherwise and gave a particular mandate in that respect. Regarding the work of the Commission on the issue of sea level rise referenced in paragraph 8.85 of the report, a delegation expressed the view that it was premature to draw the conclusions reflected therein.

122. Regarding subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, a delegation welcomed the efforts of the subprogramme to strengthen the law of the sea and noted the progress made in the process of elaborating an international legally binding instrument within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In that regard, clarification was sought on the main challenges faced owing to the decision of the General Assembly to postpone the fourth session of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and how the subprogramme intended to support the President and Bureau of the conference, the facilitators of the informal processes and Member States in carrying out the process. The view was expressed that it was unclear how the activities mentioned in paragraphs 8.91 and 8.92 would result in an increased number of States parties to the Convention and its implementing agreements (para. 8.93 (a)). Furthermore, the view was expressed that, owing to the postponement of the fourth session of the conference, the informal nature of those virtual meetings and consultations should have been reflected in paragraph 8.97 of the report.

123. Regarding the programme performance in 2020 on the advancement in the development of an international legally binding instrument 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, referenced in paragraph 8.98, and the performance measure reflected in table 8.15, a delegation was of the view that evaluation judgments with respect to feedback received from Member States on the working sessions and the compilation and drafting of revisions of the text of an agreement should be avoided, and recommended the use of the agreed language “revised draft text of an agreement” under the 2019 performance measure. Similarly, regarding table 8.17, the delegation recommended the use of the agreed language pursuant to the General Assembly resolution on fisheries related to the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and emphasized that, while being generally supportive of the paragraph on the future Review Conference, it was premature to foresee any possible outcomes.

124. Regarding the development of preliminary documents for the resumed Review Conference reflected in paragraph 8.105 of the report, a delegation sought clarification as to what those documents were.

125. Regarding result 3: improved capacity for sustainable and integrated ocean governance, the delegation sought clarification on who the “relevant stakeholders” referenced in paragraph 8.109 of the report were, and the related mandate for the increase.

126. A delegation noted that the report did not include a description of the activities related to the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/146](#) on the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, and recalled that the resolution prescribed the use of section 21 of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations. It was further noted that that section included arbitration, to which the United Nations was a party, and that the leading

role would be played by the Office of Legal Affairs. Thus, the question was raised as to why the programme did not reflect that important issue in the report.

127. Regarding subprogramme 5, Progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of the law of international trade, a delegation sought clarification about: (a) the delivery mechanisms that took into account the COVID-19 restrictions implied in paragraph 8.11 of the report, in connection with the preparation of universally acceptable legislative and non-legislative texts on international commercial transactions; and (b) the importance of the activities of the working groups that were not mentioned in the report. In relation to the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, the delegation expressed the view that the Convention had been developed and opened for signature with the assistance of the Secretariat, and Member States were responsible for the rest.

128. Regarding subprogramme 6, Custody, registration and publication of treaties, a delegation emphasized the importance of expediting the registration of treaties and requested the subprogramme to elaborate on its activities with regard to that aspect.

129. Regarding the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, several delegations expressed full support for and confidence in its work, congratulated it on progress achieved and welcomed its flexibility and effectiveness in adjusting its planning to address the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic and the military coup of February 2021. A delegation noted that the military coup, and the brutal violence that followed, had increased the work of the Mechanism, as well as the challenges of carrying out its critical work. The view was expressed that there was a clear mandate to bring accountability to situations of appalling wrongdoing in Myanmar. The need to include that work in the United Nations programme budget, and programme 6 specifically, was emphasized.

130. Other delegations expressed concern and disappointment that the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar was still included in programme 6, Legal affairs, and reiterated that its inclusion was inappropriate and set a dangerous precedent, as the Mechanism had been created by an improper and politicized country-specific Human Rights Council resolution for one Member State, with no relevance to United Nations legal affairs. Some delegations expressed the view that the Mechanism should be removed from programme 6 and be placed under a different programme.

131. 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, several delegations expressed support for its work, which they stressed was vital in bringing accountability to situations of appalling wrongdoing in the Syrian Arab Republic.

132. A delegation noted that, for the past decade, the Syrian people had endured the unimaginable and, in addition to the half a million casualties, at least 130,000 Syrians were estimated to be held in arbitrary detention or were missing owing to enforced disappearance. The same delegation expressed its view that the Syrian people should be heard and that every Syrian should have the opportunity to seek justice. The delegation recalled that accountability and justice were essential to the international community's efforts to ensure a lasting United Nations-facilitated political process in the Syrian Arab Republic.

133. A delegation noted that, since the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism had been created five years earlier, it had made great progress in implementing its mandate to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses committed in the Syrian Arab Republic over the past decade, emphasized that its structural investigations and case-building work provided the foundation for criminal accountability efforts that were necessary to combat impunity and supported the availability of information to assist in new prosecutions, where jurisdiction existed. The same delegation expressed its view that the

Mechanism had become a vital mechanism that provided prosecutors and investigators with the evidence needed to ensure criminal accountability, thereby achieving a measure of justice for the victims. In that regard, a delegation enquired about the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had had on the ability to gather evidence and what lessons had been learned to mitigate some of the challenges that the pandemic had brought about.

134. A delegation recalled the recent conviction in Germany of the former Syrian regime official Eyad al-Garib and noted that the conviction demonstrated the valuable role of independent documentation in facilitating justice processes outside the Syrian Arab Republic.

135. Some delegations expressed the view that there was a clear mandate for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, as set out in General Assembly resolution [71/248](#), and a clear need to include that work under programme 6.

136. A delegation was of the view that the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism deliberately disregarded the guiding principles that gave rise to the United Nations, notably on sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. Some delegations were of the view that mechanisms of that nature should not be considered under the proposed programme budget, especially under programme 6, and therefore should not be financed through the assessed contributions of Member States. In that context, the view was expressed that the Mechanism should be removed from the legal affairs section of the proposed programme budget and resubmitted as a separate programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

137. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan of programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

Programme 7 Economic and social affairs

138. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 7, Economic and social affairs ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 9\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

139. The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced the programme and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

140. Delegations expressed support for the work of the Department and for the proposed programme plan for 2022. Appreciation was also expressed for the work carried out by the Department in support of small island developing States. A delegation commented that the work of the Department was an essential workstream of the United Nations, supporting the Organization’s development pillar, with poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge at the core of its mandate.

141. It was noted that the Department supported the development pillar of the Secretariat and, in that context, appreciation was expressed for the Department’s work in ensuring international cooperation in the pursuit of sustainable development for all.

142. Appreciation was also expressed for the Department's efforts to support the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to mainstream the response to the COVID-19 pandemic into their guidance and review of United Nations operational activities for development. In that connection, it was noted that developing countries in vulnerable situations were experiencing the devastating impact of the pandemic in the economic, political, security and humanitarian spheres, especially in Africa, which was of great concern. A delegation commented that the related new results for 2022 presented in the proposed programme plan would support developing countries, especially those in vulnerable situations, to achieve a better post-pandemic recovery.

143. The work of the programme related to the pandemic across its subprogrammes was recognized, in particular the work carried out on inter-agency coordination and support, financing for development, support for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and statistics. In that connection, a delegation welcomed the Department's efforts to update its programme plan as circumstances changed. Another delegation welcomed the work of the United Nations development system in assisting Member States to respond to the pandemic.

144. The comment was made that development imbalance remained a major problem and that poverty was a persistent challenge that troubled many countries, especially developing countries. It was added that zero poverty was a long-held dream of humankind and a basic right of people in pursuit of a better life and that that was the reason why the 2030 Agenda had made "no poverty" its top goal. In that connection, a delegation recommended that the Department continue its efforts to implement the related mandates of poverty alleviation and support for Member States, especially developing countries, in further promoting global poverty reduction and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in order to accelerate a better recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and actively tackle the challenges of climate change.

145. The importance of reducing duplication and overlap with other United Nations system entities was emphasized, in order for the work of the programme to focus best on areas in which it could exert the most added value. In that connection, a delegation requested an update on coordination between the Department, the regional commissions and the Development Coordination Office. More information was also requested concerning the role of the Department within the resident coordinator system.

146. With regard to the recent reform of the Department, additional information was requested regarding tangible impacts of the reform efforts expected in 2022, steps that the Department had taken to ensure that the reform was aligned with the reform of the United Nations development system and whether the Department had become more efficient, transparent and able to add value to the system.

147. A delegation commented that the proposed programme plan intended to focus on nine issues that would address very different public policy areas or that were worded in quite vague and generic terms, such as the availability of key social, demographic and economic data and analyses, the reality of the ageing of the world's population, the transformation of trade policies, financial and fiscal measures for financing sustainable development, the revitalization and strengthening of multilateralism in the face of present and future global problems, support for the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, the role of digital technologies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and support for intergovernmental bodies to address the challenges of global sustainable development in a holistic, people-centred and globally responsible manner. It was observed, in that connection, that the proposed programme plan was therefore structured with nine subprogrammes served by indicators that were often not very specific or that were difficult to measure. In addition, the delegation noted that it was difficult to identify

the additional cross-cutting strategic direction and enhanced coordination between the different divisions of the Department and enquired how the Department intended to put forward a cross-cutting vision across many different objectives, as it had committed to do in response to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of the Department ([E/AC.51/2021/5](#)).

148. A delegation commented that some of the outcomes and results presented in the proposed programme plan did not necessarily assess whether the Department had played a critical role in achieving them, or whether achievement was the result of external factors. In that connection, the Department was encouraged to sharpen its proposed outcomes.

149. Concerns were raised as to the modification of some of the objectives of the subprogrammes, specifically the removal of the mention of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support and coordination for sustainable development, and subprogramme 3, Sustainable development; as well as the change in the objective of subprogramme 2, Inclusive social development, from “strengthening international cooperation” to “advance policies”. While observing that the objectives of the subprogrammes were quite different from those in the proposed programme plan for 2021, a delegation commented that they reflected a good and comprehensive interpretation of the 2030 Agenda and encouraged the Department to continue to implement its mandate in support of the 2030 Agenda.

150. A question was raised regarding the inclusion again of elements and phrases in the proposed programme plan that had caused disagreement in the previous session of the Committee, and subsequently in the General Assembly, which had then resulted in not having a fully approved programme plan for 2021.

151. A comment was made that the proposed programme plan presented some performance indicators that would seem to be difficult to measure. Examples mentioned were those contained in tables 9.17 and 9.18, under subprogramme 6, Economic analysis and policy; figure 9.IV, under subprogramme 1; and figure 9.VIII, under subprogramme 5, Population. In that connection, clarification was sought as to how the programme formulated those performance measures.

152. On programme performance in 2020 for subprogramme 1, a delegation noted that the work that contributed to a result that emerged during 2020, broadened engagement in policy dialogue for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in 125,764 participants and viewers for the high-level political forum for sustainable development. In that connection, comments were requested on the lessons learned from the expanded engagement in the high-level political forum. Another delegation commented that planned result 1: voluntary national review process: reaching the Sustainable Development Goals faster, could present a challenge given the highly volatile process of the post-pandemic recovery in developing countries. The delegation further said that result 2: strengthened stakeholder engagement in the decade of accelerated action and delivery, was regrettably centred only on the role of non-governmental organizations and young people (paras. 9.42–9.44) and lacked substantial reference to such stakeholders as business and industry, workers and trade unions, academic institutions and local authorities. The delegation recalled that a crucial feature of the work of the programme was the support that it provided to the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee of the General Assembly, aiming at consensus among Member States. Noting that for the past few years delegations had not been able to adopt the ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum, the delegation was of the view that an enhancement of the negotiation track of the high-level political forum process therefore needed to be reflected in the subprogramme.

153. Regarding subprogramme 2, concerns were raised in connection with result 1: sustainable peace through national youth policies, in which the term “sustainable peace” continued to appear out of context in a subprogramme oriented towards inclusive social development. In that connection, it was recalled that the Department had been requested to consider and take on board the discussions of the Committee at the previous session and of the General Assembly on those elements, although no recommendation had been made by the Committee. With regard to the *World Social Report*, listed in table 9.6 as a deliverable of the subprogramme, clarification was sought as to the frequency of publication and whether it was a biennial report.

154. With regard to subprogramme 6, a delegation emphasized that the focus on assisting indebted countries, at their request, along with boosting productivity and economic growth promoted by the subprogramme, fully corresponded to the needs of most developing countries. It was noted, however, that increased attention to the trend of population ageing, as reflected in paragraph 9.180, raised questions as to whether the issue could be better positioned within the mandate of subprogramme 2 or 5, taking into account the fact that ageing traditionally related to sociological changes in advanced economies and middle-income countries rather than in the least developed countries with which the subprogramme associated itself.

155. A delegation recalled that a mandate granted by the General Assembly existed in several of its resolutions, most recently in resolution [74/200](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to monitor the imposition of unilateral coercive measures as a means of political and economic coercion and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including on their ability to counter the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions. In that connection, the delegation invited the Secretariat to address the lack of relevant references and reporting in the proposed programme plan, both through the preparation of a thematic brief and by including that mandate in the relevant strategy section of subprogramme 6 dealing with the diverse challenges to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by developing and least developed countries.

156. The work carried out by subprogramme 7, Public institutions and digital government, was commended, including the activities in support of the Internet Governance Forum and in follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, and the activities of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration. Concern was expressed, however, as in 2020, regarding the use in the mandate of the subprogramme of the concept of “cybersecurity” (para. 9.186). In that connection, a delegation was of the view that the issue would be better positioned within the mandates of other United Nations programmes. Against the backdrop of the pandemic, the delegation reasserted the effectiveness of public institutions as a priority and in that regard suggested that the expected result on enhancing capacities by public servants in emergency-linked sectors such as health, social protection and employment, as mentioned in paragraph 9.190, could be changed or complemented by switching from a selective focus on gender issues to investment in human capital, decent compensation and countries’ preparedness in terms of specialists’ availability in emergencies.

157. Regarding subprogramme 8, Sustainable forest management, the comment was made that the continuous, effective and efficient work of the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat was essential to ensure delivery of all forest-related mandates.

158. With regard to subprogramme 9, Financing for sustainable development, a delegation commented that, while acknowledging the work of interested Member States and United Nations entities, in the emergency postponement of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, under the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, it could

not agree that the Secretariat or the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development were mandated to implement, refer to or follow up on that informal non-mandated and non-inclusive process (paras. 9.246 and 9.252). It added that, in the area of financing for development, the work of the programme should be guided by the mandates adopted at conventional venues such as the forum on financing for development follow-up and the Second Committee of the General Assembly, in accordance with Assembly resolution [75/208](#). The same delegation observed that the extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, the adoption of the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Initiative by the Group of 20 and Paris Club countries or the issuance of International Monetary Fund special drawing rights could be presented in the proposed programme plan as a performance result of the Initiative.

Conclusions and recommendations

159. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

Programme 8

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

160. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 10\)](#)).

161. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General introducing the programme. The representative responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

162. Delegations expressed deep appreciation and support for the important and positive work carried out by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The importance of the Office in achieving its mandate of coordinating, monitoring, mobilizing for and advocating the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway was also noted.

163. A delegation stressed the significance of the programme, describing it as one of the important elements of the United Nations development pillar. It was noted that the Office had a very broad mandate to assist the 91 most vulnerable countries and that the programme was particularly important for Africa, where 33 of the 48 least developed countries, 16 of the 32 landlocked developing countries and 7 of the 38 small island developing States were located. It was also noted that there were more than 20 transit countries in Africa that had benefited from the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. Another delegation praised the Office for its activities focused on providing the necessary support to Member States, while raising awareness that it was important for the support of the international

community to be structured and consistent. A delegation requested information on coordination between the Office, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in order to achieve the Office's goals.

164. It was observed that landlocked countries faced the wrath of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of health and trade, as borders were forced to close and the pandemic affected the flow and transportation of goods. Clarification was sought as to what was being done, what lessons had been learned regarding the effects of the pandemic on landlocked developing countries and what assistance the United Nations had been providing to the 91 vulnerable countries, including landlocked developing countries. A delegation indicated that the Office had an important role to play in supporting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in their recovery from the pandemic, in particular given the capacity constraints faced by many of them. The delegation noted that the Office had contributed to fostering dialogue on global responses to the pandemic as they related to the three groups of countries, including a series of briefings between the three groups and the Deputy Secretary-General and other officials of the United Nations development system. A delegation recalled that the Committee had requested that more be done for landlocked developing countries, as they were the most affected by the pandemic and the closure of borders, and in that regard sought an update on what initiatives had been undertaken to help the least developed countries to build back better. Another delegation said that it would be useful to prepare socioeconomic recovery plans to help developing countries to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to find resources to implement those plans.

165. Noting that the least developed countries were among the most vulnerable and poorest groups in the world and that landlocked developing countries and small island developing States faced special difficulties such as geographical constraints and high transit costs, another delegation observed that the pandemic had aggravated the difficulties for those countries of achieving sustainable development. The same delegation recommended that the Office comprehensively summarize the implementation experience of the Istanbul Programme of Action over the past 10 years and encouraged it to continue to implement the SAMOA Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action under the framework of the 2030 Agenda and to integrate post-pandemic recovery into its programme and subprogrammes.

166. It was recalled that the Committee had recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objectives of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme continued to ensure that the capacities of its subprogrammes were strengthened in accordance with their mandates and aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in accordance with established procedures. In line with that request, a question was raised as to how the Office was proposing to strengthen work related to landlocked developing countries, in accordance with its mandate for the 2030 Agenda.

167. A delegation expressed support for the objectives of the subprogrammes and appreciation in particular for the work related to landlocked developing countries in strengthening policies and capacities to improve the connectivity of such countries, reduce their trade transaction costs and increase their regional cooperation, regional and global trade and structural transformation for sustainable development. Support was also expressed for the Office's strategy to achieve those ambitious objectives, including broad analytical work related to the Vienna Programme of Action, the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, policy recommendations, various capacity-building programmes and advocacy for enhanced international support for landlocked developing countries. The same delegation noted with great appreciation

that the Office would undertake major work to ensure synergy and coherence in the implementation and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels. In that regard, the delegation expressed appreciation for the working relationship between the Office and regional and subregional entities, as well as support for the planned activities to develop cooperation and coordination between the Office and United Nations country teams and the empowered resident coordinator system. In a similar vein, another delegation emphasized that it was important for the Office to improve its coordination across the United Nations system in order to ensure that the Organization was responding effectively to the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including finding synergies, deconflicting work and simplifying processes.

168. A delegation noted that the Office would play a critical role in supporting preparations for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, scheduled to be held in Doha in 2022, covering a range of important issues for the least developed countries and their development partners. In that regard, the delegation sought an update on progress in the preparations for the Conference. It also noted that convening events through virtual means had enabled the Office to reach a wider audience and increase the number of stakeholders, despite obstacles resulting from limited connectivity in some countries. The delegation sought the views of the Office with respect to the use of online or hybrid means to reach audiences in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

169. With regard to subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, a delegation highlighted some very positive elements reported under programme performance in 2020, such as the increase in the share of Internet users in the least developed countries from 5.5 per cent in 2010 to 19.1 per cent in 2019 (para. 10.33). The delegation noted that that development was indicative of the hard work behind it and the hope that it would help to bridge the digital divide, which was an obstacle to development. Regarding the deliverables under subprogramme 1, the same delegation also expressed satisfaction at the increase from 8 technical materials at the disposal of Member States planned in 2021 to 14 planned for 2022, as reflected in table 10.6. The same delegation, however, expressed concern at the reduction in the substantive servicing of meetings, from 71 planned in 2021 to 59 planned for 2022, as reflected in the same table, and clarity was requested on the variation in numbers. Another delegation recommended that poverty alleviation and sustainable development be put at the core of subprogramme 1.

170. With regard to subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, a delegation observed that it was encouraging to note the activities of the subprogramme related to supporting landlocked developing countries and transit countries in improving connectivity and trade facilitation and promoting and developing dry ports (paras. 10.64 and 10.65), which were very important to countries with no access to the sea.

171. With regard to subprogramme 2 and subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, a delegation highlighted the importance of adequate and accessible connectivity, ports and dry ports, transportation and related infrastructure to support those countries in achieving better development. Given the decrease in extrabudgetary resources for subprogramme 2, a question was raised as to whether technical assistance activities would continue in 2022.

Conclusions and recommendations

172. The Committee commended the continuous efforts of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in supporting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

173. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to forge broad and durable partnerships, including within the United Nations system and outside the system, for the advancement of sustainable development in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

174. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to further support the least developed countries in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially in the area of poverty alleviation, and in strengthening policies to accelerate structural transformation of their economies.

175. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to further support landlocked developing countries to strengthen policies and capacities to improve the connectivity of landlocked developing countries, with the aim of supporting their sustainable development, and to increase structural transformation in landlocked developing countries.

176. The Committee noted with concern the devastating socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and that it could accentuate the isolation of concerned States, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to mobilize resources to ensure that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States participated in the process and had their voices heard in global deliberations, and benefited from capacity-building activities, peer learning and the exchange of best practices to achieve sustainable, inclusive post-pandemic recovery and build back better, and to increase resilience towards future shocks.

177. The Committee recommended that under subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, the General Assembly encourage the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to implement interconnectivity initiatives to bridge islands, combat isolation and maintain small island developing States in the international community.

178. The Committee noted with appreciation the creation of the networks of national focal points for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States that would promote cooperation between the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels and serve as an interface between the global and regional processes and national

policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and review, and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office to fully associate youth and women in that project so that they could fully contribute to finding solutions to challenges faced by those countries.

179. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

Programme 9

United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

180. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#)).

181. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa introducing the programme. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

182. Support and appreciation were expressed for the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in addressing critical development challenges in Africa and strengthening United Nations coordination in Africa, including support for the African Union and its Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, which was considered a blueprint for peace, stability and sustainable development in Africa.

183. A delegation welcomed the strategic vision of the programme, its advocacy role for Africa at the global and regional levels and its support for the joint implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The view was expressed that the priorities of the United Nations should mirror those laid out in Agenda 2063 and should build on strong partnerships, innovation and strategic foresight. Clarification was sought on the role that the Office intended to play within its mandate to further strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. Clarification was also sought on how the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union Development Agency had contributed to the restructuring and reform of the African Union Commission.

184. The view was expressed that the programme should continue to invest in long-term social and economic development in Africa. Delegations supported economic development and integration through cross-border and cross-regional infrastructure construction, industrialization, poverty reduction, job creation and agricultural modernization. Delegations expressed appreciation for the programme's partnership with ECA, including in promoting the economic and social development of its member States.

185. The importance of enhancing performance and accountability through stronger cooperation between the three subprogrammes was highlighted. A delegation observed that, while the vision of the programme was transformative, it should also be realistic, and that corruption was not mentioned in the programme plan. The delegation recalled that the General Assembly, in section XIX of its resolution [75/253](#), had requested the Secretary-General to submit, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a revised

proposal with programmatic narratives and structure of the Office, during the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly. In so doing, the Assembly had given a clear indication that the content of the previous programme had not been satisfactory.

186. Support was expressed for the recommendations put forward in the report of OIOS on the evaluation of United Nations support for NEPAD provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications (E/AC.51/2021/4) on the need for improved coordination, stakeholder engagement and monitoring, which should be underwritten by the general principle of giving voice to the African Union Commission, given the various regional integration agendas and the need for United Nations support if the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of Agenda 2063 are to be achieved. Another delegation welcomed the fact that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa had continued to improve the organization of its work, institutionalizing stronger systems of planning and managing and monitoring its activities, including by partnering with the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget to adopt the new Umoja integrated planning, and that efforts were also under way to improve the work culture within the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and increase its capacity to improve the quality of its products. While the reorientation and reorganization of the Office to improve efficiencies, coordination and programme implementation and provide better support for NEPAD were welcomed, attention was drawn to other areas, including multilingualism and reducing staff costs, where improvements were needed. The view was also expressed that the Office should be empowered and equipped with the capacity that it needed to mobilize the United Nations system.

187. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on all sectors of society in all regions of the world were highlighted, and concern over its particular impact on the economic, political, security, humanitarian and conflict resolution spheres in Africa was expressed. A delegation recommended that the programme focus on the post-pandemic recovery and that collaboration with other entities covering development, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the regional commissions, should be enhanced. A delegation highlighted the impact of the pandemic on health systems, social protection structures, employment, education and other areas critical for the development of Africa and stated that it was crucial to ensure that Africa seized the opportunity created by the pandemic to promote a systemic change that would lead to the continent becoming an influential global player and partner in the multilateral system (para. 11.2). Another delegation welcomed the reference in the programme plan to the work of the African Medical Supplies Platform. Several delegations highlighted their support for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility, described as a multilateral mechanism designed to facilitate worldwide vaccination against COVID-19, including in Africa, in coordination with the African Union.

188. A delegation welcomed the fact that the implementation of the programme strategy would be guided by the vision of an international system working coherently to support Africa in progressively fulfilling its potential as a continent of hope, opportunities and prosperity (para. 11.4). It was highlighted that the interdepartmental task force on African affairs played an important role in supporting the engagement of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system with Africa (para. 11.9). With regard to external factors (para. 11.10), appreciation was expressed that the overall plan for 2022 was based on, among other things, the following planning assumptions: strengthened partnership between the United Nations and the African Union; international organizations and partners committed to the implementation of

multi-stakeholder projects and programmes; and Member States actively participating in the Africa Dialogue Series and other policy development and advocacy activities. A delegation applauded the fact that the Office, ECA and the Department of Global Communications had integrated a gender perspective into their programmatic activities, deliverables and results (para. 11.12) and noted that the programme would be guided by the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy in promoting, through its activities and policy recommendations, proposals that specifically promoted the inclusion of people with disabilities (para. 11.13).

189. On the proposed programme plan for 2022, under result 3: the role of digitization and the African Continental Free Trade Area for building forward and building better, of subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for NEPAD, in reference to the phrase “human capital and, more specifically, health, needs to be placed at the core of policymaking in Africa” (para. 11.47), a delegation indicated that, according to the programme mandate, policymaking should focus on sustainable development, highlighted that education, employment and other related issues were of equal importance and enquired as to what kind of activities were envisaged to fulfil that objective. A delegation stated that Africa had the youngest demographic profile in the world and that well-timed and targeted investments in human capital could harness the productive potential of the future labour force and accelerate economic growth for women and young people. The same delegation stressed that coordinated action was critical as no sector or intervention could independently achieve human capital objectives and that stand-alone reforms were not likely to achieve the scale of results that were needed to attain full health and education over the first 8,000 days of life. It further indicated that progress was attainable, existing mechanisms were in place to monitor progress and there was consensus among development partners that investments across the first two decades of life were essential to maximize the human capital potential of a nation.

190. With regard to the pooled procurement of COVID-19 vaccines in 2020, under subprogramme 2, Regional coordination of and support for NEPAD, clarification was sought as to whether pooled procurement was also being envisaged for 2021 and 2022. In figure 11.IV, clarification was also sought as to why the performance measure for the share of intra-Africa trade in total trade in Africa showed a planned increase to 18.7 per cent in 2021 followed by a planned decrease to 18.5 per cent in 2022.

Conclusions and recommendations

191. **The Committee commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications for their efforts to support NEPAD and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to promote coherence, coordination and synergy in the work of the United Nations system in Africa, as mandated, and ensure that the work is consistently aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.**

192. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to continue to strengthen its cooperation with the resident coordinator system in view of ensuring the United Nations “delivering as one” approach, which brought together United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in a coordinated dynamic for the development of Africa.**

193. **The Committee noted with appreciation the recognition by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa of the importance of continuous improvement and responding to the evolving needs of African countries, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, given that they addressed root causes of conflicts. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the**

Office to continue to work closely with United Nations development entities, ECA, regional economic communities, and regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union, in coordinating international efforts to support African countries in achieving a sustainable, resilient and inclusive post-pandemic recovery and in building back better.

194. The Committee noted that the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution [75/243](#), to have the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa explore the feasibility of a dedicated subprogramme on youth, could not be implemented, and recommended that the Assembly request the Office to increase efforts to explore the feasibility of developing deliverables and activities for the promotion of young people and ensuring their inclusion in the strategies of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

195. The Committee recognized that Agenda 2063 was the African strategic framework successor to NEPAD, aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and should be the main framework for assessing United Nations support for Africa's development. The Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to change the title of programme 9 to "United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation", with the following subtitle: "Commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063".

196. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

A. Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

Paragraph 11.1

After "following up on the implementation of all", insert "relevant".

After "global summit and conference outcomes", insert "of the United Nations".

Overall orientation

Strategy and external factors for 2022

Paragraph 11.12

At the end of the first sentence, add ", as appropriate".

Subprogramme 2

Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Planned results for 2022

Result 1: implementation of joint workplans with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the African Union: working together to deliver for Africa

Programme performance in 2020***Paragraph 11.63***

Replace “violent” with “armed”.

Paragraph 11.64

After “sexual and reproductive health”, insert “and reproductive”.

After “rights”, add “as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action”.

Result 2: ensure coherent and integrated support in the United Nations support to the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda

Proposed programme plan for 2022***Paragraph 11.69***

Replace “action” with “assistance”.

**Programme 10
Trade and development**

197. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 10, Trade and development ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 12\)](#) and [A/76/6 \(Sect. 13\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

198. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the statements of the Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) introducing the programme. The Acting Secretary-General and the Executive Director responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

199. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme and expressed general support for the proposed programme plans of UNCTAD and ITC. A delegation remarked that UNCTAD and ITC were challenged to refocus parts of their work in terms of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Appreciation was expressed for the important role and endeavour of UNCTAD and ITC in supporting developing countries, especially African countries, in participating in global trade and the global economy. Appreciation was also expressed for the priority consideration given to their needs and interests in the context of the global economy.

200. A delegation expressed commitment to supporting developing countries in integrating into the global economy and taking full advantage of available trading opportunities and indicated that UNCTAD had an important role to play in that respect. The same delegation expressed the view that UNCTAD was well placed to contribute to an inclusive and resilient recovery from the pandemic and stressed that, to do so effectively, it was important that UNCTAD remain focused on results-based management. In that regard, clarification was sought as to whether the programmed activities of UNCTAD could remain focused on its comparative advantage and avoid duplication with other United Nations entities.

201. With respect to the programme plan for 2022 covering subprogrammes 1 to 5, implemented by UNCTAD, a delegation noted with satisfaction that the plan was based on the UNCTAD mandate across its three pillars of research and analysis, technical assistance and consensus-building and included the description of the contribution to certain Sustainable Development Goals. The delegation expressed general support for the proposed programme activities of UNCTAD for 2022, with the provision that the end date of the COVID-19 pandemic and its midterm consequences for global trade, investments and other related areas could not be predicted, and therefore highlighted that those activities could be subject to adjustments. The delegation also highlighted, as another critical issue, that the UNCTAD quadrennial period of work would be based on the outcomes of the fifteenth UNCTAD session, scheduled for October 2022, after the session of the Committee. In that regard, clarification was sought as to when an amended version of programme 10, incorporating the decisions and benchmarks of the fifteenth session, was intended to be presented for consideration by Member States, as well as the procedure for such consideration by the relevant intergovernmental bodies in Geneva and New York.

202. A delegation expressed appreciation that the proposed programme plan for 2022 included new results, such as tearing down trade barriers, improving the participation of African countries in regional and global value chains, supporting recovery and resilience and promoting the digital economy and logistics. The same delegation recommended that UNCTAD further support developing countries as a priority during the implementation of its programme and subprogrammes in the following year. Another delegation expressed the hope that UNCTAD, in the framework of its subprogrammes, would continue to pay attention to all groups of developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, and to economies in transition, in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi Maafikiano and previous outcome documents.

203. Appreciation was expressed for the evaluations completed during 2020, especially those on informal cross-border trade for the empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa and on trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security. The view was expressed that the evaluations were relevant to the work being done towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2.

204. With regard to result 3: advancement of analysis and policy proposals for monitoring the debt situation of developing countries, under subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, a delegation noted that the performance measure for 2022 included a proposal for multilateral measures for debt alleviation and a fairer debt rescheduling framework (table 12.5) as follow-up to the performance measure for 2021, which included the organization of an international debt conference. The same delegation sought clarification as to how UNCTAD assistance for developing countries would be provided through multilateral measures for debt alleviation and a fairer debt rescheduling framework. Another delegation noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on planned activities for 2022, such as the cancellation of training activities for developing country policymakers held every year in Wuhan, China, the impact on the subprogramme's participation in Paris Club meetings and the rescheduling of the session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development (para. 12.32). The delegation sought clarification as to whether those activities and meetings had ultimately been undertaken and what the meeting facilitation experience had been during the pandemic period. The same delegation congratulated a country for the online launch of its industrialization strategy and expressed appreciation for the continuation of work and delivery even during the pandemic.

205. Attention was also drawn to the concern that UNCTAD had recently stopped translating its analytical materials into Russian. In that connection, it was emphasized that various stakeholders in Commonwealth of Independent States countries used such materials in their work and research and that it was therefore necessary to seek opportunities to ensure the resumption of their translation into Russian.

206. With respect to the programme plan for subprogramme 6, Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development, implemented by ITC, a delegation took note of the Centre's performance in 2020 and expressed general support for the proposed plan for 2022. The same delegation expressed the view that, to have a clear picture of the Centre's work, the subprogramme should include detailed information about ITC technical assistance activities, including information aggregated by region and group. The delegation expressed the view that the Centre's programme of work for 2022 should focus more on the interests of middle-income countries and economies in transition and highlighted that they, during the pandemic, had faced a wide range of socioeconomic difficulties despite the shift of attention of the global community to the needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States. The delegation also expressed the view that middle-income countries and economies in transition could not rely on debt relief or increased flows of official development assistance and emphasized that, in those terms, aid for trade remained one of the few sources of growth for them in overcoming the consequences of the pandemic.

207. A delegation also expressed support for the work of ITC and recognized its unique mandate within the United Nations and World Trade Organization systems. The delegation expressed appreciation in particular for the Centre's ability to leverage resources to work on a wide range of important themes, in particular the economic empowerment of women, South-South trade and more sustainable global and regional value chains. The same delegation noted that 55 per cent of ITC country-specific technical assistance was targeted to the least developed countries and sought further clarification as to what particular challenges those countries would face in terms of building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and how the Centre envisaged adjusting its technical assistance in that respect. The delegation also welcomed the Executive Director's commitment to integrate audit and evaluation recommendations into the Centre's body of work and to continuously develop and implement its programme in an efficient and effective manner.

Conclusions and recommendations

208. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of UNCTAD to promote fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable globalization and to pursue a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable global economic environment.

209. The Committee noted the efforts of ITC to increase the international competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, especially the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, for inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade.

210. The Committee supported programme evaluation and self-evaluation activities to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of organizations' programmes of work.

211. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly support the continuation of UNCTAD and ITC evaluation processes, alongside agreed management and reform initiatives of UNCTAD.

212. The Committee noted the engagement of UNCTAD with the United Nations development system reform and encouraged the Organization to continue its active involvement with the process.

213. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

Programme 11 Environment

214. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 11, Environment ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 14\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

215. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) introducing the programme. The Assistant Secretary-General, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

216. Delegations expressed support for the proposed programme plan and for the UNEP programme of work. A delegation expressed appreciation and continued support for the work of UNEP in leading and coordinating action on environmental matters within the United Nations system. Another delegation emphasized the importance of environmental issues, given that they related to everyone's daily life and the planet itself, and expressed appreciation for the important work done by UNEP in past years. A delegation expressed the view that there was no greater long-term challenge confronting the world than climate change, which was placed at the centre of the country's diplomacy, foreign policy and national security. Another delegation expressed the view that the environmental crisis was going to remain at the heart of global issues in the years to come and indicated that tracking it was more important than ever. Similarly, a delegation said that climate change was one of the defining issues of current times and emphasized that developing countries were among the most affected by the catastrophe. The delegation also expressed the view that, despite contributing less than 1 per cent of global carbon emissions, the country was one of the most at risk from climate change.

217. Delegations recognized and welcomed the fact that the proposed programme plan for 2022 was based upon the new medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025, adopted at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in February 2021. A delegation congratulated UNEP for transforming what had been endorsed in its medium-term strategy into a workable and stringent programme plan that clearly contained references to gender, disability and human rights. Similarly, another delegation shared the view that human rights and gender should play a role in the work of UNEP. A delegation expressed the view that the programme presented a good basis for further work on environmental issues, bearing in mind recent developments and giving due regard to answering the needs of Member States.

218. A delegation expressed strong support for the work of UNEP, in particular in the areas of scientific assessment, capacity-building, technical assistance, including on air quality, chemicals and waste management, ocean issues and the development of

national environmental law. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the work of UNEP in support of small island developing States. A delegation noted with appreciation the balanced programme plan of UNEP and the critical role that it played in focusing global efforts to address environmental degradation and crises in a multitude of areas, as well as in delivering on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. The delegation also indicated that UNEP had an important role to play in ensuring a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which all countries would be trying to achieve in the next few years. In a similar vein, another delegation recognized the very relevant connection made in the programme narrative between the pandemic and its impact on programme delivery.

219. In relation to programmatic changes, a delegation indicated that the direction that the programme had been taking was extremely relevant and expressed support for many of the substantive changes. The delegation stressed the importance of addressing the issues of marine litter and plastic pollution, including its association with the impacts of the pandemic. The same delegation noted that the recent high-level debate organized by the President of the General Assembly had reaffirmed the urgency of the matter and highlighted that UNEP leadership in that respect would be vital in order to ensure the effectiveness and universality of efforts. The delegation also expressed support for the emphasis placed on improving the coherence of environmental policies, ensuring that the recovery from the pandemic took a sustainable approach and supporting poverty eradication, which was an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

220. Questions were raised by a delegation as to why there was a need to rename the subprogrammes, and clarification was sought as to whether those were only superficial changes or whether they affected the content of the subprogrammes. The delegation sought clarification as to how the changes in names of the subprogrammes correlated to their objectives and planned results. The same delegation noted as a positive element that the previously approved objectives seemed to have remained unchanged, despite changes in the names of the subprogrammes. Another delegation noted that there were several changes in six of the seven subprogrammes of the proposed programme plan and expressed concern regarding changes in the names or priorities, directions and functions of those subprogrammes. The delegation highlighted the importance of continuity and requested UNEP to draft the programme plans strictly in accordance with its mandates. The same delegation sought clarification as to where the mandate for the changes proposed in the subprogrammes, such as renaming them, came from and enquired whether the name changes meant a change in the priorities of UNEP. Some delegations expressed concern about the proposed changes, with a delegation seeking further clarification as to how UNEP would avoid internal duplication as well as duplication with other departments within the United Nations. The delegation noted, as an example of internal duplication, that both subprogramme 2, Digital transformations, and subprogramme 4, Environmental governance, included the development of new digital platforms in their plans and sought clarification as to why those functions could not be integrated to avoid potential duplication among those subprogrammes and internal divisions.

221. A delegation expressed concern at the ability of the Committee and by extension the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to properly review from year to year the information under each of the subprogrammes if changes were continuously introduced. It was also highlighted that it could become cumbersome and difficult for programme managers to properly prepare the document if every year they had to change the information. Another delegation shared similar concerns on the ability of members of the Committee to process all the information presented and at the same time stated that the purpose of the programme planning was to update programmes as circumstances developed; it also noted that it was good that the

programme had been updated to reflect those changes. The delegation further added that the challenge was in the amount of information presented and the length of the report and indicated that in future a more concisely presented programme plan would be appreciated.

222. As the host of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, one delegation indicated that it looked forward to working closely with UNEP on the Nature Campaign, as well as developing the profile of the Leaders' Pledge for Nature and scaling up the role of nature-based solutions.

223. A delegation emphasized that the key performance indicators should be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound and not too complex, and sought clarification on the definition and formulation of indicators used in the proposed programme plan.

224. In terms of the language used in the programme, a delegation particularly welcomed the fact that its consistent comments over the previous years had mostly been taken on board. However, the delegation noted that, in paragraph 14.10, under the strategy and external factors for 2022, along with the reference to "leaving no one behind", there was a reference to "a human rights-based approach" that had been introduced as one of the programming principles for UNEP. The delegation highlighted that leaving no one behind was an internationally recognized objective that was part of the 2030 Agenda and sought clarification as to the source of the human rights-based approach as a programming principle for UNEP.

225. With regard to the strategy in subprogramme 1, Climate action, a delegation expressed concern at the use of the expression "to transform their markets" in paragraph 14.20 and indicated that it did not clearly see the scope and implications of that expression. The same delegation noted that the expression "to transform the markets" was not intergovernmentally agreed in General Assembly resolution 70/1 and suggested that it be replaced with established language such as "to promote low-emission development plans", in line with paragraph 14.32, thereby ensuring internal consistency within the document itself as well as consistency with the Paris Agreement.

226. In reference to paragraph 14.27, a delegation noted the investment of \$169 million in clean energy, which represented an increase compared with the previous year, and expressed appreciation that the environment was being prioritized as one of the key issues in the global sphere. The same delegation sought clarification as to whether those funds had been fully utilized during 2020, considering that the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted many of the programmes. The delegation sought clarification on the planned allocation of the funds under the proposed programme plan for 2022. Another delegation highlighted that climate ambition was a priority area for the country for the upcoming years and expressed appreciation regarding the emphasis put on the climate ambition subject in the proposed programme plan. The same delegation highlighted the important results that it had achieved over the past years on clean energy.

227. Regarding the new proposed subprogramme 2, a delegation enquired about the objective of the subprogramme vis-à-vis data and analytics and sought clarification as to how the data collection would occur and the capacities of UNEP to carry out that effort and avoid potential duplications of functions if in-house capacities already existed in the United Nations and even in UNEP. The delegation further enquired as to how the private sector would factor into that work, in particular in cases in which the information or data to be collected and analysed would affect a Member State. The same delegation emphasized that due regard should be given to the official sources of information from Member States.

228. With regard to subprogramme 3, Nature action, under result 1: taking the fight against marine litter to the next level, some delegations highlighted the reference to marine litter in paragraph 14.63 and said that its inclusion in the programme narrative was timely and useful in the light of recent accidents. A delegation emphasized that the reference to the linkage between pandemics and ecosystem health in paragraph 14.69 was extremely relevant given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Another delegation noted the reference to the “global One Health alliance” in the same paragraph, expressed support for the “One Health” approach and sought further clarification as to whether the alliance was a specific organization or platform or a figure of speech referring to the Tripartite Plus organizations.

229. With regard to subprogramme 4, a delegation noted that, in paragraph 14.92, the work on environmental law included the development and advancement of new norms and concepts, such as environmental constitutionalism, and in that regard questioned what constituted the mandate for UNEP to advance environmental constitutionalism and what UNEP understood by the concept. Similar concerns on the use of the terms “human rights-based approach” and “environmental constitutionalism”, used in paragraphs 14.10 and 14.92, respectively, were raised by several delegations, which indicated that the terms had not been intergovernmentally agreed. A delegation noted that the programme plan was to be presented to the General Assembly and ultimately endorsed by it, and in that regard reiterated the importance of using intergovernmentally agreed terms. Another delegation recalled the importance of adhering to intergovernmentally agreed terms, phrases and concepts and avoiding the use of elements in the programme narrative that could prejudice future outcomes of intergovernmental negotiations. While supporting the general concept of the use of intergovernmentally agreed language, a delegation differed slightly in expressing the view that it was open to being convinced on new language that could arise from new ideas.

Conclusions and recommendations

230. **The Committee commended UNEP for its work in the fields of climate change, resilience to disasters and conflicts, healthy and productive ecosystems, environmental governance, chemicals, waste and air quality, resource efficiency and environment under review, in accordance with its mandates and as set out in relevant subprogrammes, while mainstreaming its work on resilience to disasters and conflicts, in accordance with its mandates.**

231. **The Committee noted the medium-term strategy of UNEP for the period 2022–2025 and that programme plans changed correspondingly for 2022, and, in that regard, emphasized the importance of consistency in the name, objective and strategy of the programme and subprogrammes.**

232. **The Committee commended UNEP for taking into account relevant evaluation recommendations.**

233. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNEP to refine its programme performance measures to make them more specific, measurable, achievable, reasonable and time-bound in order to increase the accountability of programme managers.**

234. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 11, Environment, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:**

A. Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Overall orientation

Strategy and external factors for 2022

Paragraph 14.3(b)

After “new subprogramme 2, Digital transformations,”, insert “in supporting environmental action”.

Paragraph 14.10

Replace “In addition to the programming principles of a human rights-based approach and leaving no one behind,” with “In addition to full respect for human rights and the programming principle of leaving no one behind.”.

After “protection of the”, delete “human”.

Subprogramme 1

Climate action

Strategy

Paragraph 14.20

Delete “to transform their markets”.

Paragraph 14.21

Replace “as the blueprint for” with “in the context of sustainable”.

Subprogramme 2

Digital transformations

After “transformations”, insert “in supporting environmental action”.

Subprogramme 3

Nature action

Result 3: lowering the risk of future pandemics and health crises by strengthening environmental considerations of human and animal health

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Paragraph 14.69

After “dimensions of health”, insert “, taking into consideration that the conception of the One Health approach needs further discussion”.

Subprogramme 4

Environmental governance

Result 3: improved coherence of environmental policies by building environmental law capacity

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Paragraph 14.92

Replace “(d) the development and advancement of new norms and concepts, such as environmental constitutionalism and the environmental rule of law, in many countries;” with “(d) the development and advancement of new measures in legislation that contribute to environmental protection in many countries, in line with national circumstances;”.

Programme 12

Human settlements

235. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 12, Human settlements (A/76/6 (Sect. 15)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2021/9).

236. The Chair drew attention to the statement of a representative of the Secretary-General introducing the programme. Representatives of the Secretariat responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

237. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and for the proposed programme plan. One delegation emphasized the position of UN-Habitat within the United Nations system as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements and welcomed its work in different regions. It was also observed that UN-Habitat was a key partner in advancing and achieving sustainable urbanization, and it was recognized that advancing significant governance reforms would ensure financial sustainability and improved Member State oversight.

238. One delegation remarked that UN-Habitat played an important role in the face of increasing urbanization, and that it was important for its work to be matched by demands from Member States and cities. Another delegation encouraged UN-Habitat to continue to support Member States, especially developing countries, in order to improve people's living conditions and promote sustainable urbanization. Furthermore, the delegation recommended that UN-Habitat improve coordination with related departments in the Secretariat to further enhance the post-pandemic recovery.

239. With regard to the recent reform measures taken by UN-Habitat, which included the establishment of an independent executive board, it was noted that they established the foundation for: regular ethics reporting; audits; evaluation; a review policy to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment; and the development of an annual workplan and budget. It was observed that the proposed programme represented a significant improvement upon previous years. In that regard, it was stated that the proposed programme plan reflected a more comprehensive understanding of the best way to leverage the expertise and knowledge of UN-Habitat in order to achieve outcomes that would benefit Member States.

240. One delegation welcomed the reform carried out by UN-Habitat and its collaboration with other parts of the United Nations system. With regard to the programme portfolio, the delegation commented that it was important for UN-Habitat to keep the portfolio under review and noted with appreciation that UN-Habitat would take that approach with two flagship programmes, on inclusive, vibrant neighbourhoods and communities and on people-centred smart cities, by mainstreaming them into its four subprogrammes.

241. In the context of the COVID-19 recovery, it was further noted that the role of UN-Habitat was particularly important in helping to minimize the adverse effects of the pandemic at a time when millions of people, in particular young people, had lost their jobs, continued to reside in slums and informal settlements, or found themselves in challenging situations with regard to access to affordable housing, basic urban

services and health care. It was also stressed that the recovery should be sustainable, an approach that implied taking into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development rather than singling out one component.

242. Concern was expressed with regard to specific issues and language in the proposed programme plan, namely formulations on gender equality, climate change, digital technologies, and rights and recovery. It was observed that some of the concepts should be aligned with the Paris Agreement, and that other concepts introduced were not universally understood or agreed upon, such as “digital rights” in paragraph 15.74.

243. It was noted that UN-Habitat intended to re-establish certain programmes, and further clarifications were requested, in particular on the demand for the global online Urban Agenda Platform and on the extent to which the re-establishment of the Urban Indicators Programme would support cities in making better decisions or implementing more effective urban interventions.

244. The comment was made that the programme plan should be amended to include a sharper focus on water, sanitation and hygiene in order to curb the spread of infectious diseases such as typhoid, cholera and COVID-19, as that objective was particularly important in post-conflict areas, informal settlements, slums and urban refugee settlements, where there was lack of access to water, sanitation, hygiene and health care.

245. With regard to subprogramme 2, Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions, one delegation requested additional information in connection with the programme performance in 2020, in particular concerning the impact of the pandemic on subprogramme delivery. Further insight was also sought on the methodology being developed for the rapid mapping of COVID-19 vulnerability, impact and responses in cities.

Conclusions and recommendations

246. **The Committee commended UN-Habitat for continuing to implement governance reform.**

247. **The Committee also commended UN-Habitat for its work on mitigating the effects of COVID-19 in urban areas, including by supporting cities in the decongestion and digitization of local markets, increasing hygiene and sanitation in slums and creating livelihood opportunities.**

248. **The Committee noted with appreciation that the programme plan for 2022 continued to support and drive the delivery of sustainable urbanization, to reduce poverty and inequality across the urban-rural continuum, to streamline social inclusion and to promote a transformative change to positively transform lives in cities and communities around the world.**

249. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Strategy and external factors for 2022

Paragraph 15.19

Replace “integrates” with “mainstreams”.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1

Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 15.37

Delete “genders”.

Result 1: Strengthened land rights for men and women in the Arab world

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 15.44

Replace “gender-appropriate” with “gender-sensitive”.

Table 15.2

Performance measure

In the columns headed “2018 (actual)”, “2019 (actual)”, “2020 (actual)” and “2021 (planned)”, replace “gender-appropriate” with “gender-sensitive”.

Subprogramme 2

Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions

Strategy

Paragraph 15.58

Replace the existing text with the following:

The subprogramme plans to support Member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing a territorial framework for socioeconomic recovery from COVID-19, climate action and safeguarding the environment and biodiversity; ensuring that economic recovery measures support sustainable urban recovery that helps drive poverty eradication, economic growth, climate action and progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and placing a stronger focus on the recovery of locally generated revenue (including land-based financing) as a way to help alleviate the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19.

Result 3: a people-centred approach to urban innovation, digital technologies, smart cities and urbanization processes adopted by cities

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Paragraph 15.74

Replace “digital rights” with “access to digital technologies”.

Subprogramme 3

Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

Strategy

Paragraph 15.82

Replace “is at the core of” with “contributes to the implementation of”.

Paragraph 15.83

Replace the first sentence with the following: “The subprogramme plans to support Member States on issues related to COVID-19 by highlighting technologies, processes and investment opportunities, as part of its normative work, which will support sustainable COVID-19 recovery opportunities and an integrated approach to socioeconomic development, climate and health resilience.”

Paragraph 15.85

In subparagraph (a), replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Programme performance in 2020*Paragraph 15.88*

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Paragraph 15.91

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Planned results for 2022

Result 2: accelerated climate action in 16 cities and eight countries around the world

Paragraph 15.98

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Table 15.7

Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

In deliverable 1, replace “low-carbon” with “low-carbon and low-emission” and “greener” with “more sustainable”.

In deliverable 2, replace “low-carbon” with “low-carbon and low-emission”.

In deliverable 6, replace “renewable” with “cleaner”.

In deliverable 7, replace “low-carbon” with “low-carbon and low-emission”.

Replace deliverable 9 with the following: “Seminars, workshops and training events leading to enhanced understanding of sustainable city models and their application, sustainable infrastructure and green-blue urban planning”.

In deliverable 13, replace “low-carbon” with “low-carbon and low-emission”.

In deliverable 18, replace “low-carbon” with “low-carbon and low-emission”.

In category C, replace “low-carbon” with “low-carbon and low-emission”.

Subprogramme 4
Effective urban crisis prevention and response

Strategy

Paragraph 15.105

Replace the fourth sentence with the following: “The subprogramme will continue to focus on supporting local actors as key players in increasing social cohesion between communities and reducing discrimination and xenophobia with full respect for human rights in urban crisis situations.”

Planned results for 2022

Result 2: inclusive cities: enhancing the positive impacts of urban migration

Paragraph 15.123

Replace “rights-based approaches for” with “human rights in”.

Programme 13
International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

250. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 16\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

251. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General introducing the programme. The representative of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

252. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in its contribution to countering illicit drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. They expressed their appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2022.

253. A delegation emphasized that UNODC was the primary international body with drug control and anti-crime expertise, including in the fields of cybercrime and anti-corruption, and that the work of UNODC should be focused on assisting Member States in the core areas of its mandate. The delegation also expressed the view that the work of UNODC could complement broader efforts towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, but that their achievement should not be a significant element of its work to assist Member States in their implementation of the commitments under the three United Nations drug conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other non-binding policy commitments with regard to drug control, crime and corruption. Another delegation welcomed the continued focus on gender and mainstreaming that approach into all operations.

254. With regard to the programme plan for 2022, a delegation recalled that the draft programme for UNODC had been discussed in Vienna in December 2020, with comments and suggestions made by interested Member States.

255. A delegation welcomed the inter-agency connections and collaborations within the programme plan for 2022 and expressed the view that effective collaboration within UNODC was vital in order for operations and field work to achieve significant reductions in crime.

256. With regard to paragraph 16.25 in subprogramme 1, Countering transnational organized crime, a delegation stressed the importance of international cooperation among relevant authorities within Member States and expressed the view that legal assistance should be both targeted to relevant national authorities and in line with national and international frameworks. The delegation highlighted the importance of capacity-building to prevent cybercrime and reduce existing technological gaps among national authorities.

257. With regard to figure 16.I, under subprogramme 1, which presented the number of Member States that have adopted legislative and institutional frameworks in line with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and relevant instruments, clarification was sought on whether the amount of 10 in 2020 was fully representative of all Member States that had adopted such frameworks. Clarification was also sought on whether a more ambitious target for 2022 would be possible.

258. A delegation recalled that the General Assembly had decided, in its resolution [75/282](#), that UNODC would serve as the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes and that the work of the Committee would commence in 2022. In that context, the delegation proposed that the programme for 2022 reflect resolution [75/282](#) and the role of UNODC in its implementation.

259. With regard to the strategy and planned activities for subprogramme 2, A comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the world drug problem, further information was sought on how UNODC research and data on the supply of, and the demand for, drugs supported the drug reduction programmes of Member States. With regard to the performance measure in figure 16.II, which presented the number of additional countries initiating programmes to develop or implement national quality standards each year, a delegation sought clarification on the cumulative total of countries in 2020.

260. With regard to table 16.9, under subprogramme 2, which contained a list of the deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory, a delegation sought clarification on the calculation of the planned number of 15 three-hour meeting sessions for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East).

261. With regard to paragraphs 16.74 and 16.76, which related to subprogramme 3, Countering corruption, a delegation expressed support for UNODC efforts to promote international cooperation in investigations, prosecutions and adjudication in cases related to corruption and emphasized the requirement for strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets.

262. A delegation emphasized that subprogramme 3 played a core role in promoting the engagement of civil society and sought clarification on how UNODC could do more in that context.

263. With regard to the performance measure in figure 16.V, under subprogramme 4, Terrorism prevention, which presented the number of criminal justice officials trained annually on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism cases, it was

noted that the target for 2022 was 1,750 officials, and clarification was sought on whether that target was sufficiently ambitious.

264. With regard to the performance measure presented in table 16.17, under subprogramme 5, Justice, a delegation sought clarification on the reason that no additional female prisoners were being trained and/or employed after release in 2020 and that no number had been included in the measure for 2022.

265. With regard to subprogramme 8, Technical cooperation and field support, a delegation sought clarification on whether there could be a specific performance measure related to coordination with other United Nations entities in the context of reform of the United Nations development system.

266. With regard to subprogramme 9, Provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the United Nations intergovernmental bodies, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the view was expressed that there should be a separation between 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 congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, and component 2, provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the International Narcotics Control Board, for the narrative and the resources required for the two independent divisions of the Secretariat, in particular when assessing the costs of hybrid meetings.

267. With regard to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of UNODC and the proposal to hold all future intergovernmental meetings in a hybrid format, combining in-person and online participation, the view was expressed that that type of hybrid arrangement for meetings was envisaged as a temporary solution that could not and should not replace the standard rules of procedure following an easing of COVID-19-related restrictions. It was emphasized that, while online meetings could be helpful in ensuring participation from remote locations, the servicing of such meetings required a higher amount of financial and human resources, which could be difficult to ensure, given limited regular budget resources.

268. With regard to the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNODC ([E/AC.51/2021/6](#)), a delegation expressed concern over the findings and urged UNODC to implement the recommendations made in the report.

Conclusions and recommendations

269. The Committee commended the important work carried out by UNODC as the primary international body with expertise on drugs and crime, including corruption, with the core mandate of assisting Member States in those areas.

270. The Committee took note that UNODC had supported Member States in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic by disseminating policy briefs, guidance notes and operational advice under its mandate, including its research and analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on drugs, organized crime, trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

271. The Committee emphasized that UNODC continue to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with other entities to contribute to promoting global peace, security and prosperity in accordance with its core mandates under the three United Nations drug conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other policy commitments on other forms of crime and on drug policy.

272. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

A. Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Overall orientation

Strategy and external factors for 2022

Paragraph 16.9

At the end of the first sentence, add “and independent international organizations”.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1

Countering transnational organized crime

Strategy

Paragraph 16.25

At the end of the paragraph, add a new sentence, reading: “In its resolution [75/282](#), the Assembly approved the modalities for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.”

Paragraph 16.28

Replace the second sentence with the following: “In the case of the latter, the subprogramme will support legislative and policy development aimed at reducing the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition, deliver training on the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking and related offences and support global data collection and analysis on firearms trafficking to build an evidence base for strategic decisions at the policy and operational levels.”

Planned results for 2022

Result 3: harmonized legislative and institutional frameworks and enhanced international cooperation and evidence-based approaches in line with the Firearms Protocol

Paragraph 16.43

Replace the first sentence with the following: “The lesson for the subprogramme was that it needed to provide additional support in the form of legislative assistance to enhance legislative and institutional frameworks to respond to illicit firearms manufacturing and trafficking, in line with the Firearms Protocol.”

In the third sentence, delete “and relevant instruments”.

Legislative mandates

Paragraph 16.45

General Assembly resolutions

Add:

“74/174 Countering child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online”

“75/282 Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes”

Subprogramme 2

A comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the world drug problem

Strategy

Paragraphs 16.49 and 16.50

Switch the placement of paragraph 16.49 with that of paragraph 16.50.

Subprogramme 3

Countering corruption

Planned results for 2022

Result 3: renewed political commitment to the fight against corruption

Paragraph 16.93

In the last sentence, replace “is expected to result” with “resulted”.

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 congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice

Planned results for 2022

Result 3: strengthened implementation of international drug policy commitments towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda

Paragraph 16.235

In the first sentence, before “multilateralism”, insert “international cooperation within the framework of”.

Component 2: provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the International Narcotics Control Board

Objective

Paragraph 16.239

Replace the existing text with the following:

The objective, to which component 2 of this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the International Narcotics Control Board in fulfilling its treaty-based mandate, through such measures as monitoring and promoting the full implementation of and full compliance with the three international drug

control treaties, and supporting Member States in implementing their treaty obligations.

Programme 14

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

273. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women (A/76/6 (Sect. 17)).

274. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women introducing the programme. The Assistant Secretary-General, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

275. Delegations expressed appreciation and strong support for the work of UN-Women in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and noted its critical role in strengthening global norms and standards, promoting more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and supporting Member States. Support was also expressed for the programme's focus on five thematic areas: (a) a comprehensive and dynamic set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is strengthened and implemented; (b) women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; (c) women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; (d) all women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; and (e) women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts, and from humanitarian action. One delegation particularly welcomed the gender focal points across the United Nations system to further enhance coherence and support for gender mainstreaming.

276. Several delegations expressed support for the programme proposal in full, while one delegation expressed the view that the programme was overloaded with general declarative provisions that were not directly related to practical financial issues and were not relevant in the context of programming for 2022. In that connection the delegation requested that the programme be corrected in several areas.

277. Several delegations recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic had had a disproportionate impact on women and girls socially and economically. A delegation expressed continued concern about the impact of the pandemic, and delegations expressed appreciation for the priority placed on the matter, including through explicit mentions in the programme plan and related remedies that UN-Women was facilitating. The view was expressed that extreme poverty and gender inequity remained prevalent owing to inadequate and uneven development, and that the pandemic had exacerbated the challenges that women faced in education, health and employment; the "return to poverty" for women caused by the pandemic was also highlighted. In that connection, a request was made that UN-Women, in the post-pandemic period, focus on poverty alleviation for women and coordinate with Member States, especially developing countries, during the process of programme formulation and implementation. A further request was made to integrate poverty eradication for women into the overall strategy of UN-Women and to continue the cooperation with other United Nations entities.

278. Several delegations expressed appreciation that UN-Women had quickly adapted to the needs of Member States, including in the context of the Commission on the Status of Women, and other stakeholders. It was mentioned that the development of United Nations policy briefs and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, as well as other relevant materials, were instrumental to analysing the consequences of the pandemic in such areas as domestic violence and ensuring the accessibility of education and social security for women and girls, thus promoting evidence-based response strategies. Another delegation highlighted collaboration between UN-Women and UNDP to develop a new virtual tool, the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker, as an example of a useful product to address the impact of the virus. A delegation expressed the view that UN-Women would have a crucial role to play as countries built back from the pandemic. In that connection, further elaboration was requested from UN-Women about how it envisaged such work in the future. Information was also sought on how the pandemic had shaped the work of UN-Women in planning for programme 14.

279. A delegation noted a statement that “hybrid delivery aspects would be harnessed” and expressed the view that that appeared to be contradictory to the statements made by the United Nations leadership and its joint efforts as an international community, given that virtual and hybrid formats were introduced as an adjustment necessary for the continuation of business during the pandemic. A different view was expressed by another delegation that, in respect of lessons learned from the pandemic, it would welcome further elaboration on the issue of hybrid meetings and how they had allowed the participation of a wider range of stakeholders, including women and girls, who otherwise would have been excluded.

280. The role of UN-Women in mobilizing States and non-State actors in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda was recognized. One delegation expressed the view that UN-Women had an important role to play in the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and welcomed references to that. The delegation further welcomed the references in the programme plan on partnerships, joint programming and collaboration and coordination, especially with other United Nations entities such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children’s Fund and UNDP.

281. An opposing view was expressed with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, with a delegation stating that it would be a misrepresentation to claim that UN-Women had a critical role in supporting the mobilization of relevant stakeholders in that regard, and a further misrepresentation of General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) that UN-Women supported the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda pursuant to it. The delegation further expressed the view that UN-Women had the lead on Goal 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, but, with regard to other Goals, UN-Women might only share its expertise and get involved for those Goals that were directly relevant to the advancement of women.

282. The contributions of UN-Women to peacebuilding and humanitarian relief efforts were recognized. Delegations expressed support for the work on national action plans on women and peace and security. A delegation added that it firmly believed in, and supported, the United Nations women and peace and security agenda and that it had been mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations.

283. One delegation called upon UN-Women to strengthen capacity-building and improve the institutional guarantee of the development of women. A view was expressed that UN-Women admirably prioritized evidence-based implementation of national action plans on women and peace and security, and the delegation was

encouraged by the growing number of national action plans and regional strategies devoted to advancing women and peace and security efforts.

284. A view was shared by one delegation that the inclusion of information on developments in achieving gender equality in specific countries seemed unnecessary as they were the results of efforts of Governments, while the role of UN-Women was to provide technical support at the request of those Governments. The same delegation expressed the view that the document sought to impose on States the implementation of measures that were not in line with their international obligations and national legislation. It was underlined once again that any activity of UN-Women at the country level, including in relation to supporting civil society, had to be conducted at the request of the host country. Another delegation reiterated that view and stressed that national action plans should be implemented at the request of the Government and consistent with what the Government was doing. It was stressed that the United Nations was there to support and not to educate.

285. Furthermore, in relation to national action plans, a question was raised about the role of UN-Women in supporting Member States in expanding partnerships in support of the implementation of national action plans on women and peace and security. In that connection, a delegation shared that it was close to adopting the first action plan on women and peace and security, and that it had valued the support of UN-Women very much. Interest was expressed regarding how UN-Women could continue to provide or even enhance its extremely valuable support for Member States.

286. Support was expressed for the engagement of UN-Women with civil society groups, which brought valuable perspectives to United Nations discussions. It was also noted that there were a number of references to helping and supporting civil society and in that connection a question was raised about the relationship between UN-Women and civil society, and whether that work was done with the coordination of the Government or whether it was independent.

287. A question was raised regarding the list of mandates, with one delegation highlighting that the mandates were the result of intergovernmental processes and stressing that the list should include those that had been agreed by States Members of the United Nations. In that connection, it was asked whether there were any mandates mentioned that did not qualify, or in other words did not emanate from the United Nations process.

288. Support was expressed by several delegations for the efforts of UN-Women with regard to gender-responsive climate action, in coordination with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat. One delegation, which would host the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, welcomed the focus on gender-responsive climate action.

289. It was noted by one delegation that the programme referenced United Nations reform only in a limited way. A view was expressed that that should remain a priority for UN-Women, and the delegation welcomed further information on steps that UN-Women was taking to advance reform through joint programming and increased efficiencies. A similar view was expressed by another delegation, which considered United Nations reform and the important role that UN-Women played in that regard as highly important. Appreciation was expressed for the references to the resident coordinator system and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, as they were matters that were highly important, and UN-Women played a huge role.

290. The reference to the Generation Equality Forum was noted, and in that connection a view was expressed that the modalities and content of the Forum had not been discussed at the United Nations, including by the Executive Board of

UN-Women or the Commission on the Status of Women, and that they were furthermore not in line with widely accepted and consensual terms and concepts related to the advancement of women.

291. A view was expressed that, while it was obvious that all United Nations processes affected women, that would not mean that UN-Women had to undertake the activities led by relevant mandated bodies and entities. That applied to “driving forward an inclusive COVID-19 recovery” (para. 17.15), issues related to persons with disabilities (para. 17.12), “coordination with partners in the United Nations system and civil society” (para. 17.45) and climate change (paras. 17.20 and 17.38–17.41). It was stressed that UN-Women might contribute to the mentioned processes strictly within its mandate. In that connection, it was requested that wording be corrected throughout the text (such as in paras. 17.21 and 17.54 (b)) and that a similar approach needed to be taken on the three pillars of the United Nations, namely peace and security, development and human rights. In the view of the delegation, that meant that in paragraph 17.48 the term “development” instead of “sustainable development”, which narrowed the scope, needed to be used. It was further requested that, in order to achieve genuine gender equality, references to the term “gender parity”, which was just about numbers, had to be replaced by the well-established term “gender equality”, which took into account the qualitative aspect of the respective efforts (paras. 17.7, 17.24 and 17.27 (b), and para. 9 of table 17.4).

292. In relation to performance measures, a question was raised regarding the performance measure in figure 17.3 on the number of national prevention strategies. A delegation asked how the cumulative performance measure could have a lower planned value in 2022 than in 2021.

293. In relation to deliverables, it was noted that, while the number of de facto meetings had decreased, it remained the same “on paper” (table 17.4), which was used as justification for the increase in conference services (para. 17.84). A delegation sought clarification on the issue as well as on the doubling of numbers of technical materials to be prepared by UN-Women (table 17.4).

294. With regard to evaluation, a delegation expressed the view that it expected that the four recommendations issued by OIOS contained in its report on the inspection of the evaluation function of UN-Women ([E/AC.51/2021/7](#)), which was also considered by the Committee at its sixty-first session, would be duly taken in account by the senior management of UN-Women. Additional information on resources was requested by one delegation, specifically on the continuously increasing resources to cover the travel of representatives of the Executive Board of UN-Women over the past five years (para. 17.90, and tables 17.7, 17.12 and 17.14). The view was also expressed that it appeared excessive to include the information on the Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division, which did not seem to be established.

Conclusions and recommendations

295. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan of programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.

Programme 15

Economic and social development in Africa

296. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 18\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

297. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA introducing the programme. A representative of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

298. Delegations expressed support and appreciation for the work carried out by the Commission and for the programme plan for 2022, which effectively translated the role of the United Nations system at the regional and country levels. Strong support was expressed for the core mandate of the programme.

299. One delegation observed that the Commission had gained the interest of people across the continent as an instrumental tool for development in Africa, while another delegation expressed the view that economic development was at the heart of the solution to tackle challenges in Africa and highlighted the strategic goals and potential work of the Commission in supporting economic and social development plans for the continent. Expectations were shared for a more viable and authoritative ECA with tangible contributions to national, subregional and regional efforts towards economic development in Africa. Particular appreciation was expressed for the subprogrammes with an emphasis on enhancing regional integration and trade, subregional economic growth, employment, poverty alleviation, cross-border and regional infrastructure construction and industrialization.

300. The point was made that social and economic development in Africa were crucial and that all efforts should be made to promote the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. Appreciation for the Commission's commitment to complementing the work of, and cooperating more harmoniously with, other entities was expressed, and the importance of strong cooperation between the Commission, the African Union and its Agenda 2063, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the resident coordinator network was stressed. A delegation noted the Commission's particular contribution to existing regional integration programmes and emphasized the need for closer cooperation with the African Union in pursuit of a common agenda. Clarification was sought on the obstacles and difficulties encountered and how the work of ECA could be supported by Member States. Expectations for a more hands-on strategy accommodating a sectoral policy approach for the continent were shared.

301. Appreciation was expressed for the variety of projects included in the proposed programme plan for 2022 and for the Commission's role in making the African Continental Free Trade Area a reality. A delegation highlighted that the free trade area had been fully operational since January 2021, and appreciation was expressed for the Commission's contribution thereto. A delegation highlighted that the Africa Dialogue Series had been a good opportunity to showcase Africa. Clarification was sought on other key projects to foster development in Africa, including to tackle challenges such as the connectivity market, to be implemented jointly with the African Union.

302. The devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had had on many African countries was highlighted, and the Commission's important role in helping the region to build back better and in ensuring that progress made on the 2030 Agenda had not been lost was emphasized. One delegation recommended that, in the implementation of the programme plan, priority be given to supporting countries most affected by the pandemic in making progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Another delegation recommended that the programme focus on post-COVID-19 recovery and that collaboration with other entities covering development, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, UNCTAD and the regional commissions, should be enhanced. Support was expressed for the emphasis of the programme on poverty eradication, addressing the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, promoting food security and nutrition, addressing the issue of illicit financial flows and enhancing competitiveness, as well as on trade facilitation and road safety. A delegation welcomed the Commission's intention to learn lessons and adapt business processes through the use of information and communications technology to convene expert meetings, ministerial conferences, thematic webinars and e-learning sessions and highlighted that a much larger number of beneficiaries had been included in 2020 as a result, with more diversity and a better gender balance than in previous years. With regard to subprogramme 4, Data and statistics, result 1: improving national data availability for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals, clarification was sought as to what had been the main challenges during the COVID-19 crisis.

303. With regard to the Group of 20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, it was noted that ECA had always been at the forefront of alleviating debt servicing for Africa, and clarification was sought on advancements in that area, specifically on the process regarding the extension of the initiative until the end of 2022, taking into account the effects of the pandemic. Some delegations did not support the extension of the initiative to 2022, which had been identified by the Commission as a primary goal. A delegation observed that, according to the Group of 20, the initiative would be extended from 1 July to 31 December 2021 and no further and highlighted the possible counterproductive impact of another extension on its beneficiaries, including low-income and least developed countries, namely, delaying a transition to measures that would address structural debt issues. Additional clarification was sought on the mandate for that area of work.

304. One delegation welcomed the changes in the programmatic structure of the Commission that had been made that year and sought clarification on how it had assessed the new dynamics following the restructuring, including on the nexus that had been established with the private sector. Another delegation recommended that the governing bodies of ECA first take action on tailoring the strategic frameworks to match mandates or regional functions and be given the opportunity to review and approve changes suggested by the Committee.

305. With regard to the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020, a delegation welcomed the fact that suggestions made at the sixtieth session of the Committee to align the terminology of the programme with intergovernmentally agreed terminology had been reflected and highlighted that some elements could still be reviewed. A delegation noted the frequent use of the word "transitioning" in the programme plan, highlighting the fact that Africa was a continent in transition in many areas, such as energy, economy and population, and sought clarification on the Commission's assessment of the contribution of the private sector thereto.

306. Clarification was sought on the meaning of “the need to leverage the continent’s demographics” (foreword), specifically on whether the intent of the Executive Secretary was to highlight that the demographics of Africa should be considered as an opportunity for its development, rather than a challenge.

307. Appreciation was expressed for the Commission’s commitment to integrating a gender perspective, including references to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and disability inclusion, into the proposed programme plan for 2022. More specifically, in subprogramme 3, Private sector development and finance, in reference to the sentence “The subprogramme will further support member States in implementing the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, in particular by improving women’s tenure security to meet the target set by the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union Commission. The target is to allocate 30 per cent of land rights to women by 2025” (para. 18.82), further clarification was sought on how support would be provided.

308. Ahead of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a delegation expressed appreciation for the Commission’s work on tackling the climate crisis, including activities highlighted in subprogramme 5, Technology, climate change and natural resource management.

309. With regard to subprogramme 7, Subregional activities for development, a delegation noted that five ECA subregional offices were located on the African continent and that, accordingly, five components with separate objectives, strategies and programme performance measures were included in the document. In that connection, concern was expressed over the size of the programme plan (the observation was made that it was the largest), and the suggestion was made that the five components be merged and presented with one objective, one strategy and four or five programme performance measures so as to shorten the document significantly.

310. A delegation emphasized the need to promptly address the administrative and resource limitations that had affected the Commission’s work and had an impact on its ability to meet its strategic objectives in previous years.

Conclusions and recommendations

311. The Committee welcomed and commended ECA for its continued efforts to promote the economic and social development of Africa and to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and underlined the importance of its role in fostering regional integration and promoting international and regional cooperation for Africa’s development.

312. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly coordinate international efforts by enhancing its close cooperation with United Nations development entities, regional economic commissions, the African Union and its Development Agency and other regional organizations, including academic and research institutions in Africa, with the aim of centring its work on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

313. The Committee reiterated the need for ECA to continue to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECA to continue, within its mandate, its collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities at the regional and subregional levels, including the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams in the context of the reform of the United

Nations development system, as well as with the international financial institutions and regional development banks.

314. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECA to enhance its role in terms of identifying, proposing and making available to countries in the region innovative financing, macroeconomic, trade, technology and other policy options to overcome the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to build upon the opportunities provided by COVID-19 prevention and recovery tools at the global level.

315. The Committee welcomed the programme's support for the entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Commission to continue its efforts to support members of the Free Trade Area and States that were not yet parties to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area to develop a national strategy and implementation plan and to conduct an impact assessment.

316. The Committee noted with appreciation the emphasis placed on migration in the programme of work for 2022, underscored the need for concerted efforts towards better integration of migration issues into national development plans and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECA to cooperate with other regional economic commissions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

317. The Committee noted the three core functions of ECA and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Commission to explore measures to address the gaps in its capacity to fully discharge its functions as a regional convener and a think tank, as well as its operation function.

318. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

A. Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Subprogramme 3

Private sector development and finance

Deliverables

Table 18.9

Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

Deliverable 19

Replace “gender” with “a gender perspective”.

After “land and agriculture”, add “policies and programmes”.

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy

Replace “gender” with “a gender perspective”.

Add “policies and programmes” after “land and agriculture”.

**Subprogramme 4
Data and statistics**

Deliverables

Table 18.11

Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy

Replace “gender data” with “gender statistics”.

Subprogramme 5

Technology, climate change and natural resources management

Strategy

Paragraph 18.138

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Planned results for 2022

Result 1: climate resilience integrated in national sustainable development plans in Africa

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 18.150

Replace “gender and climate change strategy for Africa” with “strategy on climate change, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for Africa”.

Subprogramme 6

Gender equality and women’s empowerment

Objective

Paragraph 18.162

Replace “gender-related commitments” with “commitments related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”.

Strategy

Paragraph 18.163

In the first sentence, replace “gender” with “a gender perspective”.

In the third sentence, replace “gender” with “a gender perspective”.

Programme performance in 2020

Strengthened capacity of member States to report on the implementation of gender equality commitments

Paragraph 18.170

Replace “gender perspectives” with “a gender perspective”.

Paragraph 18.171

Replace “gender challenges” with “challenges in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”.

Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery

Paragraph 18.173

Replace “the gender approach” with “gender mainstreaming”.

Replace “mainstream gender” with “mainstream a gender perspective”.

Paragraph 18.174

Before “and women’s affairs”, insert “equality”.

Planned results for 2022

Result 1: harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa with gender equality

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 18.176

In the first sentence, replace “gender” with “a gender perspective”.

In the second sentence, replace “integrate gender analysis” with “mainstream a gender perspective”.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Paragraph 18.178

Before “for feedback from member States”, insert “equality and women’s empowerment”.

Figure 18.XII

Performance measure: total number of countries adopting sector-specific policies that mainstream gender into sectoral policies (cumulative)

In the title, replace “gender” with “a gender perspective”.

Result 3: enhanced capacity of member States to address gender equality in the economic and digital transformation of African countries

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Paragraph 18.183

Replace “gender-related” with “gender”.

Deliverables

Table 18.19

Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)

In deliverable 16, before “in support of member States”, insert “equality and women’s empowerment”.

Technical materials (number of materials)

In deliverable 29, before “and the extractive industry”, insert “equality and women’s empowerment”.

Subprogramme 7

Subregional activities for development

Component 4

Subregional activities in East Africa

Strategy

Paragraph 18.274

After “gender”, insert “equality and women’s empowerment”.

Deliverables

Table 18.33

Subprogramme 7, component 4: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)

In deliverable 7, after “gender”, insert “equality and women’s empowerment”.

Subprogramme 8

Economic development and planning

Strategy

Paragraph 18.333

Replace “mainstreaming gender” with “mainstreaming a gender perspective”.

Before “and youth-related content”, insert “equality”.

Programme performance in 2020

Increased institutional capacity relating to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area

Paragraph 18.339

After “gender”, insert “equality and women’s empowerment”.

Subprogramme 9

Poverty, inequality and social policy

Deliverables

Table 18.40

Subprogramme 9: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)

In deliverable 8, replace “human security” with “the concept of “human security” in accordance with General Assembly resolution [66/290](#)”.

Technical materials (number of materials)

In deliverable 24, replace “human security” with “the concept of “human security” in accordance with General Assembly resolution [66/290](#)”.

Programme 16

Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

319. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

320. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) introducing the programme. The Executive Secretary, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

321. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of ESCAP in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region and noted with appreciation the upcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of ESCAP in 2022.

322. Delegations commended the work of ESCAP and its commitment to work for all the peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, including its work in relation to support for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, its focus on the modernization of business processes by enabling internal management to deliver better, its important work undertaken in relation to gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion and its diverse activities in terms of subject and geographical coverage.

323. Support was expressed for the strong research and capacity-building mandate of ESCAP in support of Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A delegation expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by ESCAP to its members and associate members in integrating all three dimensions of sustainable development. The delegation also welcomed the emphasis placed in the programme on issues relating to ageing and people with disabilities and commended the result achieved in 2020 across the following four priority action areas for regional cooperation: ensuring economic recovery; protecting people; restoring and building resilience in supply chain connectivity; and protecting and restoring ecosystems.

324. A delegation expressed the view that the work of the regional commissions in general was among that with the most visible impact on the lives of people on the ground and that it stood at the forefront of the Organization's development work. Highlighting the importance of close cooperation between the regional commissions, a delegation sought further information with particular regard to the cooperation between ESCAP and the ECA.

325. A view was expressed that the language of the programme plan should be revised to reflect the use of commonly used terms from intergovernmentally agreed documents, and it was advised that the word “sustainable” be used in place of the

word “green” in the context of the COVID-19 recovery and in relation to economic growth.

326. A delegation expressed the view that ESCAP should focus on areas of comparative or competitive advantage and that its activities should not extend beyond the mandate of the programme. The delegation also advised that ESCAP could use SMART (strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound) performance measures to create obtainable and realistic performance measures.

327. In the context of the support for COVID-19 pandemic recovery, it was recalled that the majority of members and associate members of ESCAP were classified as least developed countries or small island developing States which must not be left behind. Delegations called upon ESCAP to continue to support Member States in their recovery efforts, in building back better and in making sure that the progress previously made on the 2030 Agenda remained in place. A delegation welcomed the intention of ESCAP to learn lessons from the adjustments to and adaptation of the programme owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the scaling up of e-learning activities and the organization of hybrid meetings to allow for the balanced representation of Member States in intergovernmental deliberations. In that regard, clarification was sought as to whether moving meetings to a hybrid or online format would allow for greater participation by small island developing States.

328. A number of delegations expressed concern at the length of the document and called upon ESCAP to streamline the programme plan in future years. An explanation was sought concerning what, if any, changes had had an impact on the document’s length compared with the previous year’s document. A delegation expressed the view that, generally, the length of documents had become an issue only with the move to an annual budget and the inclusion of “stories”, as well as other elements which increased the volume.

329. In respect of the strategy and the assumptions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic mentioned in paragraph 19.9, a delegation sought additional information concerning the most important lessons learned from the pandemic and how ESCAP would make use of what it had learned in implementing its plan for 2022. The delegation also sought further information concerning potential threats to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region, the possible impact of those threats and measures that ESCAP could take to address them.

330. In reference to subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development, further information was requested concerning the performance measure contained in table 19.2 relating to policymakers from 10 countries reporting that they would use the COVID-19 impact and assessment tool and/or knowledge products to inform their policymaking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

331. A delegation recalled figure 19.I in subprogramme 2, Trade, investment and innovation, reflecting the total number of women entrepreneurs accessing financial services with support from ESCAP, and noted that the total number of 7,205 for 2020 significantly exceeded the target of 5,940 for 2021, and in that connection sought clarification on the expected result for 2021.

332. In reference to figure 19.III in subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management, reflecting the total number of broadband network initiatives developed and implemented within subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, a delegation sought clarification on whether there was scope for a more ambitious target than the increase by only one in 2021 and 2022 given the increase by five in 2020.

333. In the context of the length of the ESCAP document and the presentation of subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development, which included separate objectives, strategies and performance measures for each of the five components, a question was asked as to whether it would be possible to combine the objectives and strategies for the five components into a single set of objectives, strategies and performance measures for the whole subprogramme, thus reducing the volume of the document. It was noted that the presentation of the components within a subprogramme separately was not unique to ESCAP. A delegation pointed out that, for instance, component 5, Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia, had only one staff member but had a full result, thus creating a mismatch between the text and staffing. In that regard, the delegation expressed the view that the budget document should more closely reflect the structure of the Commission in implementing its programme. In response, a delegation sought clarification on whether, should the five components of subprogramme 8 be combined, the Secretariat could ensure the consistency of previous and future programme plans and the provision of sufficient information to Member States for a clear understanding of activities and results of programmes.

334. With regard to the same subprogramme, information was sought concerning how the five subregional offices worked alongside the resident coordinators based in those subregions.

Conclusions and recommendations

335. **The Committee commended ESCAP for its efforts to promote the economic and social development of Asia and the Pacific in order to support Member States in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular in the face of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and underlined its leading role in coordinating regional United Nations development system entities in accordance with its mandate.**

336. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage ESCAP to continue to effectively extend its support for its Member States in the response to and the recovery from COVID-19 in its four priority action areas for regional cooperation, namely, ensuring economic recovery, protecting people, restoring and building resilience in supply chain connectivity and protecting and restoring ecosystems, while ensuring that the progress made to date in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was not only maintained, but also taken forward.**

337. **The Committee welcomed the fact that the year 2022 would mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of ESCAP and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ESCAP to utilize the opportunity and momentum to further accelerate its efforts to support its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in close coordination with its partners, including resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, as well as the international financial institutions and regional development banks.**

338. **The Committee commended ESCAP for its work in strengthening coordination within the United Nations system through the regional collaborative platform by leveraging the available expertise and resources for a sustainable recovery.**

339. **The Committee encouraged ESCAP to continue to implement its three core functions, namely, research and analysis, intergovernmental consensus-building and norm-setting and capacity development, in order to deal with common challenges among its members, such as poverty reduction, economic integration and climate change.**

340. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic Development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 4
Environment and development

Strategy

Paragraph 19.106

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Paragraph 19.107

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

After “low carbon”, insert “and low emissions”.

Paragraph 19.110

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Paragraph 19.112

Replace “greener” with “more sustainable”.

Result 3

Paragraph 19.125

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Subprogramme 6
Social development

Strategy

Paragraph 19.165 (d)

Replace “gender-responsive” with “gender-sensitive”.

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 19.169

Replace “gender-responsive” with “gender-sensitive”.

Subprogramme 8
Subregional activities for development

Component 2
Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia

Strategy

Paragraph 19.240

Replace “gender-responsive” with “gender-sensitive”.

Programme performance in 2020***Paragraph 19.246***

After “low carbon”, insert “and low emissions”.

Paragraph 19.247

After “low carbon”, insert “and low emissions”.

**Programme 17
Economic development in Europe**

341. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 17, Economic development in Europe ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

342. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) introducing the programme. The Executive Secretary responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

343. Delegations expressed gratitude, appreciation and support for the work of ECE, including its assistance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, its efforts to help countries to convene and cooperate on norms, standards and conventions in support of the Goals and its role of promoting regional cooperation and integration as well as economic transparency.

344. It was noted that the region continued to face economic and environmental challenges in achieving the Goals. In that regard, emphasis was laid on the Commission’s role in providing a regional intergovernmental platform on which to tackle those challenges, such as by promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable mobility, facilitating trade and economic integration, protecting the environment, ensuring a flexible and efficient energy supply, strengthening the capacity for measuring sustainable development, building urban sustainability and addressing the implications of demographic trends. Also highlighting the Commission’s role as a platform, a delegation sought further information on how ECE could promote regional collaboration in Europe and Central Asia and on the regional entities brought together by that work.

345. As regards the impact of COVID-19 on programme delivery in 2020, it was noted that some planned deliverables and activities had been modified, or new activities identified, in response to emerging issues in supporting Member States owing to the pandemic, including the development of action frameworks to reduce risk and assist in the post-pandemic rebuilding. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the work undertaken in that regard.

346. With regard to performance measures, a delegation emphasized that each Member State had the primary responsibility for achieving the objectives spelled out in the 2030 Agenda and in that context suggested that the Commission use a strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound approach to create obtainable and realistic performance measures.

347. In the same context, a delegation said that the Commission had performed remarkably well in recent years, exceeding targets for some programmes, which raised the question as to whether ECE was being sufficiently ambitious for 2022. Two specific examples were highlighted: in the context of the performance measure for subprogramme 1, Environment, in figure 20.I, “Total number of targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development covered by Environmental Performance Reviews in a year”, in which an increase to 65 was foreseen in 2021; and in the context of the performance measure for subprogramme 2, Transport, in figure 20.IV, “Total number of contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by the Economic Commission for Europe”, in which a modest increase from 1,801 in 2020 to 1,808 in 2022 was foreseen.

348. A delegation requested that the language of the programme plan be revised to reflect the use of commonly used terms from intergovernmentally agreed documents, advising that the word “nexus” should be replaced by “cross-sectoral collaboration” and that the word “sustainable” should be used in place of “green” in relation to transport and in the context of the COVID-19 recovery.

349. In the context of subprogramme 1, Environment, and specifically the Environmental Performance Reviews referenced in paragraph 20.25, a delegation emphasized the importance of the reviews and the implementation of needs-based approaches to address the specific needs of individual countries in place of a one-size-fits-all programme.

350. Under the same subprogramme, a delegation sought information regarding paragraph 20.30 and the inclusion of COVID-19-related matters in relation to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, as the Convention had been adopted long before the start of the pandemic.

351. In the context of the Commission’s self-evaluations and the role that they played in the development of the planning for subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration, a delegation noted that a self-evaluation conducted in 2020 had resulted in recommendations to collaborate better with other parts of the United Nations system and other stakeholders (by conducting joint activities) and to better collect peer comments. In that regard, information was sought on which parts ECE would collaborate better with and whether the collaboration had already begun.

352. Also in the context of subprogramme 4, a delegation asked how the Secretariat defined “benefits”, such as those reflected as the performance measure for result 3: improved capacity of member States to use innovation to achieve their sustainable development objectives, and referenced specifically in paragraph 20.123 (“policymakers and other innovation stakeholders from requesting countries benefiting from ECE capacity-building on innovation policy”). In that regard, the delegation asked whether benefiting was defined as attending a workshop or whether it was a more outcome-oriented measure that demonstrated that the beneficiary had applied the learning in a national context.

353. A delegation welcomed the work under subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population, and the particular emphasis placed on ageing.

Conclusions and recommendations

354. **The Committee commended the continuing efforts of ECE in the fields of environment, transport, statistics, economic cooperation and integration, sustainable energy, trade and forests and the forest industry, as well as in housing, land management and population, in accordance with its mandates.**

355. The Committee welcomed the support that ECE provided to national Governments in advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

356. The Committee reiterated the need for ECE to continue to support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECE to continue its collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities at the regional and subregional levels, including the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams in the context of the reform of the United Nations development system, as well as with the international financial institutions and regional development banks.

357. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1

Environment

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 20.30

Delete the following sentence: “The provision of access to information in accordance with the Convention covers issues related to COVID-19 matters, such as the origin of the virus and its related impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems and on other aspects of the environment, as well as on human health.”

Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery

Paragraph 20.34

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Subprogramme 2

Transport

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 20.58

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Subprogramme 5

Sustainable energy

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 20.133

Replace “carbon” with “greenhouse gas”.

Planned results for 2022

Paragraph 20.138

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Subprogramme 6

Trade

Strategy

Paragraph 20.154

Replace “gender-responsive” with “gender-sensitive”.

Subprogramme 7
Forests and the forest industry

Strategy

Paragraph 20.182 (b)

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 20.185

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Paragraph 20.186

Replace “green” with “sustainable”.

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

358. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

359. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) introducing the programme. The Deputy Executive Secretary responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

360. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the Commission’s work and for the proposed programme plan. The programme was considered to be of critical importance for the region, and the Commission was encouraged to continue to carry out its valuable work while maintaining the 2030 Agenda at the centre of its efforts.

361. The Commission was commended on its systematic work over the past decade on the issue of equality in the context of development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was in line with the needs and demands of member States. Its efforts to promote and realize the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and to cooperate effectively with other development entities on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building back better, were also noted. A delegation highlighted the importance of ramping up resource mobilization to finance the achievement of the Goals and of initiatives to help Haiti to strengthen its national capacities and improve social protection. Information was sought as to how ECLAC national offices had evolved as a result of the newly established resident coordinator system.

362. A delegation expressed appreciation for the Commission’s role in efforts to achieve the objectives set for small island developing States in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, which was considered to be particularly relevant for Caribbean countries. Additional information was sought on the Caribbean First strategy, including with respect to recommendation 1, contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on its review of management and administration in the

Commission ([A/75/874](#), [JIU/REP/2020/4](#) and [JIU/REP/2020/4/Corr.1](#)), according to which the Executive Secretary should monitor and report on the impact and specific results achieved by the strategy as part of regular reporting to the Commission.

363. The Commission's focus on the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic was highlighted, and its role as a leading entity in the provision of analysis and policy advice to Latin American and Caribbean countries during the pandemic was welcomed. Delegations recognized that the pandemic had had a profound health, social, environmental, economic and political impact on the region and had exposed some of its structural problems, including inequalities in areas such as social protection and health-care services.

364. The prompt and timely launch of the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of tracking and following up on measures taken by Governments to address the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, was welcomed. A delegation said that the Commission had demonstrated its commitment to advocacy for the people of the region, supported by robust data. Appreciation was expressed for the work to promote the statistical capacities of member States. The efforts made during the pandemic to adapt to online work arrangements that facilitated business continuity were welcomed, and information was sought on how hybrid and online meetings had fostered greater engagement among small island developing States, considering the large number of small islands in the region, particularly in the Caribbean.

365. The view was expressed that the programme would have a key role to play post-pandemic in promoting economic, social and environmentally sustainable development, in line with the mandates established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions. ECLAC was encouraged to continue to focus on areas in which it had demonstrated a comparative advantage, refrain from expanding its mandates and maintain primary responsibility for tailoring its strategic framework to match its mandates.

366. Regarding the way forward, a delegation highlighted that, while international cooperation was one of many tools for recovery, several countries of the region were excluded from concessional funding and trade benefits, since per capita income was used as the main indicator of development. The delegation said that it would continue to promote discussions on a more comprehensive definition of a country's level of development, in which other indicators should be considered. Another delegation highlighted that dialogue on South-South and triangular cooperation should be strengthened.

367. Support was expressed for the strategy for the initial implementation of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had entered into force on 22 April 2021, including assessments of the progress made by countries in advancing access to information and justice in environmental matters. The rise in violence against environmental defenders was noted, and the efforts to increase protection and security for those taking lawful action to foster a safe, healthy and sustainable environment were welcomed. Support was expressed for action to prevent violence against environmental defenders and increase accountability for such violence. A delegation expressed concern that there were no universally recognized human rights specifically related to the environment, highlighting that the Agreement was the first international agreement to include specific provisions on environmental defenders and ensure their protection. Another delegation sought more information on the steps to be taken to promote the bioeconomy.

368. Ahead of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a delegation expressed

appreciation for the work in promoting inclusive and resilient growth and mobilizing public resources to tackle climate change and restore biodiversity. The delegation also welcomed the commitment to climate action, the support provided to countries to deliver on their nationally determined contributions and the work carried out on green investment and green growth. The work on sustainable urbanization was also noted, in particular the efforts to develop and strengthen urban development plans. The increased use of new technology and technical cooperation with ECLAC member States to build cities back better, with greater sustainability, inclusivity and resilience, was welcomed.

369. Efforts to mainstream gender throughout the proposed programme plan were welcomed. A delegation noted that the programme was developing its own strategy on disability inclusion and asked when the strategy would be published.

370. Clarification was sought concerning the reasoning behind changes in some of the subprogramme objectives, and consistency in drafting programme and subprogramme narratives was requested. The use of phrases and terms that had not been agreed upon at the intergovernmental level was noted. A delegation requested that efforts be enhanced to implement the relevant General Assembly resolution regarding the format of the programme plan and ensure the quality and accuracy of the report.

371. With regard to subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, clarification was sought on the Commission's plans to provide support to countries on the social impact of the pandemic as one of the main challenges for 2022. Additional details were requested concerning paragraphs 21.115 to 21.117 under result 3: advancing innovative sectoral and intersectoral social policies to address inequalities affecting vulnerable populations.

372. A delegation observed that, while the proposed programme was very thorough, it was also very long, and suggested that it be streamlined to facilitate the work of the Committee in studying the document and that of ECLAC programme managers in assimilating its contents and implementing its strategy. Echoing the views expressed by the Joint Inspection Unit, a delegation suggested that subprogramme 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations, which was considered to be short, be merged with subprogrammes 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, and 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, to simplify reporting on objectives and strategies and reduce the number of subprogrammes, which was the highest among the regional commissions. A delegation asked whether knowledge exchanges between Caribbean and non-Caribbean States could be considered under subprogramme 12.

373. Particular support was expressed for subprogrammes 4, Social development and equality; 8, Natural resources; 9, Planning and public management for development; 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean; and 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations

374. The Committee commended ECLAC on its efforts to promote the economic and social development of the Latin American and Caribbean region and its subregions and underlined the importance of the Commission's role in ensuring regional cooperation for sustainable development, in accordance with its mandate.

375. The Committee noted with appreciation the Commission's recognition of the importance of continuous improvement and responding to the evolving needs of member States, including the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

376. The Committee reiterated the need for ECLAC to continue to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECLAC to continue, within its mandate, to collaborate with other relevant United Nations entities at the regional and subregional levels, including the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams in the context of the reform of the United Nations development system, as well as with the international financial institutions and regional development banks.

377. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Strategy and external factors for 2022

Paragraph 21.10 (c)

Replace “social development and a human rights-based approach to social protection and equality” with “social development, social protection and equality with full respect for human rights”.

Subprogramme 4

Social development and equality

Objective

Paragraph 21.96

Replace “a human rights-based approach” with “with full respect for human rights”.

Strategy

Paragraph 21.98

Replace “a human rights-based, equality-oriented and sustainable approach” with “an equality-oriented and sustainable approach that fully respects human rights”.

Programme 19

Economic and social development in Western Asia

378. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 22\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

379. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) introducing the programme. The Executive Secretary, together with other representatives of the Secretariat, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

380. Delegations expressed support for the work carried out by ESCWA. The Commission's efforts to modernize and reform its structure to ensure that it remained relevant were welcomed. A delegation observed that the programme was a work in progress and recalled that a new programmatic structure had been deployed in ESCWA in 2020. In that connection, the views of the Commission were sought as to whether the new structure served its purpose.

381. A delegation expressed appreciation for the update of the Commission's proposed programme plan to take stock of changing circumstances and recognized that such an update was an important aspect of programme planning. A delegation expressed appreciation for the programme's efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, and it was noted that ESCWA was in the process of developing its own strategy on disability inclusion. In that regard, additional information was sought as to when the strategy would be completed and how well it would be articulated.

382. It was recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic had had an impact on the ability of ESCWA to deliver on its mandate, and information was sought as to how the programme had managed to operate under those circumstances. It was underlined that ESCWA would have an important role to play in supporting Member States of the region in their pandemic recovery efforts, while ensuring that progress made to date on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remained on track. Additional information was sought as to how the Commission supported countries of the region in the development of policies and strategies related to recovery from the pandemic.

383. The use of hybrid meeting formats in the context of the pandemic was recalled and clarification was sought as to how that approach had affected the programme's ability to reach audiences, including women, which had been a challenge in the past.

384. A delegation remarked that its country had suffered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its economy, which had led to difficulties in exploiting its gas resources and challenges in implementing its social programmes, including those related to education, access to health services, health and infrastructure. It added that the situation had also seriously worsened the level of debt, not only of its country but of all developing countries. The delegation acknowledged the programme for the work carried out in its country since its membership began in 2015, highlighted several key projects undertaken by the programme in 2020 and added that its country was working on a new action plan for the next three years that must have the support of all Member States and United Nations structures, including ESCWA, in order for that country to be able to carry out its work.

385. Delegations expressed appreciation for the initiative of the Commission to project an introductory video at the beginning of the Committee's consideration of the programme and expressed the view that the video effectively demonstrated the challenges that ESCWA had faced in the past year, including the explosion in Beirut. A delegation commented that the video confirmed that the Commission had implemented its programme in 2020 despite the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of countries in the region.

386. As regards the Commission's programme, some delegations questioned the format for the presentation of programme performance information for 2020, including why it was presented under a separate annex and not in the relevant subprogrammes itself.

387. On the proposed evaluation activities for 2022, a delegation noted that the programme planned to refocus its evaluation to prioritize specific key result areas, rather than the subprogrammes themselves, in the light of the Commission's long-

term strategy, and that at least one evaluation of select areas of ESCWA subprogrammes was planned for 2022 (para. 22.18). It was observed that such an approach was different from that of other programmes, and further details on the approach going forward were requested.

388. A delegation stressed the importance of measuring tangible programme results through the implementation of specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound indicators in the proposed programme plan of ESCWA. In that regard, the programme was encouraged to continue to apply results-based management.

389. Concerns were expressed regarding the use of some phrases and language in the proposed programme plan, specifically the term “human security”, as that term had not been agreed upon in the previously approved version of the programme plan of the Commission.

390. Concerning table 22.1, on cross-cutting deliverables, a delegation observed that some deliverables under the category “Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies” would decrease: the number of parliamentary documents was projected to fall from 12 in 2021 to 9 in 2022, the number reports for the ESCWA ministerial session from 9 in 2020 to 1 in 2022 and the number of meetings of the Executive Committee from 8 in 2021 to 6 in 2022. In that regard, the view was expressed that the decreases seemed strange for a Commission known for its dynamism. Additional information was requested.

391. Regarding subprogramme 1, Climate change and natural resource sustainability, clarification was requested in connection with the provision of a neutral platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, as mentioned in paragraph 22.21. Further, a comment was made in relation to the issue of water, as mentioned in paragraphs 22.27 and 22.28, namely that access to water was a serious concern for countries of the region. For that reason, the delegation noted that it would have expected a more ambitious strategic programme plan, one that promoted a holistic and cooperative approach to the management of that resource. Concerning the deliverables of the subprogramme, the delegation expressed satisfaction with the number of technical cooperation projects, which was planned to increase from two to six. The delegation added that that was a positive trend that was to be encouraged, as it believed in pragmatic action in the field instead of meetings that led to no results.

392. Regarding subprogramme 5, 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal coordination, it was noted that no major changes had been presented in the proposed programme plan and that a more innovative approach and more initiatives would have been expected.

Conclusions and recommendations

393. The Committee commended ESCWA for promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the Arab region, in accordance with its mandate.

394. The Committee noted with appreciation that the new structure of the Commission, with reconfigured subprogrammes, had worked well and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ESCWA to continue its efforts to better serve its member States.

395. The Committee reiterated the need for ESCWA to continue supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ESCWA to continue, within its mandate, collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities at the regional and subregional levels, including the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams in the context of the reform of the United Nations

development system, as well as with international financial institutions and regional development banks.

396. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

A. Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Subprogramme 5

2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal coordination

Strategy

Subparagraph 22.80 (a)

Replace “the rights-based” with “fully respecting a human rights”.

Planned results for 2022

Result 2: recovery and post-COVID-19 development planning integrates the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

Paragraph 22.84

Replace “with an emphasis on” with “with the integration of”.

Paragraph 22.85

Replace “using a rights-based approach to” with “fully respecting human rights, giving priority to”.

Programme 20

Human rights

397. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 20, Human rights ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#)).

398. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introducing the programme. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

399. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the programme and for the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Several delegations emphasized the Office’s important role in the promotion and protection of all human rights and expressed support for its work, recognizing OHCHR as the leading United Nations entity on human rights. A delegation commended the High Commissioner’s commitment to heading OHCHR, an entity which had an irreplaceable role in defending and promoting in a cross-cutting way the founding values of the San Francisco Charter. The efforts of the Office towards the goal of full realization of human rights for all were commended by a delegation which also expressed strong support for the independence of OHCHR and all the human rights mechanisms. Appreciation was expressed for the continued emphasis on mainstreaming human rights throughout the United Nations system and

around the world, as well as for the Office's engagement with a wide range of stakeholders in executing its mission, including civil society, alongside Member States, other international and regional organizations and national and human rights mechanisms. Another delegation aligned with that view and welcomed the Office's commitment in continuing to engage with Member States and all relevant actors to assist them in their efforts to realize human rights, through the provision of technical advice, support for mechanisms and, where possible, the establishment of country presences. It was stressed that human rights were a fundamental pillar of the United Nations and emphasized that, with the threats to human rights witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of the human rights work of the United Nations had become more evident. Appreciation was further expressed for the efforts of OHCHR to effectively deliver the programme, for its partnership with Member States and for its response to COVID-19. One delegation indicated that it trusted in the ability of OHCHR to effectively deal with those matters. Appreciation was expressed for the high quality of the document, including its clarity and comprehensive content, as well as its impactful presentation.

400. It was noted by a delegation that the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed the vulnerability of the least protected in society and that it was critical to put human rights at the very centre of collective global and national response and recovery efforts. In that context, the same delegation expressed trust in the critical role that the United Nations and Member States had to play and further expressed support for the work conducted by OHCHR in leading the efforts of the United Nations to promote and protect human rights overall.

401. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of OHCHR to increase transparency in its work and the example of the High Commissioner's briefings on programme 20 in Geneva was highlighted as very useful in terms of building confidence and cooperation between the Office and Member States and, as a result, strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in the world as a whole. A delegation cautioned, however, that such a dialogue should not be limited to the mechanical collection of opinions of States but should provide the basis for improving the text presented.

402. A view was expressed that, as the eternal theme of human society, development was the basis for and key to resolving all problems and created conditions for the realization of all human rights. It was also mentioned that, with greater development, human rights could be better promoted and protected. Concerns were expressed regarding the uneven and inadequate investment in economic and social rights and the right to development, and, in that connection, a delegation called upon OHCHR to ensure equal investment in the right to development. A delegation expressed support for international development and work by international governmental organizations such as OHCHR in support of development, but it highlighted that it did not recognize the right to development. Member States were encouraged to implement their human rights obligations and commitments, regardless of their level of development, as defined under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, *inter alia*. In that connection, a view was emphasized that it was not acceptable that full realization of any right would require resource transfers or debt forgiveness, or that a lack of development was a legitimate excuse for failure to implement defined, universally agreed upon human rights commitments.

403. Appreciation was expressed for the adoption by Member States of a detailed plan to end poverty and achieve a more equitable international order. A view was expressed that the Sustainable Development Goals were an opportunity for the programme to engage further, within its mandate, since "leaving no one behind" was

at the heart of the work to combat discrimination and inequality, which were root causes of exclusion.

404. A delegation said that it considered the real role of OHCHR in the development of the programme to be, first of all, in promoting international cooperation in the field of human rights, proceeding from their universal, indivisible, interdependent and interconnected nature. The delegation expressed the view that today there was a blatant manipulation of the subject of human rights on the basis of non-consensual and politicized decisions of the Human Rights Council in relation to sovereign States that were full members of the United Nations. The same delegation further expressed the view that it considered unacceptable a biased prioritization in the financing of United Nations activities against the background of statements by the United Nations leadership about chronic insufficiency of United Nations financial resources for health, climate and other issues that ensured the preservation of human lives, despite promptly financing politicized decisions taken by a narrow minority. The view was expressed that such decisions undermined the activities of the United Nations programme bodies, which were competent to approve the budgets of the Organization's programmes. The same delegation stressed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, which it considered a vivid example of the politicization of human rights issues that its country had never recognized nor would recognize. The delegation said that attracting any funding aimed at implementing the functions of the Special Rapporteur was considered unjustified. The view was expressed that it was important to focus the main efforts of OHCHR in the coming year on conducting a truly inclusive inter-State dialogue on human rights issues.

405. A delegation welcomed the Office's commitment to consolidated organizational support for the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, including the universal periodic review, the special procedures, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and the complaint procedure. Support was expressed for the Office's aim of cooperation with other entities at the global, regional and national levels and its continued work to provide assistance to victims of human rights violations, including by managing the work of the humanitarian funds that provided financial assistance for support services, such as rehabilitation and redress for victims of torture and slavery. The view was expressed that it was important for OHCHR to strengthen inter-agency coordination and liaison with the United Nations system, while another delegation took note of the Office's efforts to enhance inter-agency collaboration with the other United Nations entities as a key to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes and expressed hope that those efforts would bring concrete deliverables.

406. A delegation expressed appreciation for the work of OHCHR as referred to in paragraph 24.9, regarding cooperation with other United Nations entities at the global, national and regional levels, and in paragraph 24.24, regarding the pursuit of the integration of all human rights into United Nations programmes through partnership at the international level with entities across the system, including the World Bank, UNDP, UN-Women and civil society, including non-governmental organizations.

407. Regarding deliverables and activities of the proposed programme for 2022, a delegation took note of the changes related to COVID-19 and its impact on human rights, especially on the most marginalized groups in the world. Appreciation was expressed for the focus and advancement of policies for the COVID-19 response focused on women's rights, especially in the context of lockdowns, which had resulted in an increase in gender-based violence. In that context it was noted that the concentration of women in the informal economy, with no access to social security, for example, had exposed them to higher risks of destitution. The disproportionate

burden of care work borne by women had increased exponentially during lockdowns, preventing them from engaging in productive human rights and humanitarian affairs. A question was raised as to how OHCHR correlated COVID-19, the environment of lockdown, remote working and information and telecommunications technology with human rights violations.

408. A view was expressed that a refined social security system and access to it was the most important human right during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic recovery. In that connection, a request was made to OHCHR to reorient its priority to the protection of groups in vulnerable situations such as women, children, the old and the disabled, in order to support Member States in improving their social security systems.

409. Regarding terminology and language used in the programme plan, a delegation thanked the High Commissioner and her Office for returning in most part to the agreed format and language for the document. The delegation noted that the text had been improved and many of its comments from the previous year had been taken on board. A different delegation expressed concern regarding the continuous use of non-intergovernmentally agreed terms, such as “human rights-based approach”. An opposing view was conveyed by another delegation, which expressed firm commitment to the human rights-based approach and expressed the view that human rights were a prerequisite for development. The same delegation stressed that it was a staunch supporter of universal human rights.

410. Regarding evaluations, appreciation was expressed for the four self-evaluations carried out in 2020 and further details were requested regarding self-evaluations that would be carried out in 2021. Clarification was sought as to how OHCHR had used evaluations to build on results achieved in past periods to ensure more effective implementation of mandates. In reference to paragraph 24.21, further information was sought as to how evaluation results were used to improve work at the strategic level. A delegation referred to the analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most marginalized groups, with a focus on gender equality (para. 24.28) and raised a question as to how efficient the task had been, bearing in mind that it had been conducted during the travel restrictions and lockdown measures related to the pandemic.

411. A delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the Office with the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and noted that the work of some of the special rapporteurs had been highlighted in some parts of the programme, while others were not mentioned. More information was requested on the efforts of the High Commissioner and her Office in assisting the Special Rapporteur and the implementation of the mandates regarding unilateral coercive measures, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Concerns were expressed regarding unilateral coercive measures, and one delegation described the case of unilateral coercive measures and their effect on human rights as a good example and expressed appreciation for the Special Rapporteur on the topic. It was noted by the same delegation that, during the pandemic, people of its country, owing to the unilateral coercive measures, were deprived of basic human rights such as the right to medicine and medical services. The delegation expressed the view that the example showed the international and global nature of the right to development, which had been highlighted by the unilateral coercive measures.

412. A delegation expressed the view that the four proposed subprogrammes brought together the core activities of OHCHR and would contribute to advancing the promotion and the protection of the effective enjoyment of all human rights by all.

413. Regarding subprogramme 1 (a), Human rights mainstreaming, the objective in paragraph 24.23 was referred to, and it was stressed that all human rights had to be strengthened in all areas of work of the United Nations system. In relation to the strategy, it was noted that the subprogramme would promote the practical integration of all human rights into development programmes (para. 24.24). A question was asked, in that connection, as to where that mandate stemmed from.

414. Regarding result 2: United Nations country teams integrate human rights approaches into their work, appreciation was expressed for the Office's efforts in mainstreaming human rights into common country analyses and sustainable development cooperation frameworks. A delegation indicated that it was impressed by the 2020 result, which included 51 common country assessments that integrated human rights, exceeding the planned target of 36. In that connection, it was highlighted that the planned targets for 2021 (53) and 2022 (60) looked modest and a question was asked as to whether OHCHR should be more ambitious.

415. Also in relation to result 2, a question was raised regarding the new United Nations companion package on common country analyses and sustainable development cooperation frameworks, and another question asked as to the sources for producing a checklist for human rights integration in socioeconomic country responses to COVID-19 and as to whether those analyses, or checklists, were prepared in conjunction with the Member State concerned. It was noted that the same question would apply also to result 3: improved inter-agency collaboration for human rights mainstreaming, as it, in the view of a delegation, was clearly connected to the "new generation of common country analyses and sustainable development cooperation frameworks, including the thematic companion package on transformative economies" (para. 24.37). The delegation further noted the link between the first two results in subprogramme 1 and result 3 in subprogramme 3, on timely data and analysis of human rights situations, and raised a question as to the sources for the data and information used for analysis. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential use of information from non-reliable actors that had not been intergovernmentally agreed upon to provide any kind of feedback on the situation of a given Member State. In that connection, a delegation emphasized that there had been no intergovernmental negotiation or process to establish the parameters or indicators that ought to be informed by any source regarding human rights in any given Member State, unlike the appropriate process that had been followed in the case of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets and indicators.

416. Also regarding result 3, it was noted that paragraph 24.37 indicated that, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, OHCHR had intensified its engagement at the global policy level to support the United Nations and Member States in mainstreaming human rights in the responses to and recovery from the pandemic. In that connection, clarification was sought as to where the mandate for mainstreaming human rights in the responses to and recovery from the pandemic stemmed from. Appreciation was expressed by a delegation regarding the level of cooperation with sister agencies, including the World Health Organization, for access to protection from and to fight against COVID-19, as well as the cooperation with UNICEF. In that regard, the delegation indicated that it expected cooperation with UN-Habitat on challenges with regard to decent housing, which had been exacerbated by COVID-19, and the fact that families often had to share a single room.

417. Regarding the deliverables under subprogramme 1 (a), the planned decrease in publications from five in 2020 to two in 2022 was noted, in table 24.3, and clarification was sought as to whether that decrease signalled a lack of interest in addressing the issue of human rights and the sustainable development agenda, and on human rights and environmental perspectives.

418. Regarding subprogramme 1 (b), Right to development, appreciation was expressed for the integration of the concept of the right to development in the proposed programme plan for 2022, and the programme's work towards its realization. It was also noted that the way in which the right to development was reflected in the document was very much in the national context and, in that context, a delegation expressed the view that development was an international challenge which could not be dealt with at the national level only. The work done in advocating and promoting the right to development and in implementing pilot projects in developing countries was also noted and the expectation was expressed of the unfolding of an end result related to that work. A delegation indicated that it had expected paragraph 24.48, which also dealt with the right to development, to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women since women in developing countries, specifically in Africa, were seriously affected by COVID-19.

419. Regarding subprogramme 1 (c), Research and analysis, concern was expressed by a delegation that the efforts of the subprogramme to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action contradicted the Office's mission to promote freedom of expression. The delegation said that combating intolerance was a critical mission but highlighted that those who committed hate-fuelled violence could not be changed by being driven underground. It was emphasized that overcoming racism, xenophobia and intolerance would be through the painstaking efforts of education, collaboration and respect for one another. Concerns were also raised regarding xenophobia, racism, hate speech and violence towards people of African and Asian descent.

420. Regarding subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights treaty bodies, a view was expressed that the subprogramme implied that, alongside technical support, it provided some kind of advice to treaty bodies, and clarification was sought as to the kind of advice that OHCHR could give to independent experts of treaty bodies whose mandate was enshrined in the relevant treaties. The question was raised as to whether that constituted interference in the substantive work of the treaty bodies. Reference was made to the "targeted communications campaigns" (para. 24.89) and a clarification was requested as to what part of those was in the context of treaty bodies' work, where all the communications were primarily between States and experts and were supposed to be confidential. A remark was made regarding the phrase "reporting mechanisms and processes could also contribute to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" in the same paragraph, and an explanation was sought as to the basis of such a connection between treaty bodies and the relevant treaties and the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, the view was expressed that such a link was hard to discern. A delegation also noted the mention of reprisals in the last sentence of paragraph 24.89 and highlighted that the issue of reprisals related to the activities of the treaty bodies had been introduced into the guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies ("the Addis Ababa guidelines") by the Chairs of the treaty bodies, and that they had not been approved by the States parties or discussed properly by the treaty body experts. The view was expressed that those guidelines went beyond the mandate of the treaty bodies and beyond the mandate of OHCHR with regard to technical support for the activities of the treaty bodies. A different delegation recognized the work of subprogramme 2, in particular in the area of advice to human rights treaty bodies, as important.

421. Regarding subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, a delegation suggested that the performance measure for 2022, Establishment of new partnerships to meet new requirements and embrace data opportunities (table 24.11), was too broad and blurred and emphasized that the data

used should be provided by governmental bodies, in order to ensure accuracy and credibility.

422. A delegation called upon OHCHR to enhance technical cooperation to requesting States under the principle of respecting different national conditions and the specific requirements of the requesting State.

423. Regarding subprogramme 4, Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, a delegation noted the positive impact of the increased virtual participation, including with regard to participation by delegations at the universal periodic review, and emphasized the fact that that allowed for greater participation from the least developed countries and small island developing States, as could be seen in figure 24.XVI, which detailed an increase from 19 delegates to 69. Further clarification was sought as to whether a similar increase in the participation of the least developed countries and small island developing States had occurred for other meetings.

424. A question was raised regarding Human Rights Council resolution [42/1](#) and the report on the geographical composition of the staff expected to be submitted to the Council at its forty-fifth session. In that regard, the work of the Office on gender and disability inclusion as described in the programme's strategy and external factors for 2022 was recognized, but information was requested regarding compliance with the aforementioned mandate and therefore the achievement of equitable geographical representation among the staff of the Office, which was not mentioned in the strategy and external factors for 2022. Another delegation requested OHCHR to make all efforts to ensure the equitable geographical presentation of its own staff. A different delegation thanked the High Commissioner for the update on the composition of her office, even though that was a matter properly dealt with by the Fifth Committee rather than the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

425. With regard to part B of the document, on the proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2022, a delegation raised questions about the proposal to convert 16 general temporary assistance positions to posts. Referring to annexes II and III, the delegation questioned the justification and selection. A detailed justification was requested, by means of an analysis of existing mandates, workload and resources. Clarification was sought regarding the justification of "to investigate national, regional and international efforts in respect of the Sustainable Development Goals" (annex II). It was further asked why some country-specific procedures were chosen as justification, and the view was expressed that a majority of those procedures were certainly not related to technical assistance since those mandates were not recognized by countries under consideration. Another delegation noted that a considerable part of the resources of OHCHR came from extrabudgetary resources, recalled that, in paragraph 24.166, it was maintained that the authority to oversee the use of extrabudgetary resources rested with OHCHR, in accordance with the delegation of authority by the Secretary-General, and raised a question as to how it could be guaranteed that the earmarked extrabudgetary resources would not be changing the focus of the activities of OHCHR. The delegation further emphasized that extrabudgetary resources should not be used to take the focus of OHCHR from its core activities and sought further explanation on the matter. In response to the comments regarding the proposed resource requirements, a delegation emphasized that part B of the document was not covered in the agenda for the current session of the Committee and that the Committee was mandated to deal only with part A, which covered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020.

426. A delegation indicated that it attached great importance to the role of the Committee on programme planning in the United Nations system, including with

regard to assessing the implementation of the programme plans and the overall coordination of the Organization's administrative and budgetary activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

427. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan for programme 20, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".

Programme 21

International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

428. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 25\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2021/9](#)).

429. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General introducing the programme. Representatives of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

430. Delegations expressed strong support for the work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including to assist refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons. A number of delegations acknowledged the crucial role of UNHCR as the main international agency for such protection, especially in the context of the current crisis concerning the 80 million persons displaced as a result of numerous and never-ending armed conflicts.

431. A delegation welcomed the updates made to the programme plan, emphasizing that the purpose of programme planning and of the Committee was to ensure that the programme remained up to date and reflected changes in circumstances. Another delegation, however, expressed disagreement with the use of non-agreed terms and concepts, such as a reference to policy on "gender and diversity".

432. Support was expressed for the intention of UNHCR to use the global compact on refugees to guide its future work and to implement it through cooperation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including in the COVID-19 response effort. It was also highlighted that the global compact promoted the rights and well-being of refugees and would contribute to the effectiveness of the work of UNCHR. At the same time, a delegation noted that the provisions of the global compact were not legally binding and that Member States should implement them in accordance with their interests, national legislation and international obligations. Referring to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the delegation said that the list of reasons for displacement of refugees, such as negative environmental factors or natural disasters, should not be extended and efforts to do so would not be supported. In that regard, it was stressed that UNHCR should respect the national legislation and policies of the Member States concerned.

433. Delegations welcomed the increase in private sector engagement during the Global Refugee Forum and in responding to the pandemic, expressing support for the

continued efforts by UNHCR to develop that engagement with an emphasis on potential funding opportunities linked thereto and asking how UNHCR intended to do so. A number of delegations called for “personalization” of commitments and pledges made at the Forum to provide additional support to host countries in mitigating the effects of the pandemic and for the purchase of vaccines for refugees. A delegation expressed its intention to participate in the meeting of high-level officials on the Forum in December 2021.

434. Several delegations requested clarification regarding the new technologies implemented by UNHCR in its response to the pandemic, which had allowed for an effective response despite 88 per cent of the workforce working remotely at the peak of the pandemic; the lessons learned from the pandemic reflected in the proposed programme plan; and the refugee registration system and how its roll-out had supported activities under the cash assistance programme. A number of delegations acknowledged the UNHCR response efforts, in particular during the increasingly challenging circumstances of the pandemic and given the rising number of people of concern. A delegation also welcomed the Office’s continued drive for improvement, including efforts to implement organizational reform plans and a results-based management model, and sought clarification on the main changes expected.

Conclusions and recommendations

435. The Committee noted with appreciation the irreplaceable contribution of UNHCR to the protection of an estimated 79.5 million refugees and other persons of concern throughout the world and in pursuance of solutions to their plight.

436. The Committee took note of progress made in support of a comprehensive refugee response model as a result of the implementation of the global compact on refugees, affirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/151](#) in December 2018.

437. The Committee concurred that resettlement was one of the lasting and durable solutions to the problem and encouraged UNHCR to continue its efforts to increase the number of countries willing to accept refugee resettlement.

438. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

Programme of work

International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

Objective

Paragraph 25.4

Delete “and diversity”, and insert “and” between “age” and “gender”.

External factors for 2022

Paragraph 25.16

In the first sentence, replace “age, gender and diversity” with “age-, disability- and gender-sensitive”.

In the second sentence, replace “has integrated the age, gender and diversity approach in its renewed results-based management framework to further promote” with “has further promoted”.

Also in the second sentence, replace “survivors of gender-based violence” with “all persons of concern, including women and girls who are victims of violence”.

In the third sentence, after “Community engagement will be strengthened and awareness-raising initiatives prioritized to prevent”, delete “gender-based”.

Evaluation activities

Paragraph 25.21 (e)

Replace “age, gender and diversity policy” with “age-, disability- and gender-sensitive policy”.

Planned results for 2022

Result 3: strengthening protection of and enabling durable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers through individual registration

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Paragraph 25.38

In the third sentence, replace “policy on age, gender and diversity” with “age-, disability-, and gender-sensitive policy”.

Programme 22 Palestine refugees

439. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 22, Palestine refugees (A/76/6 (Sect. 26)).

440. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP introducing the programme. The representatives of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

441. Delegations expressed appreciation for the invaluable work done and the essential assistance provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to the Palestine refugees, including its humanitarian and protection mission, in providing essential support to Palestine refugees and promoting a decent standard of living.

442. It was stressed that, despite funding shortfalls, the work remained vital, considering the ongoing crisis, instability and conflicts affecting all fields of operations in the region. Appreciation was also expressed for the Agency’s continued support in helping the Palestine refugees achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight, including through the provision of education, health care and social services for the refugees living in difficult and often dangerous conditions in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Gaza and the West Bank. The view was also expressed that, in the midst of severe shocks in the Middle East region, Palestinians, many of whom had become refugees for the second and third time, were increasingly dependent on the assistance of the international community and that a special burden of responsibility and work fell on the shoulders of the Agency.

443. Delegations expressed their support for the five strategic outcomes and areas of operation, namely: (a) Palestine refugee rights under international law are protected and promoted; (b) Palestine refugee health is protected and the disease burden is reduced; (c) school-age children complete quality, equitable and inclusive basic education; (d) Palestine refugee capabilities are strengthened for increased livelihood opportunities; and (e) Palestine refugees are able to meet their basic human needs of food, shelter and environmental health.

444. Several delegations referred to the recent events in the theatre of operations and noted that they had further exacerbated the plight of the Palestinians in the enclave, including through the blockade and the significant destruction of infrastructure, including hospitals and schools in Gaza, resulting in a medical emergency. As 70,000 Palestinians had fled their homes, it was also noted that there was a shortage of electricity and access to clean water. A delegation noted that the programme had been prepared prior to the recent events and sought information on how the programme was working towards mitigating the impact of that destruction and how it would have to be adjusted.

445. As regards the blockade, which was deemed to have impeded development and efforts to rebuild civilian infrastructure, and taking into account the strategy and external factors for 2022, information was sought about the projections made by the Agency concerning the stability of the macroenvironment and the blockade of Gaza and their impact on planning assumptions, including towards ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccines for Palestinian refugees.

446. The view was also expressed that the difficult socioeconomic situation in Lebanon and Jordan directly affected the Palestinian refugees, as was the case for the Syrian Arab Republic, where efforts continued to overcome the consequences of the devastating conflict caused by the rise of terrorism and external interference.

447. It was emphasized that the Agency's humanitarian work should continue until a just solution to the problem of refugees, which was one of the key components of a comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine, was found. In that regard, the importance of collaborating with the parties and regional actors was emphasized, including through the facilitation of the establishment of a mutually respectful direct dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians, including at the highest level, in the interest of achieving a just settlement on the basis of an international legal framework, including the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

448. Delegations acknowledged that all those negative trends were taking place against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that context, emphasis was placed on the need to ensure access for Palestinian refugees to vaccination campaigns and that the Agency could play a key role therein. Information was sought as to whether the Agency was undertaking its own vaccination campaign. Appreciation was expressed for the Agency's ability to respond effectively to the known and anticipated challenges related to COVID-19, including safeguarding sanitation in refugee camps during the pandemic and integrating a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. A delegation expressed the view that the Agency's response to the pandemic showcased its strength as a front-line service provider through innovative and adjusted service provision that continued to effectively address the new realities and working methods.

449. Delegations noted the precarious financial situation of the Agency, including recurrent, severe financial shortfalls that still affected it, and emphasized the need for stable and predictable and uninterrupted support and funding. A delegation informed the Committee of its continued support for the Agency, including through regular contributions, and stressed the need for adequate resource provision. In that regard, the delegation drew attention to its direct humanitarian assistance to Palestine,

including the provision of scholarships to Palestinians. A delegation also expressed support for the efforts of the Agency's partners, including ongoing conversations with the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

450. As regards training provided by the Agency, a delegation enquired whether it also included training for all its personnel in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and, if that was the case, why it was not mentioned in the report.

451. Taking note of the self-evaluations completed in 2020 and scheduled for 2022, a delegation drew the Agency's attention to the need to ensure constant monitoring and vetting of its contractors and service providers, to ensure their neutrality, transparency, effectiveness, efficiency and economy of means. Also with regard to evaluations, a delegation emphasized the need for the Agency to continue to take a proactive and systematic approach to evaluations, including the implementation of the evaluation of the UNRWA emergency appeal mechanism.

452. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the steps that the Agency had taken in recent years to reform its work and increase accountability. Another delegation commended the Agency's cost-cutting measures, the finding of savings and the increasing revenue and decreasing expenses. The same delegation also expressed appreciation for the establishment of an Ombudsperson's Office.

453. With regard to subprogramme 2, Palestine refugee health is protected and the disease burden is reduced, information was sought on the performance measures for result 1: caring for a healthy future. As regards the performance measure reflected in figure 26.V, on the total number of Palestine refugees aged 40 years and above screened for diabetes mellitus, information was sought on whether the Agency also conducted any follow-up with regard to other metabolic diseases. On the performance measure mentioned in figure 26.VII, on the percentage of children aged 18 months who received all booster vaccines, the question was raised as to why that key performance indicator was anticipated to fall from 98 to 95 per cent.

454. The importance of subprogramme 3, School-age children complete quality, equitable and inclusive basic education, was highlighted, especially in respect of girls' education. It was noted that that work had clearly been disrupted by COVID-19 and an update was sought on efforts that were envisaged to help students to catch up the education time that had been lost.

455. With regard to subprogramme 4, Palestine refugee capabilities are strengthened for increased livelihood opportunities, and the information provided in paragraph 26.86 that the Agency would create employment opportunities for Palestine refugees through infrastructure and construction projects in camps, a delegation enquired to what extent creating employment opportunities through infrastructure and construction projects in camps was sustainable and expressed the view that there might be a risk that the objective might settle even more refugees in their camps instead of encouraging them to seek outlets outside.

456. It was further noted that, under the same subprogramme, the Agency provided quality and relevant technical and vocational education and training at its vocational training centres and that approximately 8,000 students were enrolled in its courses each year. In that context, a question was raised on the performance measure mentioned in figure 26.XIII, on the percentage of vocational training centre graduates employed within one year of graduation, in particular why it was anticipated that the measure would fall from 80.9 to 75.5 per cent.

457. With regard to table 26.7, where the performance measure showed that 15,043 young people were expected to receive microfinance products with an increase in the value of loans provided, a question was raised on what those loans had given rise to

and whether the Agency organized monitoring of their use and outcomes. It was also suggested that the report would benefit from including information in that regard.

458. A delegation expressed appreciation for the continued work done by subprogramme 4 under result 1: microfinance: client-focused interventions (para. 26.97) and noted that the subprogramme had continued to provide access to loan products for Palestine refugees and members of other vulnerable and marginalized groups who would normally be ineligible for such products as they possessed few assets for use as collateral. The same delegation was grateful that, under result 2: expanded access to microfinance (para. 26.100), it was pointed out that the programme had also expanded its operations in the Syrian Arab Republic through the opening of a new credit unit in Sahnaya, the targeting of new clients in Husayniyah and the reduction of interest rates for Palestine refugee clients to stimulate business.

459. With regard to subprogramme 5, Palestine refugees are able to meet their basic human needs of food, shelter and environmental health, information was sought on whether the planning figure for shelter intervention also included those whose houses had been destroyed in the recent events. Also under the same subprogramme, information was sought on the collaboration that the Agency undertook with respect to in-kind food assistance with a view to increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Conclusions and recommendations

460. **The Committee expressed its appreciation for the essential work of UNRWA, which maintained the delivery of humanitarian, protection and human development assistance for the benefit of 5.7 million registered Palestine refugees, in particular women and children. The Committee reiterated that, by alleviating the plight of the Palestine refugees, UNRWA played a vital role for the stability of the region and the viability of the two-State solution. The Committee commended the staff of the Agency for carrying out its invaluable work in an exceptionally difficult security, political and financial environment, including the COVID-19 pandemic.**

461. **The Committee welcomed the five proposed strategic outcomes for 2022 and noted with appreciation the Agency's efforts to provide complete and inclusive education to school-age children, including elementary and preparatory education, and recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNRWA to further focus on that important matter.**

462. **The Committee noted that the programme proposal had been drafted before the conflict related to Gaza took place in May 2021.**

463. **The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Agency had been able to quickly adapt its working methods and to respond effectively to the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including by providing sanitation in refugee camps and maintaining core service provision, and welcomed the fact that UNRWA interventions had been extended throughout 2020. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to further solicit international support to strengthen the Agency's core service provision as appropriate.**

464. **The Committee stressed the importance of continuing to mainstream protection and to integrate a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate.**

465. **The Committee took note of the self-evaluations completed in 2020 and scheduled for 2022 and drew the Agency's attention to the need to ensure constant monitoring and vetting of its contractors and service providers, to**

ensure their neutrality, transparency, effectiveness, efficiency and economy of means.

466. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

Programme 23

Humanitarian assistance

467. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 23, Humanitarian assistance ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 27\)](#)).

468. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General introducing the programme. Representatives of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

469. Delegations expressed appreciation and strong support for the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. It was noted that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs played an indispensable role in coordinating principled humanitarian action to ensure coherent, effective and consistent system-wide response strategies that met the humanitarian needs of affected people and minimized duplication and gaps in response efforts, and in facilitating the transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and sustainable development. Appreciation was also expressed for the work of the Office in ensuring effective advocacy of humanitarian principles and respect for international humanitarian law. The work carried out by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in leading and ensuring synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in the socioeconomic and humanitarian fields was also recognized. With the world facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis resulting from the triple threat of conflict, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, and with around 237 million people worldwide who would need humanitarian assistance in the year ahead, it was emphasized that the work of the two offices was more important than ever.

470. A delegation welcomed the leadership of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in anticipatory and early action to mitigate the impacts of impending humanitarian crises and expressed support for the Office's intention to scale up work in that area through the Central Emergency Response Fund and to further prove the effectiveness of anticipating the impact of humanitarian shocks, such as drought, floods and pest infestation. Another delegation noted that that area of work was of huge interest to donors and of critical importance to beneficiaries living in disaster-prone areas, and additional information on the Office's work in that area was requested. A delegation emphasized that robust support for the Office was a priority to ensure that it was equipped and empowered to fulfil its critical mandate of coordinating humanitarian assistance for an unprecedented number of people in need around the world.

471. Appreciation was expressed for the detailed outline of the results achieved in 2020 and the clear goals set by the Office for 2022. Support was also expressed for the planned activities reflected in the programme, and a delegation expressed its

support for the triple nexus and the need to increase collaboration between peace, development and humanitarian actors. Another delegation indicated its intention to provide amendments to certain formulations in the programme narrative to reflect agreed language, in particular on gender, the nexus and humanitarian access, among other issues. Another delegation noted the lack of reference to youth in the programme and expressed the view that it would be useful to see some deliverables and activities targeting youth across the subprogrammes, particularly in the light of the growing number of youth and their active participation in society.

472. A delegation expressed gratitude for the response efforts of the Office during the pandemic and acknowledged the work undertaken by staff at Headquarters and especially in the field, where staff had stayed and delivered under drastic humanitarian circumstances to ensure that those most in need and the most vulnerable received aid and did not lose hope. Another delegation highlighted that the pandemic had exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and created new needs that had to be addressed in a timely manner. The delegation praised the work carried out in spite of increased access restrictions, and expressed regret that, in some cases, access restrictions were not connected to health and safety measures but were the result of politicization and instrumentalization in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It was emphasized that unimpeded humanitarian access was a must and that humanitarian assistance should be accessible to all people in need, including in conflict-affected areas, in accordance with the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. Moreover, it was stressed that the humanitarian response should neither threaten the safety of affected people nor further humiliate their dignity. The Office was invited to comment on challenges related to access restrictions.

473. The importance of how innovation and technology improved the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance was recognized by a delegation, which also noted the challenges caused by the pandemic on that issue, and, in that regard, the delegation sought clarification on how the Office would focus on and prioritize the issue in 2022. Another delegation stressed the importance of looking for ways to further enhance multilateral collaboration on disaster forecasting technologies and the equitable distribution of disaster warnings, including to marginalized communities. In that context, the delegation looked forward to engaging on those issues, in particular as they related to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, disaster risk reduction in general and humanitarian responses around the world, and drew attention to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Indonesia in 2022.

474. Another delegation expressed its support for the “One World Protected” virtual event, which had raised \$2.4 billion and secured 1.8 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries participating in the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility in 2021 and 2022, including for United Nations personnel.

475. A delegation expressed support for the efforts of the Office to increase the participation of women, local representatives and affected populations in needs assessments and response planning. The delegation also expressed support for the participation of those groups in the Office’s briefings to the Security Council on Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ethiopia and other humanitarian crises.

476. A question was raised and further clarification sought on the relocation of a number of posts from the Geneva office of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to Istanbul, Turkey. A point of order was raised by another delegation, which indicated that questions on the relocation of posts fell outside the scope of the Committee. In addition, the Chair emphasized that questions relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the

Committee and called upon the Committee to focus the discussion on the programme plan and programme performance information.

477. A question was raised on the role played by the Office in the immediate aftermath of the disaster related to the recent volcanic eruption of Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and whether there had been a timely response, and, if so, whether an update could be provided on current activities in that respect.

478. With regard to the programme's overall orientation, a delegation sought clarification as to whether the evaluation on mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of women and girls into the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, which was supposed to have been completed in 2021, had been completed or was still under implementation and, if the latter, what the expected time frame for completion was.

479. In respect of the strategy and external factors, appreciation and support were expressed for the efforts undertaken by the Office on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, and on build-back-better efforts to increase the use of videoconferencing and virtual platforms for meetings and consultations.

480. In respect of subprogramme 1, Policy and analysis, a delegation noted that close coordination and collaboration between partners were key to ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance, referenced under result 1: increased collaboration between humanitarian and development partners at the country level. The same delegation noted the increased number of countries that had defined the common strategies, as referenced in paragraph 27.35 and table 27.3 on performance measures, and sought further clarification on the lessons learned from year to year. In respect of table 27.3, another delegation sought clarification on the list of the countries in which humanitarian and development partners were to strengthen existing complementary programming and funding to implement a common strategy and which countries might adopt early action frameworks.

481. In respect of paragraph 27.39, a delegation expressed its concern that the planned target of testing initiatives for technology and innovation in selected humanitarian response contexts had not been accomplished as initially planned in the proposed programme budget for 2021, owing to the refocusing of priorities towards the COVID-19 response during 2020. The delegation requested further clarification on the programmes and initiatives planned.

482. Concerning result 2: how technology may shape the humanitarian operating environment, a delegation expressed its concern that among the number of elements that were mentioned, reference to drones was not included.

483. In respect of subprogramme 2, Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response, a delegation expressed support for the plans to strengthen linkages between humanitarian assistance and resilience, early recovery and development work and requested further information on what the Office saw as the barriers to collaboration in strengthening those linkages. The same delegation expressed support for the Office's plan to develop two more early action frameworks in 2022, as reflected in the performance measure in table 27.8.

484. In respect of subprogramme 3, Natural disaster risk reduction, a delegation sought clarification on the number of deliverables reflected in table 27.11, specifically on the organization of 330 seminars, workshops and training events planned for 2022. The delegation sought clarification on how that would be achieved during the year, which had 365 days, and expressed its view that it would be unrealistic.

485. In respect of subprogramme 5, Humanitarian emergency information and advocacy, a delegation expressed support for the work of the Office and stressed the importance of information and advocacy. The delegation expressed the view that the Office's work to increase respect for international humanitarian law in order to enhance the protection of affected people and improve access to humanitarian assistance was vital, as was its work to produce more timely and accurate information on humanitarian crises. The delegation sought further clarification on how taking that work forward would be affected by the challenge of the COVID-19 crisis.

Conclusions and recommendations

486. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan of programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".**

Programme 24

Global communications

487. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 24, Global communications ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 28\)](#)).

488. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications introducing the programme. The Under-Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

489. Delegations expressed support for the work of the programme and the efforts made to raise awareness of the work of the United Nations and promote the 2030 Agenda. Appreciation was expressed for the quality of the programme plan, which was considered to be very easy to read and comprehend.

490. Delegations commended the Department of Global Communications for its swift and quality response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its creativity in reformatting all information and communication activities of the United Nations in the light of the new global challenge, to combat disinformation and misinformation and promote the world's knowledge and awareness about the pandemic. A delegation noted that that communications approach could be similarly applied to other important areas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the women and peace and security agenda and climate change. Another delegation highlighted that, despite the negative impact of the pandemic, the changing reality had made the Department expand its professional toolkit, add innovative forms of presentation of materials and engage with the audience. A number of delegations welcomed the Department's global thematic campaigns, including "Verified", "Pledge to Pause" and "Only Together", designed to counter disinformation and misinformation regarding COVID-19, as well as promote science-based trusted content, access to vaccination and freedom of opinion, expression and the press. Delegations acknowledged the inclusion of those campaigns in the programme plan for 2022, as it sent a signal that the United Nations would continue its effort to enhance the provision of truthful and precise information regarding COVID-19 and promote communication around vaccination. Another delegation welcomed the Department's recent innovations and successes in sharing positive stories, developing strategic partnerships with civil society, the private sector and media companies and mobilizing individuals to take

action. The Department was encouraged to continue to act as an authoritative source of inspiring stories about the United Nations and the COVID-19 response. A delegation also highlighted the growing audience numbers and interaction via the United Nations website channels, which was evident, for example, during the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development held in April 2021, which had been made available on the COVID-19 web portal, as well as on a podcast that gained a bigger audience.

491. A delegation emphasized the importance of supporting the Secretariat's commitment to putting the experience of the pandemic to good use, which was embodied in the "build back better" principle. The delegation highlighted that reduced expenditure in areas including online participation in some events in lieu of in-person presence and the redistribution of funds to cover other relevant aspects would contribute to the optimization of the programme budget for global communications and would make the Department compliant with the new reality.

492. A delegation expressed appreciation for the creation of a climate change team in support of communications efforts on climate change in the lead-up to the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The delegation also expressed appreciation for the attention that the Department had given to peacekeeping operations, especially the promotion of women peacekeepers, and expressed its support and cooperation in that regard.

493. Delegations emphasized the importance of multilingualism, in particular in the context of the health and liquidity crisis that the Organization had faced, and encouraged the Department to continue to ensure equal treatment for all six official languages as a matter of principle and necessity, including by making tools and content available on different platforms (e.g. press releases on United Nations meetings) in those languages. Another delegation expressed its hope that the multilingual implementation of specialized projects would remain a priority for the Department in 2022 and called for the sustainable financing of such projects. Reference was made to the forty-third session of the Committee on Information, which had ended on 18 May 2021, and to its draft report ([A/AC.198/2021/L.3](#)), which contained draft resolution B on United Nations global communications policies and activities. In line with draft resolution B, a delegation took note of the progress made on multilingualism, including the Committee's request for the Department to ensure, through recruitment and training, that its workforce was diverse from a multilingual perspective. The same delegation emphasized the requirement for the Department to ensure that the minimum standards of multilingualism were applied to United Nations websites and that non-compliance with those standards had been included in the report of the Secretary-General on multilingualism ([A/75/798](#)).

494. A delegation reiterated a concern that it had expressed several times during past sessions of the Committee, namely that the statistics presented in the proposed programme plan for the results achieved over recent years (e.g. the growing number of visits to United Nations websites and the dynamics of followers of and interactions with United Nations social media accounts) provided limited information because the data were not disaggregated for each of the six official languages. As a result, Member States continued to be unable to comprehend the real situation and dynamics that were critical for understanding the tempo and quality of the work by language. The delegation expressed its hope that that demand would be taken into consideration in the context of the programme plan for 2023.

495. A delegation recommended that the Department ensure that its global communication was accurate, impartial, comprehensive, balanced, coherent, timely and relevant and embed those principles in its objectives and strategy. Another

delegation welcomed the frequent interactions of the Department with Member States through their permanent missions.

496. With regard to subprogramme 1, Strategic communications services, a delegation welcomed the continued focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change, which it noted was at the core of global communications and the framework for recovering better from the COVID-19 pandemic. The delegation also highlighted one of the emerging challenges of the year, related to the rise in intolerance, racism and xenophobia emanating from the pandemic, which had not been explicitly mentioned in the 2022 programme plan, and urged the Department to continue its system-wide support for efforts to eradicate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination, harassment, racism, hate speech and xenophobia. The delegation also sought clarification as to whether there was any provision to support such activity under the programme plan for 2022.

497. With regard to subprogramme 2, News services, a delegation welcomed the fact that the Department had achieved its largest ever outreach to global audiences across the largest spread of locations in 2020, while establishing the United Nations as a leading voice on the COVID-19 pandemic. On result 1: engaging youth through digital dynamism, the delegation welcomed the proposal to further expand the scale and scope of the new platform with the aim of engaging more deeply with younger target audience groups and sought clarification as to how it would be achieved.

498. A delegation noted that the new result 3: strengthened action on climate change, under subprogramme 1, and the new result 3: increased focus on climate change, under subprogramme 2, were focused mainly on climate change. The delegation sought clarification on how the Department would continue its work in enhancing public knowledge on other important areas such as peace and security and sustainable development.

499. Clarification was also sought on the proposed redeployment of 23 posts from the Social Media Section, under subprogramme 2, News services, to the Communications Campaigns Service, under subprogramme 1, Strategic communications services, including whether the Social Media Section would no longer exist starting from 2022, and the related risks, considering the importance of focusing on global priority topics, and the possibility of compromising the dissemination of purely informative content. The Chair emphasized that questions related to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee and called upon the Committee to focus the discussion on part A of the programme. Further, clarification was sought on the coordination between the News Services and Social Media Sections, considering that the two sections were called upon to create content pertaining to the same topics while reporting to different directors, and on whether interactions with Member States would be negatively affected as a result.

500. On subprogramme 3, Outreach and knowledge services, a delegation welcomed the Department's approach to partnerships, which enhanced its ability to target and deliver its message to an even wider community, including young people, evidenced by the increased advocacy with a broad and international range of academic institutions, students and educators, the creative community and civil society. The delegation was encouraged by the Department's work on mobilizing partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with partners numbering 174. Support was also expressed for the planned performance measure in table 28.7 to increase the duration of partnerships and the geographical and sectoral diversity of partners engaged in a compact for the decade of action to deliver the Goals by 2030.

Conclusions and recommendations

501. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan for programme 24, Global communications, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.

Programme 25 Management and support services

502. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 25, Management and support services ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 29A\)](#), [A/76/6 \(Sect. 29A\)/Corr.1](#), [A/76/6 \(Sect. 29B\)](#), [A/76/6 \(Sect. 29C\)](#), [A/76/6 \(Sect. 29E\)](#), [A/76/6 \(Sect. 29F\)](#) and [A/76/6 \(Sect. 29G\)](#)).

503. The Chair drew attention to the statements introducing the programmes. The Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, the Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Information and Communications Technology and other representatives of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

504. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the vital role that the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance played in implementing the Secretary-General’s reform agenda throughout the Organization, including the Department’s efforts to streamline processes and to promote transformation and drive innovation in business models throughout the Secretariat. A delegation noted that effective change management was, and would continue to be, critical to the success of the programme. The delegation welcomed the Department’s recognition of the critical nature of change management and encouraged it to ensure that new tools and processes had real impact.

505. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the Department’s proposed programme plan for 2022, which served to promote an integrated and flexible approach to its mandate, and said that it was essential that functional departments were in line with the principles of service, facilitation and responsiveness in support of operational departments. In that respect, the delegation welcomed the strategy for 2022, in particular with regard to new ways of working, business continuity in emergencies, results-based management policies and practices, enhanced data analysis and reporting capabilities, and a dynamic human resources strategy.

506. Noting that the strategy should not be pursued at the cost of accountability, the same delegation highlighted the relevance of the part of the strategy focused on fostering greater transparency and accountability envisaged to engender greater credibility and trust in the capabilities of the United Nations as an organization, both by Member States and the people that it served (para. 29A.2 (d)). Another delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the Business Transformation and Accountability Division to implement and monitor the delegation of authority framework and indicated that it looked forward to continued reporting on the results of the management reform implementation. Clarification was sought on whether there were any plans to demonstrate results from the reform implementation in addition to a “benefits tracker”.

507. A delegation welcomed the clear commitment throughout the programme to building back better and continuous learning and improvement. It expressed strong

support for the intention to mainstream lessons learned and best practices from its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. By adjusting its work across the various subprogrammes, the Department had been able to use available capacity to support the Organization's efforts to respond more effectively to the pandemic. Noting that the good example of an agile organization set by the Department should be emulated across the board, the same delegation asked how lessons learned in that respect could be integrated.

508. In welcoming the work on the "next normal" framework, the same delegation emphasized the importance of aligning that work with the future of work initiative of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and noted the vagueness of the performance measure on the percentage of recommendations of the "next normal" framework implemented for United Nations Headquarters for result 3 under component 3, Management advisory services, of subprogramme 1, Enterprise resource planning solution, services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, and management advisory services. Another delegation asked whether the framework would have any impact on intergovernmental meetings.

509. A delegation highlighted the important contribution of Umoja in responding effectively to COVID-19 and managing liquidity challenges, welcomed the Department's speed in making changes to Umoja to support business continuity and proposed a continued focus on making improvements to the system in 2022. Another delegation asked how the lessons learned from the implementation of Umoja were being used in the implementation of Umoja Extension 2. Also with regard to Umoja Extension 2, a delegation noted that the performance measures under 2021 and 2022 were identical, namely "Continuous improvements, enhancements and data analytics enabling process improvements and better-informed decisions on resources" (table 29A.2) and asked whether any qualitative indicator existed for the measure.

510. A delegation encouraged all departments to take further steps to incentivize high performance and deal effectively with underperformance, and to ensure that career progression was strongly linked to staff performance. The delegation asked how the Secretariat encouraged staff to align workplans with approved activities arising from established mandates, and how the Secretariat monitored the performance and accountability of individuals and entities in the implementation of mandated activities. With reference to paragraph 29A.213 under subprogramme 4, Business transformation and accountability, the same delegation sought elaboration on what distinguished support for achieving programmatic results through training in results-based management from performance-based management. Another delegation asked about the application of a dynamic human resources strategy in the field in instances where staff were posted in the same position for many years.

511. With regard to paragraph 29A.11, which indicated that the Department would work towards the establishment of benchmarks for augmenting regional diversity, a delegation asked why the Department, without an intergovernmental mandate to augment regional diversity, carried out initiatives lacking the support of all Member States. While noting the progress made on gender parity in the past few years, another delegation noted that equitable geographical representation was a long-standing issue and stressed that gender balance in staff composition should not be achieved at the cost of geographical representation. Consequently, the delegation suggested that the Secretariat take effective, tailored and results-based measures to address the issue of geographical representation, especially the underrepresentation of developing countries. The same delegation noted the efforts to expand a diverse pool of qualified candidates for future vacancies through the use of innovative mechanisms, such as pipelines and talent pools, and stressed that candidates from underrepresented Member States ought to be given priority.

512. A delegation commended the Department's support for Secretariat-wide efforts on disability inclusion, including the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

513. A delegation noted that some matters were still subject to a decision by the General Assembly, including the sequencing of the review processes of the proposed programme budget. It expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Programme Planning and Budget Division to consult with Member States on the programme budget report, and requested the Division to better guide programme managers in drafting budget documents, especially with a view to ensuring that the terms and expressions used in such documents were intergovernmentally agreed, in accordance with Assembly resolution [74/251](#).

514. With regard to the size of the documentation on the proposed programme budget, delegations called for brevity, stressing that a programme plan with 1.5 million words did not make things easier for Member States or programme managers in the Secretariat, and suggested that the Department could lead by example and reduce by half the size of its 100-page submission.

515. A delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Controller and the Division to closely monitor and forecast the collection of assessments and manage cash outflows based on liquidity forecasts. It noted that finance was a foundational element underpinning United Nations governance and that programme delivery should be based on mandate, not cash on hand. The delegation called upon Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It welcomed measures taken by the Department, such as the new internal control framework, and welcomed further efforts to enhance the transparency, comparability and usefulness of financial statements across the United Nations system.

516. A delegation emphasized the importance for the Organization of a reliable audit, investigation and evaluation system fully aligned with a "three lines of defence" approach, including a third line that was duly listened to. In that regard, the delegation sought the Department's views on whether the internal control framework would rebuild effective and efficient first and second lines of defence, which had been described in several reports of OIOS as weak or insufficient. Another delegation asked how the Secretariat network of conduct and discipline focal points would support anti-fraud and anti-corruption efforts.

517. A delegation expressed appreciation to the Department for its work in the context of COVID-19 and for having made the Committee for Programme and Coordination operational, efficient and productive at short notice. Another delegation expressed deep appreciation to the secretariat of the Fifth Committee and the Committee for Programme and Coordination for their high-quality service, great efforts and support for Member States.

518. Delegations recognized and expressed support for the excellent work carried out by the Department of Operational Support. A delegation noted that the Department had acted quickly to ensure business continuity during the pandemic, including by focusing on new priority activities to ensure that the Organization could continue to function effectively in the virtual office environment. It welcomed the Department's ambition to harness technology, data and new ways of working to deliver faster and better support, and it expressed support for the Department's commitment to continuous learning, including the mainstreaming of best practices from the response to COVID-19, such as virtual meetings, where feasible.

519. A delegation concurred with the Department on the need to track the latest trends and take into account new ways of working as a result of COVID-19. With regard to

the performance measure for result 1 under subprogramme 4, Administration, New York, indicating a much lower target for increased flexible workspace capacity for 2021 and 2022, clarification was sought on whether significantly less demand was expected going forward and on what consultations with staff were under way to shape the subprogramme's approach.

520. A delegation welcomed the Department's plans to continue to advance the mutual recognition agenda and to seek collaboration opportunities and synergies in the spirit of one United Nations, a key area where more progress from the Secretariat was desired. Another delegation commended the Department on its coordination with agencies, funds and programmes on the recruitment of medical personnel to United Nations clinics, the training of health-care personnel, the implementation, governance and monitoring of United Nations health-care standards, and ensuring compliance with such standards in the context of the pandemic. Another delegation expressed appreciation for health-care management, emphasizing the importance of improving health care for staff at Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters and regional commissions, and of improving the safety and security of peacekeepers by providing them with proper medical care and first aid.

521. A delegation commended the Department's efforts to integrate a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate, as well as its guidance and workforce planning toolkits developed for staffing initiatives, such as the senior women talent pipeline. Clarifications were sought on how effective the pipeline had been. A delegation welcomed the Department's work on gender perspectives as having a clear legislative basis. A delegation made reference to vendor outreach activities targeted at women-owned businesses, appearing under the Department's strategy (para. 29B.11) and in result 2 under component 1, Integrated supply chain management, of subprogramme 2, Supply chain management (para. 29B.110), and enquired about the legislative mandate for such activities. It noted that gender was mentioned throughout the programme plan but the term "geographical" was used solely in conjunction with the word "location". In that regard, the delegation sought information on what the Department did to address the geographical imbalance among its staff.

522. A delegation asked about the status of the process, described under component 1, Human resources support, of subprogramme 1, Support operations, of continuing to provide guidance on the proper exercise of delegated authority to human resources business partners across the Secretariat (para. 29B.22). Delegations welcomed and encouraged the Department's efforts to reduce recruitment times, and it was noted that the Department had recognized the increased need for behavioural change as it introduced new innovative tools.

523. With regard to result 2 under component 2, Capacity development and operational training, of the same subprogramme, a delegation asked what the Department intended to do to meet targets on the number of staff passing the course on resource management for certifying officers (figure 29B.III), as well as what more needed to be done to ensure that staff were not only enrolling in, but also successfully completing, eLearning courses. A delegation highlighted the importance of multilingualism and the six official languages in promoting staff learning and training.

524. With regard to subprogramme 2, Supply chain management, a delegation welcomed the continued modernization of supply chain and procurement processes, including the intention to leverage data for better, more informed decision-making. A delegation asked whether the Department was able to benefit from economies of scale by pooling procurement requirements for commonly required goods and services,

what further steps it could take in that direction and how it was integrating industry best practices into aviation procurement.

525. A delegation welcomed the Department's efforts to continue to build upon the adaptive measures by continuing to provide vendors from developing countries and economies in transition with cost-effective and safe alternatives to in-person events, and called upon the Department to include quantitative performance measures for result 2 under component 1, Integrated supply chain management, of subprogramme 2. The same delegation recommended further strengthening internal controls, given that areas such as procurement, logistics and supply chain management, which were under the Department's purview, were traditionally considered high risk. With regard to component 2, Uniformed capabilities support, of the same subprogramme, a delegation welcomed the Department's enhanced partnerships with troop- and police-contributing countries and its support for timely reimbursement.

526. A delegation welcomed the work carried out under subprogramme 3, Special activities, to achieve a more expedient and sustainable deployment of staff, assets and financial resources as quickly as possible for newly deployed or expanded Secretariat entities, and sought the Department's view on what further action could be taken in that regard.

527. A delegation encouraged the Department's continued ambition to implement the accessibility programme. With regard to the performance measure for result 2 under subprogramme 4, namely the total implementation rate of the accessibility programme by year, a delegation noted the delay in progress in 2020 as a result of COVID-19, and asked how the Department would ensure that it was still on track to reach the implementation rate of 90 per cent in 2022.

528. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Office of Information and Communications Technology and welcomed its efforts in responding to the pandemic to ensure the business continuity of the United Nations, including meetings of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It was highlighted that, without the help of the Office, meetings could not have taken place, and that the Office had a central role to play in achieving the shared vision of an agile, modern and innovative United Nations. In that regard, appreciation was expressed for the expert technicians and support personnel who trained and guided Member States during virtual meetings. A delegation welcomed the Office's commitment to continuous learning and improvement and expressed strong support for mainstreaming lessons learned and best practices from the response to COVID-19, including by continuing to enhance technologies to facilitate hybrid and remote working.

529. A delegation welcomed the intention of the Office, with regard to interoperability and inter-agency coordination, to build on the significant progress of 2020, through which access to collaboration on Secretariat platforms had been provided to more than 100,000 personnel from agencies, funds and programmes (para. 29C.10).

530. Information was sought about the Office's efforts to streamline and update its information and communications technology (ICT) systems. In addition, clarification was sought on how any delegation of authority and decentralization of ICT functions would be carefully considered and would uphold accountability. With regard to the continued increase in serious and widespread cybersecurity attacks, a delegation sought clarification on how the Office was adjusting and speeding up the implementation of tools to counter such attacks in the United Nations. The Office was encouraged to continue with cybersecurity assessments as soon as possible, taking into account that cybersecurity would become increasingly important as the United Nations continued to modernize, increase its reliance on digital platforms for

exchanging information, operate through virtual workplaces and gain greater access to data.

531. With regard to the planned performance measure for 2022, contained in table 29C.4, for result 2 under subprogramme 1, Strategy and technology innovation, namely the availability of conversational artificial intelligence in three official languages of the United Nations, a delegation asked if there were any future plans to extend the measure to include all six official languages of the United Nations.

532. With regard to paragraph 29C.13, in which it was noted that the enterprise talent management platform provided hiring managers with analytics during the assessment stages of the recruitment process to ensure that gender parity was taken into consideration throughout the hiring life cycle, a delegation asked whether the Office was able to enhance the platform by adding analytics on geographical representation of staff members of the relevant department and office in order to assist in addressing the geographical imbalance in application processes.

533. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the work that the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi had carried out to ensure business continuity during the past year, including the provision of meeting services in a hybrid format, which had allowed the Offices to reach various groups which would otherwise not have been able to attend the meetings. The delegation asked how lessons from hybrid meetings would be carried forward to make sure that the United Nations reached and was available for all Member States. It also welcomed the assessment of the risks related to the return to the office and sought further information on how those risks would be mitigated.

534. A delegation called upon all three Offices to ensure equitable geographical representation among their staff at all levels and to ensure the use of the six official languages in their work. Another delegation asked whether any comparison had been made between the Offices' standards for translation and interpretation and those of the private sector or similar organizations, such as the Council of Europe.

535. With regard to Administration, Geneva, several delegations expressed appreciation for the work done during the pandemic and the efforts to ensure business continuity. Several delegations enquired about the ongoing construction projects at Geneva, most importantly the strategic heritage plan, including the impact of COVID-19 on its timelines and costs. A delegation asked whether the renovation of the buildings and internal spaces, classified as world heritage sites, had been implemented with full respect for their invaluable heritage. A delegation called upon the United Nations Office at Geneva to enhance its efforts to ensure business continuity during the construction and to effectively and efficiently strengthen its coordination with United Nations Headquarters, especially the Global Asset Management Policy Service, which oversaw and monitored all capital projects of the Secretariat. The same delegation welcomed the concrete effort to establish a full risk and internal control system at the Office and encouraged it to continue its risk management and enhance comprehensive budgetary performance and accountability.

536. Information was sought on whether occupancy of building H had begun and when all Geneva-based staff were expected to have moved. Information was also sought on whether the Office would implement special epidemiological measures for the operation of the new building, taking into account the open space environment, and whether any plans existed to assess the possible impact of flexible working conditions on staff and the threat of spreading COVID-19. Detailed information was also sought on which Secretariat units and related structures would remain in the historic buildings, and a delegation insisted that the Economic Commission for Europe must remain in the historic building and not move to a building with an open space environment.

537. With regard to Administration, Vienna, delegations commended the business continuity plan implemented during the pandemic. A delegation asked whether the Vienna-based international organizations used the business continuity plan of the United Nations Office at Vienna or whether they implemented their own plans. Similarly, clarification was sought on whether the same epidemiological measures applied to all Vienna-based international organizations, as well as their staff and delegates, and whether meeting modalities and access to the Vienna International Centre differed depending on the international organization. In that regard, information was sought on whether any plans existed to consolidate online platforms into one universal platform for meetings of Vienna-based international organizations, as each organization presently used its own online platform.

538. With regard to Administration, Nairobi, a delegation expressed its strong support for the work of the United Nations Office at Nairobi on the ground and remarked that the entire continent attached great importance to the Office.

539. Appreciation was expressed for the administrative and other support services that the Office provided to UNEP and UN-Habitat (para. 29G.1), and a delegation asked whether there were any plans to expand such services to cover UNHCR.

540. A delegation welcomed the work done on business continuity during the pandemic and the efforts to ensure the smooth return of staff to the office. The critical role of the Office in tackling COVID-19 in Africa was highlighted. In addition, information was sought on how instrumental the Office had been in medical evacuations of COVID-19 patients and how business continuity had been ensured. Information was also sought on the 100-bed United Nations treatment facility that had been completed in 2020 to provide assurance of good quality medical care to United Nations system entities in the region, in particular on how solicited the facility was.

541. Referring to the letter of the Secretary-General dated 3 June 2021 on the gradual return to the United Nations premises in New York and the resumption of in-person work in the coming months, a delegation asked whether there were similar criteria and timelines for the resumption of in-person work at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The delegation further asked whether such plans, if any, had been discussed with Member States with permanent missions in Nairobi, and what opinion they had expressed in that respect. The delegation also sought information on the number and percentage of staff working remotely and staff present in the compound, working in-person five days a week.

542. A delegation commended the Office for taking into account the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy in its construction projects, as evidenced by the construction work related to the renovation of office blocks A to J, and trusted that future projects, especially the conference rooms, would use the Strategy as a guide in the design of the new premises. Also with regard to the conference rooms, a delegation welcomed the upgrades to the facilities and stressed the importance of reliable audio equipment and technical support in allowing Member States to carry out their work. Recalling that the Office had in the past experienced some problems with microphones and audio equipment, the delegation highlighted the need to invest in such equipment. A delegation also sought information on the extent to which the occupancy rate of the conference space had been improved, with what solutions and according to what performance indicators.

543. A delegation expressed support for the work of subprogramme 1, Programme planning, finance and budget, in continuing to support the Organization in embedding results-based management principles into its operations to improve the Organization's efficiency, effectiveness and accountability (para. 29G.20). In that regard, the delegation said that reporting served an important purpose, namely to identify risks

and challenges and to get the Organization back on track, and called upon the Office to improve its reporting system.

544. A delegation stressed the importance of subprogramme 2, Human resources management, and raised a concern about the method of hiring and use of human resources in recruitment. The delegation expressed the view that unconscious bias might affect the chances of applicants from Africa to occupy the Organization's key positions.

545. On subprogramme 3, Support services, a delegation highlighted the great importance of the environmental footprint, commended the Office on its work in that area and encouraged it to continue "greening the blue" in accordance with the United Nations regulations and rules and in compliance with host Government environmental policies. The delegation also mentioned the infrastructure challenges that the Office was facing and asked how it planned to achieve the result referred to in paragraph 29G.72 (b), namely improved physical infrastructure and optimized use of space in support of a sustainable, safe and flexible working environment, including installation of outdoor working pods to support indoor/outdoor safe working.

546. With regard to subprogramme 4, Information and communications technology operations, a delegation called upon the Office to align its ICT with the standard equipment used in offices away from Headquarters.

Conclusions and recommendations

547. **The Committee expressed its appreciation for the important work carried out under programme 25, Management and support services, and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Information and Communications Technology.**

548. **The Committee welcomed the work of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna to deliver high quality services to their clients and their focus on continuous improvement.**

549. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly reiterate that the Secretary-General had to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity served as the paramount consideration in the employment of staff, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations.**

550. **The Committee noted with concern the lack of quantitative performance measures of Umoja Extension 2, and in that regard recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the project, and to provide qualitative and quantitative performance measures in his next proposed programme budget.**

551. **The Committee noted the efforts of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to streamline processes and to promote transformation and drive innovation in business models throughout the Secretariat.**

552. **The Committee commended the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance for driving Secretariat-wide efforts on disability inclusion in accordance with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.**

553. **The Committee emphasized the importance of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance taking all necessary action to prevent and address sexual harassment in the workplace in the United Nations and encouraged the Department to continue its efforts to ensure zero tolerance for sexual harassment.**

554. The Committee noted with appreciation the work of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance's Business Transformation and Accountability Division to implement and monitor the delegation of authority framework, provide management functions related to accountability and assess and report on programme performance.

555. The Committee commended the high-quality services provided to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

556. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional innovative ways to promote procurement from developing countries and countries with economies in transition at Headquarters and field offices, and to report on concrete measures taken in that regard.

557. The Committee noted the efforts of the Department of Operational Support to mainstream a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate.

558. The Committee commended the Office of Information and Communications Technology for supporting business continuity and communications within the Secretariat.

559. The Committee encouraged the Office of Information and Communications Technology to continue to focus on building innovative technology solutions to support the work of the United Nations Secretariat and its mandate delivery and on ensuring information security and protection from cybersecurity threats.

560. The Committee noted the importance of the Office of Information and Communications Technology ensuring coherent ICT operations across the Secretariat and, in that regard, emphasized that the Office should enhance its monitoring and compliance role to ensure adherence to policies, standards and architecture, including in relation to information security.

561. The Committee emphasized the importance of the Office of Information and Communications Technology supporting the Secretary-General's comprehensive data strategy aimed at transforming the United Nations into a data-driven organization.

562. The Committee noted with appreciation the plans of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to move forward with its facilities upgrades, including the replacement of office blocks A to J and the initiation of upgrades to conference facilities.

563. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 25, Management and support services, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modification:

Section 29A

Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

Overall orientation

Strategy and external factors for 2022

Paragraph 29A.11

Delete "and the establishment of benchmarks for augmenting regional diversity".

Programme 26

Internal oversight

564. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 26, Internal oversight ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 30\)](#) and [A/76/6 \(Sect. 30\)/Corr.1](#)).

565. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the programme. The Under-Secretary-General, together with other representatives of OIOS, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

566. Delegations expressed appreciation for the leadership and important oversight role of OIOS, including in improving internal control, transparency and accountability, and for its work in the areas of audit, inspection, evaluation and investigations. The overall strategy proposed for 2022 was welcomed. A delegation commended the Office's efforts aimed at delivering services for the benefit not only of the Organization but also of its Member States and ensuring that oversight was properly exercised.

567. On the one hand, some delegations expressed support for the priorities of OIOS and the strategy and external factors for 2022, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and appreciation for the Office's commitment to integrate a gender perspective into its activities and to pursue inclusivity and empowerment for persons with disabilities and the promise to leave no one behind. The proposal was made to increase the focus on racism and investigations into sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. On the other hand, a delegation expressed concern that the priorities of the Office as outlined in the foreword had changed significantly compared with the previous year. Clarification was sought as to why the Office was providing support to Member States for the implementation of the Goals, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and identifying the lessons learned of United Nations system coherence and business continuity, or implementing strategies of the Secretary-General on gender parity and environmental sustainability. The point was made that those activities were not part of the Office's mandate, but rather under the purview of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs or the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, and that there was a direct threat of duplication of the work of the Office and of other Secretariat departments and offices. It was recalled that, in the proposed programme plan for 2021 of programme 26, which the Committee had considered the previous year, a very precise set of priorities had been outlined in strict accordance with General Assembly resolutions on the Office's activities, namely implementation of the Secretary-General's reforms, strengthening of organizational culture, procurement and missions in drawdown or transition. The observation was made that the proposed programme plan for 2022 of programme 26 made reference to Assembly resolution [74/256](#) but not to resolution [75/247](#), which was more recent.

568. Clarification was sought as to the reasons why, as at 31 December 2020, the OIOS caseload by investigation category was as follows: 49 per cent for fraud and corruption; 29 per cent for personnel; 13 per cent for sexual exploitation and abuse; and 9 per cent for sexual harassment. While support was expressed for a more balanced approach to investigations, the point was made that the Office should continue to focus its investigations on fraud and corruption, procurement, supply chain management, asset disposal and overseeing the implementation of the Secretary-General's reforms, as well as mission drawdown or closing, in line with its

mandate. Furthermore, the Office was encouraged to coordinate with Member States on best practices pertaining to the prevention of fraud and corruption and to continue to coordinate with other oversight bodies, including the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit. A delegation emphasized that it was in the best interests of the Organization and all parties concerned that investigations into cases of fraud, corruption and abuse of all kinds, including cases of harassment, be promptly concluded and that, if necessary, precautionary measures be taken to temporarily remove the persons affected from the situation in which the abuse had taken place, to prevent recurrence. Another delegation noted that the victim-centred approach or methodology for investigations had not been authorized by Member States, and requested the Office to achieve due quality in its investigations, to ensure that staff accused of any type of crime or misconduct enjoyed the presumption of innocence, and to take action necessary to address the issue of unsubstantiated allegations.

569. A delegation expressed disappointment that cases reported by whistle-blowers had not been documented, observed that whistle-blowers should be heard, supported and protected in line with the recommendations of the Committee at its sixtieth session and stated that information on such cases should be included in the Office's annual report.

570. Clarification was sought on the role of OIOS in increasing geographical representation, which was considered to be a recurring issue in the Organization requiring further action. The importance of the global character of the Secretariat and of securing the trust of Member States with regard to the selection of candidates was emphasized. The role of the Office of Human Resources in ensuring that equal opportunity was given to all qualified candidates from underrepresented and non-represented nationalities was highlighted.

571. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, OIOS was commended for adjusting its work to changing circumstances. Emphasis was placed on the identification and application of best practices and lessons learned in response to the pandemic, including the widespread use of hybrid meetings and new technologies to reach wider audiences, and on ensuring that those lessons were embedded to avoid a return to old ways of working.

572. Regarding subprogramme 1, Internal audit, a delegation sought clarification on the term "data governance" of result 3: strengthened data governance for enhanced performance and accountability of the Organization, in particular as to whether it stemmed from a General Assembly resolution or from another intergovernmental platform.

573. A delegation sought clarification on the performance measure in figure 30.VIII, in which the actual average completion time of sexual harassment investigations was 10 months in 2020, and the planned average completion time was 3 months in 2021 and 9 months in 2022. The same delegation also sought clarification on the performance measure in figure 30.IX, in which the actual percentage of investigation and closure reports that met timeline targets was reported at 67 per cent in 2020, and the planned percentage of investigation and closure reports that met timeline targets was 100 per cent for 2021 and 80 per cent for 2022, and in particular on possible linkages with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conclusions and recommendations

574. **The Committee commended the work of OIOS in strengthening the internal control framework, risk management and the governance system for improved performance and transparency of the Organization. The Committee suggested that OIOS further enhance its capacity to combat fraud and corruption in high-risk areas, including procurement and supply chain management and asset disposal.**

The Committee also underlined the need for OIOS to continue to focus on (a) the implementation of the reform of the Secretary-General, (b) organizational culture, (c) procurement and supply chain management, (d) missions in drawdown or transition and (e) whistle-blower protection.

575. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 26, Internal oversight, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1

Internal audit

Legislative mandates

Paragraph 30.45

Replace “[74/256](#) Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services” with “[75/247](#) Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services”.

Subprogramme 3

Investigations

Result 3: increased trust in investigation outcomes

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Paragraph 30.92

Replace the last sentence with the following: “Building on this success, the subprogramme will continue its efforts to diversify its staff in terms of gender, equitable geographical representation and professional background, as well as improve retention.”

Legislative mandates

Paragraph 30.95

Replace “[74/256](#) Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services” with “[75/247](#) Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services”.

Programme 27

Jointly financed activities

576. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 27, Jointly financed activities ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 31\)](#)).

577. The Chair drew attention to the statements of the Executive Secretary of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), the Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Secretary of CEB and Director of the secretariat of CEB introducing the programme. The Secretary of ICSC, the Chair of the Unit and the Secretary of CEB, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

578. Support and appreciation were expressed for the programme and its constituent components. The importance of the programme’s role in coordinating the activities of

the organizations of the United Nations system in accordance with their respective mandates was emphasized.

579. With regard to ICSC, several delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Commission and reaffirmed the importance of and benefits derived from maintaining a single and unified United Nations common system, which was a cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service for the United Nations common system. The Commission's efforts to ensure the effectiveness of the common system were also recognized.

580. It was recalled that the General Assembly had reaffirmed the mandate and authority of ICSC. However, delegations remained concerned at the disparities that continued to exist within the common system as a result of the decisions of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization on the post adjustment in Geneva. A delegation expressed the view that it was the responsibility of Member States to continue to render full support to ICSC in that regard and that they should take further steps, including strengthening the senior legal expertise capacity within the ICSC secretariat, to ensure that the role of the Commission was not undermined.

581. The response of ICSC and its important role in assisting the United Nations system in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic during its early stages was noted with appreciation. The important work carried out, especially on the approval of danger pay for a limited group of internationally and locally recruited staff directly involved in COVID-19-related activities, was highlighted. However, concerns were expressed regarding the cancellation of ICSC sessions and working groups on key areas, including parental leave and the review of salary survey methodologies and the number of salary surveys, as well as the cost-of-living surveys and data collection used for processing daily subsistence allowances. Information was sought as to why those meetings, as well as the salary and cost-of-living surveys, could not be taken forward in a virtual format.

582. On the proposed programme for 2022, the increased engagement with stakeholders who were affected by the decisions of the Commission was welcomed. A clarification was sought as to how ICSC engaged with heads of entities on the impact of its potential decisions, including on the question of their affordability. Some delegations welcomed the Commission's proposed focus on diversity in common system organizations and standards of conduct while encouraging it to take a broad perspective on diversity and to draw on good practices from across public and private sector organizations.

583. In reference to the performance measure in table 31.3 under result 2: focusing more on the needs of stakeholders, a delegation questioned whether the "absence of litigation" was a realistic indicator, taking into account that issues related to salaries and compensation packages could be contentious.

584. With regard to the Joint Inspection Unit, delegations welcomed the work of the Unit carried out in 2021 and its planned activities for 2022 and underlined its important role in ensuring coherence and its continued efforts to improve efficiency, effectiveness and coordination in the United Nations system. A delegation further noted that the Unit was considering an inspection report related to lessons learned from a system-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and sought clarification on the current thinking of the Unit in that regard.

585. Clarification was sought on the process of recruitment of inspectors of the Unit, including the criteria for selection to ensure that the required qualifications were met.

586. In reference to the performance measure in figure 31.II under result 1, on increased acceptance of Joint Inspection Unit recommendations, the decreasing trend in the rate of acceptance of the Unit's recommendations was noted. Clarification was sought on specific parts in the United Nations system where that decreasing trend was prevalent.

587. With regard to CEB, delegations expressed appreciation for its work, as well as that of its subsidiary mechanisms, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management. A delegation pointed out that a more integrated, cohesive and "joined-up" one United Nations approach was crucial for the United Nations system to effectively deliver its intergovernmental mandates and achieve impact on the ground, including on conflict prevention and the 2030 Agenda. The delegation also welcomed the new activities and existing work on important issues such as gender equality and sexual harassment.

588. A delegation expressed the view that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as chair of CEB, should ensure enhanced alignment of the measures of the High-level Committee on Management with the existing United Nations legislative framework, including in the area of procurement. It was also pointed out that more efforts from CEB were expected in support of a comprehensive and coordinated approach on multilingualism, a core and fundamental value of the United Nations system in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

589. The same delegation emphasized that the Board should act in full accordance with its mandate of enhancing system-wide coordination and in conformity with the intergovernmental mandates of its member organizations. A concern was raised over the implementation of activities and initiatives relating to subjects still under consideration by Member States. A delegation was of the view that incorporating gender equality and women's empowerment, as proposed for the year 2022, should not contradict intergovernmentally agreed mandates. It was also pointed out that the same applied to any current and future work streams of the High-level Committee on Programmes, such as those on inequalities, indigenous peoples and biodiversity. The view was further expressed that any activity of CEB related to the development of proposals for new sustainable contractual modalities should be suspended, pending clear requests from the General Assembly.

590. In reference to result 1: scaling up innovation across the United Nations system, clarification was sought as to how the United Nations innovation toolkit could help strengthen the United Nations system's leadership.

591. In reference to result 2: adoption of policies by member organizations to realize the future of the United Nations system workforce, it was noted that the work of CEB had contributed to the finalization in 2021 of elements of a United Nations system model framework for flexible working, which did not meet the target of a High-level Committee on Management-approved and CEB-endorsed model framework for the United Nations system workforce reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (para. 31.88). Clarification was sought on how exactly it did not meet the target.

592. In reference to result 3: United Nations system-wide financial statistics for better decision-making, greater transparency and enhanced accountability, a delegation expressed appreciation for the work conducted under the direction of the High-level Committee on Management on the United Nations data standards for the reporting of United Nations system-wide financial information (namely, "the data cube initiative"). In that regard, a question was raised to what extent the data cube framework contributed to strengthening the comprehensiveness, comparability and analytical quality of information on financial resources and their utilization in support of the

2030 Agenda. Clarification was also sought regarding the added value of that work in connection with the commitments of the funding compact.

Conclusions and recommendations

593. The Committee commended the work carried out by ICSC, noted its key role in enabling member organizations to deliver on their mandates by creating conditions of service to attract and retain staff, the most valuable resource of the United Nations common system, and stressed the need for senior legal expertise within the Commission secretariat.

594. The Committee reiterated the authority of ICSC, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolutions on the United Nations common system, to establish post adjustment multipliers for duty stations in the United Nations common system, and underlined paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution [75/245 A](#), in which the Assembly urged member organizations of the common system to cooperate fully with the Commission in line with its statute to restore the consistency and unity of the post adjustment system as a matter of priority.

595. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that ICSC was invited to provide its comments for a report on the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations common system that would be submitted by the Secretary-General for the consideration of the Assembly no later than during its seventy-seventh session.

596. The Committee welcomed the proposed focus of ICSC for 2022 on the inclusion of the workforce diversity component in the human resources management framework, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/273](#), on common system organizations, as well as on standards of conduct.

597. The Committee commended the work of the Joint Inspection Unit and underlined the importance of its long-standing commitment to strengthening transparency and accountability across the United Nations system.

598. The Committee welcomed the strategic framework of the Joint Inspection Unit for the period 2020–2029, the plans to continue to focus its reviews on subjects that were relevant, important and of high priority for its participating organizations and Member States, and its efforts to enhance the quality of reports in order to increase the acceptance rate and the implementation of its recommendations.

599. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage CEB to continue its efforts to promote the system-wide delivery of mandates aimed at ensuring efficiency, in particular in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

600. The Committee 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 was a core and fundamental value of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions.

601. The Committee reaffirmed the need for the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to ensure that activities and initiatives were in line with intergovernmental mandates.

602. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 27, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

Programme 28

Safety and security

603. The Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance information for 2020 of programme 28, Safety and security (A/76/6 (Sect. 34)).

604. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security introducing the programme. The Under-Secretary-General, together with other representatives of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

605. Delegations expressed appreciation for the important mandate carried out by the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat in ensuring the safety and security of all United Nations personnel, delegates, dignitaries and other visitors. A delegation emphasized that nothing was more important than the safety and security of United Nations personnel, many of whom put their lives on the line in difficult circumstances. It was noted that the Department performed a vital function in enabling United Nations Headquarters and, to an even greater extent, the field, to deliver on its mandates and programmes effectively, often in very challenging and complex operating environments. In that regard, a delegation also emphasized the importance of the safety and security of peacekeepers as the situation faced by peacekeepers had become more complicated and dangerous.

606. It was noted with appreciation that the Department would continue to carry out its efforts in line with the priorities identified in its strategic plan for the period 2020–2022. A delegation underlined that the Department was a critical partner in providing humanitarian assistance, especially in insecure environments, and sought clarification on the role of the Department in enabling the pursuit of the Secretary-General's goals related to the triple-nexus approach to crisis response, namely the better alignment of humanitarian, development and peace actors, and efforts in that regard to forge greater complementarity towards shared goals and the more effective use of resources. With regard to gender-based violence, clarification was sought on how the Department's human resources strategy, learning strategy and overall organizational culture had addressed sexual violence prevention and response.

607. A delegation remarked that external factors, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, had underlined the need for risk management within the Organization. It was suggested that the constraints the Department had been faced with in 2020 might have limited the achievement of results and, in particular, that the pandemic had hampered the Department's planned activities and curtailed its ability to exercise compliance, monitoring and control. It was also noted that the Department had had to restrict travel and reduce its strategic operational capacity to the bare minimum.

608. Several delegations commended the efforts made by the Department in finding innovative ways to adjust and adapt its operation in response to the pandemic and encouraged the Department to mainstream the lessons learned and best practices identified from that experience. A delegation sought clarification on the security implications of the ongoing impact of the pandemic as well as on the Department's role in vaccine distribution.

609. With regard to coordination, a delegation emphasized the need for the Department of Safety and Security, in collaboration with the Department for Peace Operations and other related departments, to enhance safety and security for United Nations peacekeepers and support them in their response to the pandemic, provide

access to vaccines free from threats posed by explosive devices and enhance capacities such as information acquisition, analytical capacities, basic first aid and situational awareness. The delegation also recommended that the Department of Safety and Security coordinate with Member States and the Group of Friends on the Safety and Security of United Nations Peacekeepers.

610. A delegation commended the Department for its continued focus on operational excellence and ensuring that it continuously improved its operations, including through the cultivation of a diverse and engaged workforce with effective and relevant competencies, skills and expertise and by using data to drive forward performance. In that regard, information was sought on the progress that had been made by the Department over the past year.

611. The efforts of the Department to increase diversity, including the representation of women, minorities and other underrepresented groups in the Professional and higher categories, were noted. In that regard, a delegation recommended that a stronger system be put in place to identify, recruit, develop and promote qualified candidates. Consequently, the planned self-evaluations in 2022 of the departmental gender strategy and of the United Nations security management system policy regarding security arrangements for locally recruited personnel were welcomed. A delegation also expressed appreciation for efforts made towards a diversified workforce that was younger, had more equitable geographic representation and substantially more women and was reflective of the people served, and encouraged the Department to make particular efforts to achieve equitable geographic representation.

612. A number of delegations welcomed the work that had been carried out to improve the provision of safety and security support to persons with disabilities. The Department's continued work on mainstreaming disability inclusion into its operations in the context of Secretariat-wide efforts on disability inclusion and the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, as well as the plan to improve access conditions for persons with disabilities in 2022, were commended. In that regard, a delegation expressed interest in learning more about the impact of those efforts.

613. With regard to information and communications technology, the Department was commended for its collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology to develop a platform for automating the issuance of United Nations grounds passes and the plan for the more effective vetting of event participants through a consolidated database. In that regard, an increased focus on technology and on cybersecurity threats in 2022 was recommended. Clarification was sought on the extent to which the Department had engaged in contingency planning for non-traditional security issues, such as cybersecurity, the weaponization of artificial intelligence and data security.

614. With regard to the subprogrammes, a delegation noted that consistent performance measures applied over several periods would highlight the importance of training and the existence of long-term projects and their translation into objectives, deliverables and criteria for measuring results. In that regard, it was noted that only some performance measures were quantifiable.

615. In reference to subprogramme 1, Security and safety services, a delegation welcomed the inclusion of improved safety and security support to persons with disabilities as the new planned result for the subprogramme, as well as the Department's plan to conduct a baseline assessment in 2021. With regard to the baseline assessment, a question was raised as to whether the Department had planned to extend the consultation to delegates accessing the United Nations premises.

616. In reference to subprogramme 2, Regional field operations, the same delegation also welcomed the new planned result for 2022, to make the United Nations security

risk management more agile and responsive to emerging crises. It was noted that the Department had identified the length of time it took to produce and endorse a security risk management document as one of the lessons learned and that it planned to revise that process. Accordingly, information was sought as to whether the Department had a creative performance measure indicator to capture the progress made in that regard.

617. In reference to subprogramme 3, Specialized operational support, the same delegation commended the work of the Department in streamlining the presentation of the subprogramme, especially in the strategy part, making it more readable and understandable, while encouraging the Department to continue its efforts to streamline the presentation. Appreciation was also expressed for the important work of the Department in providing emotional first aid and psychological support services to United Nations personnel following reported critical incidents, which had nearly doubled in 2020 compared with 2019. In that regard, clarification was sought as to whether the Department expected the upward trend to continue in 2021 and 2022, and how staff members providing said support had coped with the increased needs. A delegation questioned whether the Department was the appropriate home for such services given the high risks of harm without trained professionals in that area.

Conclusions and recommendations

618. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, review the programme plan of programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.**

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

619. 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/76/69](#)).

620. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. A representative of OIOS made introductory remarks and, together with representatives of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, responded to queries raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

621. Several delegations expressed thanks to OIOS for the report. One remarked that it had proved a useful exercise and provided insight into an important element of programme delivery, noting that evaluation was crucial to improving continuously, learning lessons and ensuring that a programme was delivering credible and meaningful results.

622. One delegation requested the Secretary-General to implement the mandates as effectively and efficiently as possible and improve the quality of the work, noting that evaluating the performance of the departments and offices of the Secretariat was of critical importance.

623. The delegation expressed the view that professional evaluations would assist the Secretariat and Member States in understanding the extent to which the qualitative and quantitative indicators were achieved and how well the United Nations implemented its mandates.

624. Concern was expressed regarding the overemphasis on project-based evaluations (paras. 13 and 14), and clarification was sought on how the Secretariat could move away from such evaluations and on what positive steps, if any, had been taken in that regard.

625. The delegation expressed appreciation that the reformed budget process was placing greater emphasis on demonstrating how evaluations had been used to improve programming. However, the delegation expressed concern that half of the respondents to the focal point survey could not identify positive changes in their entities as a result of evaluations (para. 40) and sought further information on the extent to which action had been taken to reach those parts of the Secretariat.

626. The launch of the evaluation policy, as an important element of the reform initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General, was welcomed. The modest improvements by some entities in how they performed evaluations and the generally improving quality of reports were also noted.

627. Several delegations acknowledged that significant gaps and disparities remained across the Secretariat, suggesting that serious shortcomings should be rectified.

628. The importance of building capacity within departments was emphasized, and it was recalled that some capacity had been developed in the past. In that regard, it was noted that it was a question not only of building capacity but also of establishing a culture in which evaluation was truly valued by programme managers and leaders. It was also emphasized that a culture of continuous improvement, underpinned by a strong and consistent approach to evaluation, needed to be established.

629. One delegation noted the importance of ensuring that the staff of each department and office had sufficient knowledge and experience of evaluation, which would improve programme planning and enable management teams to take well-prepared decisions based on the results of the evaluation. It was also noted that an increase in resources provided by Member States might result from that approach.

630. One delegation expressed the hope that the Committee's decisions would not only enhance the role and results of evaluation in the Secretariat but also improve quality in the implementation of mandates.

Conclusions and recommendations

631. The Committee commended OIOS on its work aimed at improving the accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat.

632. The Committee expressed concern regarding the findings in the report on shortfalls such as highly uneven evaluation practice, weak evaluation use and tracking systems and the long-standing lack of evaluation capacity, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to increase evaluation coverage across the Secretariat.

633. The Committee emphasized the importance of evaluation and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to take further action to strengthen the role of evaluation in order to improve programmes, enhance performance and strengthen accountability, transparency and internal control.

634. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the results, conclusions and recommendations, including those contained in paragraphs 85 to 88, of the report of OIOS on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives.

635. The Committee selected the following evaluations for consideration at its sixty-second session, in 2022:

- (a) Evaluation of the Development Coordination Office with regard to the coherence of United Nations programming at the country level in support of countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (b) Evaluation of subprogramme 1 of the Economic Commission for Africa, on macroeconomic policy and governance;
- (c) Evaluation of subprogramme 3 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, on macroeconomic policies and growth.

636. The Committee also selected the following evaluations for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental body:

- (a) Contribution of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to the rule of law;
- (b) Support of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the rule of law and security institutions;
- (c) Political affairs in peacekeeping operations;
- (d) Women and peace and security.

637. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution [37/234](#), by which the Assembly had established triennial reviews of the implementation of OIOS evaluations, and noted that the Committee would consider, at its sixty-second session, in 2022, the triennial reviews of the implementation of the recommendations made at its fifty-ninth session, in 2019, and the following evaluations:

- (a) Office for Disarmament Affairs;
- (b) Department for General Assembly and Conference Management;
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme;
- (d) Office of Legal Affairs;
- (e) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- (f) Department of Global Communications;
- (g) Office of Human Resources Management (Department of Management);
- (h) Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

638. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States ([E/AC.51/2021/2](#)).

639. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. A representative of OIOS provided introductory remarks and, together with a representative of the Office of the High Representative, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

640. Delegations welcomed and expressed thanks to OIOS for the report, and expressed appreciation for the work of the Office of the High Representative. One noted that the conclusions of the report were positive and that the recommendations addressed problems of minor concern and had been accepted by the senior management of the Office. The delegation said that it was satisfying to see a structure with limited resources such as the Office managing to fulfil its mandate, which was important because the situation of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserved the full attention of the United Nations system and Member States. The delegation asked about progress on the implementation of OIOS recommendation 5, which was that the Executive Office of the Secretary-General should identify opportunities for greater engagement by the Office with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

641. One delegation questioned some of the findings, describing them as inconsistent with the facts and data. For example, it pointed to the statement in paragraph 48 that the Office had relied on extrabudgetary funds for mandated activities, noting that 52 per cent of the resources for the Office were provided from the regular budget. With regard to OIOS recommendation 4, on mainstreaming gender and human rights into the reports of the Office, the delegation considered that that constituted duplication and indicated bias, as that issue had already been included in the programme of the Office.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Global Communications

642. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications ([E/AC.51/2021/4](#)).

643. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. Representatives of OIOS, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

644. Appreciation was expressed for the conclusion in the report indicating that programme 9, United Nations support for NEPAD, remained relevant owing to its unique value in facilitating support for Africa's development. The directness of OIOS in identifying the significant challenges and assessing the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the programme in delivering its mandate was also welcomed.

645. One delegation observed that, while the programme had been described as relevant to coordination and support for Africa's development, shortcomings had been identified in the report: the programme lacked a relevant implementation strategy and accountability mechanisms to make any strategy fit for purpose, as well as a coherent strategy to advocate effectively; workplans, in particular for advocacy, had been developed in isolation from key stakeholders; the ability to deliver as one United Nations through the programme had been hindered by the absence of joint planning and coordination; the mandated reports to the Secretary-General had been of limited utility to decision makers; development commitments had been reported in the absence of a mechanism to monitor them over time; the Office had not provided analytical work and advice to improve the coherence of support for development and had not fully delivered on its global coordination role; and, at the regional level, the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa had been hindered by long-standing and systematic issues, including unclear accountability for outcomes, weak buy-in from stakeholders and the limited capacity of African Union organs and agencies to guide the work of the United Nations. Another delegation said that the challenges outlined in the evaluation could be resolved by limiting the scope of the programme to its core mandate outlined in General Assembly resolution 57/7, namely focusing on support for Africa's development rather than on unclear concepts such as the "nexus between peace, security and development".

646. One delegation observed that the work of the Office had focused on NEPAD and that the establishment 20 years later of Agenda 2063, which was considered to be more encompassing, meant that a shift in focus could improve the quality and substance of the cooperation between the Office and African entities.

647. While four critical recommendations had been issued as a consequence of the findings, all of which had been accepted by the programme manager, the degree to which they had been addressed was considered to be unclear, casting doubt on the extent to which programme 9 brought unique value to the coordination of and support for Africa's development. Questions were also raised as to why the first two lines of defence of the Organization, namely the provision of services rendered to the Organization and internal risk management, had not served to detect the shortcomings and why the apparent lack of consistency of the services rendered through programme 9 and the Office had come to light only through an internal audit.

648. Support was expressed for the strategic role of the Office as the point of entry to the United Nations system for African Union institutions, particularly the African Union Development Agency. The need was highlighted for more active engagement with African Member States to garner their feedback. One delegation observed that, following the recommendation of the Committee at its sixtieth session that it should strengthen its relationship with a group of African ambassadors, the Office had improved its cooperation with the Group of African States, albeit on an ad hoc basis. The point was made that a more conventional approach to working with representatives of African Member States, including a specific plan of activities, for example, would be beneficial.

649. Although matters relating to the parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, one delegation sought clarification on

the organizational structure and post distribution for the Office for 2022 and welcomed the structural changes and increase from five units in 2021 to seven units in 2022, while lamenting the fact that the Office remained qualitatively the same, as the overall number and level of posts would be essentially unchanged. The delegation also observed that the importance of engaging with young people had not been adequately reflected in the deliverables and activities for 2022.

Conclusions and recommendations

650. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 63 to 70 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Global Communications.

651. The Committee noted with appreciation the revitalization of the interdepartmental task force on African affairs and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue reinforcing that mechanism and to make it a guarantor of the "Delivering as one" principle for the African continent.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

652. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/AC.51/2021/5](#)).

653. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. A representative of OIOS provided introductory remarks and, together with the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

654. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report and the recommendations made therein and for the acceptance by the Department of those recommendations and its work to implement them. A delegation noted that they provided good guidance to enhance the Department's mandate delivery and internal management. Appreciation was expressed for the opportunity to utilize the findings to understand where there was room for future improvement. In that regard, a delegation asked whether the recommendations could be used to inform the current programme budget proposal or would provide further opportunities for the Department to improve its work.

655. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the Department and its work, including the unique value that it added as a global convener on development issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and as a thought leader on key global policy issues, as well as its role in the context of supporting efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

656. Delegations noted the importance of strategic planning and highlighted concern about the finding related to the need for the Department to do more to enhance its capacity to formulate its strategy. Referring to paragraph 40 of the report, a delegation asked how the Department was tackling the strategic planning challenge and how the

associated recommendation (recommendation 1, made in paragraph 64 of the report) was being implemented.

657. Some delegations noted the importance of the issues raised in the report relating to internal coherence and requested more information on work to ensure improvements in that area. A delegation noted its alignment with the recommendation related to strengthening internal linkages in the three functional areas of intergovernmental support, research and analysis and capacity development support in order to improve comprehensive strategic planning, programme monitoring and evaluation.

658. A delegation noted the great need and urgency associated with the unique role of the Department in support of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the action necessary to combat the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and promote sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and growth.

Conclusions and recommendations

659. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the evaluation results, conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.**

660. **The Committee acknowledged that, in the report, OIOS recognized the unique role played by the Department as a global convener in effectively supporting Member States' progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, recommending that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to continue efforts in that regard.**

661. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals and follow up on the implementation of its recommendations.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

662. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) ([E/AC.51/2021/7](#)).

663. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. A representative of OIOS, together with representatives of UN-Women, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

664. Delegations expressed thanks to OIOS for the comprehensiveness and professionalism of the report, as well as the opportunity to learn how UN-Women had adjusted its evaluation function over time, including adjusting the structural organization to the new regional structure of UN-Women, with a view to improving the effectiveness of the Entity and the results achieved relating to gender equality and women's empowerment.

665. Information was sought about the implementation of the four important recommendations made by OIOS, as mentioned in paragraphs 108 to 113 of the report,

including which ones had been implemented to date. One delegation enquired about the subsequent revision of recommendation 3, which UN-Women had partially accepted. The delegation noted that, although there were no doubts about the independence of the UN-Women Independent Evaluation Service, there might be issues of conflict of interest, especially for large donor-funded initiatives.

666. One delegation expressed support for the Entity's proposed programme budget and noted the relevance of the work of UN-Women in achieving results in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Conclusions and recommendations

667. **The Committee took note of the report of OIOS and its four important recommendations on the evaluation function of UN-Women. The Committee noted that, while UN-Women had a relevant, high-quality evaluation policy, the policy had needed updating. The Committee noted with appreciation that UN-Women, through its revised evaluation policy of 2020, had already implemented the recommendation regarding the need for an updated evaluation policy reflecting the current organizational structure of the evaluation function and organizational priorities.**

668. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 110 and 113 of the report of OIOS on the inspection of the evaluation function of UN-Women, as well as the revised recommendation contained in annex II to that report.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

669. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNODC ([E/AC.51/2021/6](#)).

670. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. A representative of OIOS and a representative of UNODC responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

671. A delegation expressed satisfaction with the evident improvement in the audit and evaluation reports by OIOS, which provided relevant information for the Committee's deliberations, and emphasized the importance of the Organization's having a reliable internal monitoring and evaluation system.

672. The same delegation expressed appreciation for the findings and narrative contained in the report, in particular on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of UNODC, as well as for the comparative advantage of UNODC in addressing transnational crime and illicit trafficking. The delegation expressed concern, however, regarding the finding of a highly centralized and bureaucratic culture that had led to administrative constraints, limited agility and limited cooperation with other United Nations agencies. The delegation, noting that organizational planning was key, requested UNODC to clarify how it had strengthened its strategic planning processes.

673. A delegation expressed concern regarding the substance of and language used in paragraphs 23 and 44 of the report, stressing that there was alignment between the work of UNODC and the priorities of the delegation's Government. The delegation

explained that cooperation took place at various levels and was guided by a steering committee. Moreover, with regard to the assertion that the country office was compelled to focus on anti-terrorism programmes, the delegation stressed that the core mandate of UNODC was to combat trafficking in drugs, whereas anti-terrorism work was a key aspect of the work of UNODC from which its country had benefited.

674. A delegation noted the comment by UNODC that the recommendations on the overarching strategy and its operating model appeared to have gone beyond the initial scope of the evaluation. The delegation said that it was not convinced about recommendation 2, suggesting that the elements cited in paragraph 27, such as political stability and political will, the development stage and capacity of countries, cultural norms, trust, coordination and collaboration, cohesiveness in programming and funding, comprised both external and internal aspects and that in recommendation 2 OIOS appeared not to have taken into consideration external aspects that could enhance the strategic plan of UNODC. In that regard, the delegation re-emphasized that UNODC should carry out its work in line with the principle of respecting national conditions and the specific requirements of the requesting State or host country.

675. A number of delegations noted that the language used in the report regarding gender equality and human rights-based approaches within UNODC programmes should be that agreed upon and adopted by United Nations intergovernmental bodies.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

676. The Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs ([E/AC.51/2021/3](#)).

677. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. Representatives of OIOS and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

678. Delegations welcomed the report and expressed thanks to OIOS for it. One welcomed the positive analysis of the work of the Department on conflict prevention, while noting the conclusions that underlined areas for improvement. The same delegation noted the benefits of an integrated approach, as highlighted in the report. Given the challenges of integration, the Department was requested to provide its views on the OIOS observation on uneven integration of the regional divisions, as well as with the Department of Peace Operations, and on the steps being taken to address that issue. Information was also sought on how the Department aimed to create the right culture.

679. Support was expressed for recommendation 2, on establishing a mechanism for staff to anonymously voice different viewpoints on political analyses. A delegation highlighted the importance of such a mechanism in providing staff with an opportunity to express viewpoints. Conversely, another delegation expressed concern, asking whether such a mechanism would have an impact on the decision-making process. The same delegation said that the Secretariat was not an academy of personal views, but an organization responsible for all Member States; all staff shouldered collective responsibility for the Organization and were individually accountable too. The delegation asked about the process for ensuring transparency and accountability in relation to such a mechanism. Other delegations asked why the mechanism should be anonymous.

Chapter III

Coordination questions

A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2020

680. The Committee considered the annual overview report of CEB for 2020 ([E/2021/47](#)).

681. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Secretary of CEB and Director of the CEB secretariat introducing the report. The Secretary of CEB responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

682. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of CEB and its subsidiary mechanisms, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management, as detailed in the report. CEB was commended for its wide-ranging efforts to ensure a more joined-up and coherent approach to policy and management matters, as well as for encouraging a more results-based culture across the United Nations system over the past year. CEB was seen as an essential element in keeping the system up to date and fit for purpose and as a mechanism to allow the activation and use of best practices and to generate synergies across the system. The role of the CEB machinery in fostering policy and management coherence in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of system activities at a time when CEB had to align and coordinate the institutional response to the COVID-19 pandemic was recognized.

683. One delegation emphasized that it was important for CEB and its Chair to continue to carry out the functions entrusted to them by Member States to develop a balanced and centralized approach to the implementation of the mandates given. It was stated that the implementation of decisions not agreed upon among Member States undermined the authority of CEB. Hope was expressed that the Committee's decisions would orient CEB to work strictly within its existing mandates and thus significantly strengthen its role, ensuring the comprehensive and strong support of all Member States.

684. To increase the effectiveness, efficiency, performance, accountability and internal control of United Nations system activities, it was recommended that CEB continue to play its mandated role in enhancing system-wide coordination in support of intergovernmental mandates. Furthermore, CEB was encouraged to carry out more work on advancing innovation and mutual recognition and harmonization of management policies and practices on the basis that such efforts helped to ensure a more effective and efficient system that was better focused and equipped to deliver results for the people whom it served globally.

685. Delegations welcomed the priority that CEB had placed on responding to the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic. The United Nations system had demonstrated clearly what could be achieved through a coordinated response. In particular, the work led by the High-level Committee on Management, through its networks, to ensure business continuity during the pandemic and to develop common principles, measures, policies and administrative guidelines in support of the management response to the outbreak was appreciated. The Secretary of CEB was requested to elaborate on the measures developed and put in place in the areas of human resources management, procurement and other operational functions and to describe the impact of the set of common principles, measures, policies and administrative guidelines on the ability of the system to respond to the pandemic.

686. The negative impact of the pandemic on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and global development was emphasized. Consequently, one delegation recommended that CEB continue to place development at the top of its priorities in future coordination efforts and unite CEB members to jointly promote the 2030 Agenda. In addition, it was observed that a more integrated, cohesive and joined-up “one United Nations” approach was crucial if the system were to respond to the interrelated challenges that the world faced, such as COVID-19, the climate crisis and meeting the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. In that context, there was a request to share the main points on the CEB agenda for 2021, as the pandemic situation was evolving and recovery needed to be properly designed.

687. The sequence of the elements in paragraph 5 of the report, where it was stated that the COVID-19 pandemic “gave rise to serious threats to human rights, global governance, ethics and international cooperation”, was questioned, with a delegation of the view that the main focus should have been the threat to international cooperation. The Secretary of CEB was asked to elaborate on the concepts of “multilateralism” (paras. 8 and 9) and “new global deal” (para. 11) and to provide an overview of what was expected in those contexts. Furthermore, a delegation asked why intellectual property rights models in the framework of COVID-19 had been highlighted in paragraph 12.

688. With regard to data, the work of the High-level Committee on Management on the United Nations data standards for system-wide financial reporting (“the data cube”), to enable a results-based culture and to improve the availability of timely, reliable, verifiable and comparable system-wide and entity-level data for decision-making, was welcomed. Delegations asked about the latest developments in that area of work, including progress in the implementation of the standards and how they contributed to the availability of disaggregated information on the utilization of resources towards the achievement of mandated objectives. In addition, a question was raised as to whether the Statistical Commission had considered the System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics ([CEB/2020/1/Add.1](#)).

689. Referring to paragraph 32, which pertained to the United Nations system-wide cash coordination and collaboration process developed by the Working Group on Common Treasury Services of the CEB Finance and Budget Network to prevent the blocking of banking channels owing to the pandemic and to support an emergency “One Collaborative Channel” to guarantee the flow of funds to potential “hot spot” countries, a delegation observed that there was no reference in the report to unilateral measures by Member States that blocked countries’ access to the transfer of funds for vaccines.

690. With regard to artificial intelligence, more information was requested on the latest developments. Clarification was sought as to whether there was repetition within the report between section IV, on advancing the United Nations normative agenda on the ethics of artificial intelligence, and paragraph 51, on the working group on artificial intelligence, which had been highlighted in section V, on innovating the working methods of the United Nations system.

691. A delegation requested assistance in understanding figure III of the report, an illustration of fundamental dynamics and key risks in a possible crisis situation that demonstrated the concept of systems thinking, as contained in the CEB analytical framework on risk and resilience ([CEB/2017/6](#), annex III). It was suggested that a written description might have been preferable. Another delegation asked whether the framework was being used by programme managers in CEB member organizations.

692. In the context of harmonization of management policies and practices, it was observed that 21 executive heads had signed up to the Mutual Recognition Statement, as

indicated in paragraph 52 of the report. A delegation asked which executive heads had yet to sign up and what the barriers were to their doing so.

693. Referring to paragraph 53 of the report, a delegation noted that the High-level Committee on Management continued to explore further opportunities for collaborative procurement under the umbrella of the United Nations Global Marketplace and through other initiatives. In that regard, the question was posed as to whether there were plans to promote new principles in the field of procurement in addition to those set out in the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

694. Appreciation was expressed for the progress made by the cross-functional risk management task force of the High-level Committee on Management highlighted in paragraphs 55 and 56. The Secretary of CEB was requested to elaborate on the reference maturity model for risk management and on the guidance papers produced by the task force. A question was also raised about the role of the new risk management forum in terms of exchanging knowledge, networking and developing additional material in that area of work.

695. Delegations noted with appreciation the efforts of CEB to enhance multilingualism as a core value. The commitment of CEB to continuing to engage with the focal points on multilingualism in United Nations organizations in support of the work of the Coordinator for Multilingualism was noted in particular. Also welcomed were the assistance provided by the CEB secretariat to the Coordinator for Multilingualism for a coordinated approach to multilingualism across CEB member organizations, through a dedicated webpage and by sharing policies and tools across the United Nations, and the CEB secretariat's contribution to the Joint Inspection Unit review of the status of implementation of multilingualism across the United Nations system.

696. Appreciation was expressed for efforts by CEB to improve transparency and accountability, with the CEB secretariat's work to modernize the CEB website (<https://unsceb.org>) specifically commended. A delegation observed that the website remained a valuable source of information on funding across the United Nations system and expressed surprise that many Member States and outside organizations were not aware that that was the reference for cross-system statistics. In that context, the Secretary of CEB was asked whether more could be done to raise awareness of the availability of the statistics.

697. Referring to paragraph 62 of the report, a delegation said that the periodic collection of system-wide data on recruitment and vacancies conducted by UN-Women through the data management platform of the CEB secretariat was a good initiative and that the data were important to monitor in support of the goal of improving the status of women in the United Nations system. However, concern was expressed that the scope of the data collection had been limited to gender-related data and that the report did not contain references to the monitoring of data on geographic representation.

698. The important work of the CEB Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organizations of the United Nations System to strengthen victim-centred prevention and response and to foster a safe, equal and inclusive working environment across the system was commended. A delegation reiterated its strong support for efforts to ensure zero tolerance of sexual harassment. A query was raised about the status of the manual for the investigation of sexual harassment complaints, which, according to paragraph 64 of the report, was to be disseminated in 2021. Information on outreach activities conducted by the Task Force to update Member States on its most recent undertakings was also sought.

699. Appreciation was expressed for efforts under the jointly funded system-wide project on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards to sustain compliance with the standards.

Conclusions and recommendations

700. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of CEB and its high-level committees towards strengthening system-wide coordination in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

701. The Committee reiterated its recommendations to the General Assembly to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB:

(a) The need to ensure that the Board's activities and initiatives, including those related to system-wide coherence, were in line with intergovernmental mandates;

(b) The need to ensure continued alignment of the measures of the High-level Committee on Management with the existing United Nations legislative framework.

702. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue his efforts towards strengthening risk management and internal controls in order to improve system-wide transparency, performance, accountability and risk management.

703. The Committee 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 was a core and fundamental value of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions.

704. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the annual overview report of CEB for 2020 ([E/2021/47](#)).

B. United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

705. The Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([E/AC.51/2021/8](#)).

706. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introducing the report. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa also introduced the report. There was no discussion of the report.

Conclusions and recommendations

707. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

708. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 68 to 72 of the report of the Secretary-General.

709. The Committee welcomed the informative overview of the comprehensive response of the United Nations system to the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa, with its three-pillar (health, humanitarian and socioeconomic) approach enabling the longer-term effects of the pandemic to be addressed and taking into account a development focus.

710. The Committee welcomed the continued efforts undertaken to enhance the coordination and coherence of the activities of the United Nations system in Africa and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office of the

Special Adviser on Africa to continue to strengthen its cooperation with United Nations development entities, regional economic communities and regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union, in supporting African countries as they addressed the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to achieve sustainable, resilient and inclusive post-pandemic recovery and to build back better.

Chapter IV

Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Review of management and administration in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

711. The Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of management and administration in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean” ([A/75/874](#), [JIU/REP/2020/4](#) and [JIU/REP/2020/4/Corr.1](#)) and the comments of the Secretariat thereon ([A/75/874/Add.1](#)).

712. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Chair and Inspector of the Unit, Jorge Flores Callejas, introducing the report. The Chair and Inspector of the Unit responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

713. Appreciation was expressed for the work and report of the Joint Inspection Unit. A delegation, observing that several years had passed since one of the Unit’s reports had been considered, called for additional reports to be considered at future sessions.

714. Appreciation was also expressed for the support by the Secretariat of the recommendations, which had been accepted either partially or fully. Clarification was sought on the rationale for recommendation 3, pertaining to the establishment of a change management plan, including on whether the partial support therefor had stemmed from the fact that the report, including the recommendations, had been issued in 2019 ahead of the comments thereon issued in 2021, during which time work in that area had already been undertaken.

Conclusions and recommendations

715. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean carried out by the Unit and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the four recommendations contained therein and request the Secretary-General to ensure their timely and full implementation.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Committee

716. 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-second session, together with the required documentation.

717. 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.

718. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-second 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-second session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget for 2023 (in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/266 A](#), [74/251](#) and [75/243](#));

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2023: part one: plan outline and part two: 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](#), [74/251](#) and [75/243](#))

- (b) Evaluation:

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the resident coordinator system and the Development Coordination Office: coherence of United Nations programming at the country level to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Africa: subprogramme 1 – Macroeconomic policy and governance

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 – Macroeconomic policies and growth

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the Department of Global Communications

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Management

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the evaluation of the Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children

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 2021 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))

- (b) United Nations support for Agenda 2063.

Documentation

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

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

Annex

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

E/AC.51/2021/1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/AC.51/2021/L.1/Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/2021/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 2022 programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (General Assembly resolutions 72/266 A , 74/251 and 75/243):
A/76/6 (Sect. 2)	Programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
A/76/6 (Sect. 3)	Programme 2, Political affairs
A/76/6 (Sect. 4)	Programme 3, Disarmament
A/76/6 (Sect. 5)	Programme 4, Peacekeeping operations
A/76/6 (Sect. 6)	Programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space
A/76/6 (Sect. 8)	Programme 6, Legal affairs
A/76/6 (Sect. 9)	Programme 7, Economic and social affairs
A/76/6 (Sect. 10)	Programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
A/76/6 (Sect. 11)	Programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
A/76/6 (Sect. 12)	Programme 10, Trade and development
A/76/6 (Sect. 13)	Programme 10, subprogramme 6, International Trade Centre
A/76/6 (Sect. 14)	Programme 11, Environment
A/76/6 (Sect. 15)	Programme 12, Human settlements
A/76/6 (Sect. 16)	Programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice
A/76/6 (Sect. 17)	Programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women
A/76/6 (Sect. 18)	Programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa
A/76/6 (Sect. 19)	Programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/76/6 (Sect. 20)	Programme 17, Economic development in Europe
A/76/6 (Sect. 21)	Programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/76/6 (Sect. 22)	Programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia
A/76/6 (Sect. 24)	Programme 20, Human rights

A/76/6 (Sect. 25)	Programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees
A/76/6 (Sect. 26)	Programme 22, Palestine refugees
A/76/6 (Sect. 27)	Programme 23, Humanitarian assistance
A/76/6 (Sect. 28)	Programme 24, Global communications
A/76/6 (Sect. 29)	Programme 25, Management and support services
A/76/6 (Sect. 29A) and Corr.1	Programme 25, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
A/76/6 (Sect. 29B)	Programme 25, Department of Operational Support
A/76/6 (Sect. 29C)	Programme 25, Office of Information and Communications Technology
A/76/6 (Sect. 29E)	Programme 25, Administration, Geneva
A/76/6 (Sect. 29F)	Programme 25, Administration, Vienna
A/76/6 (Sect. 29G)	Programme 25, Administration, Nairobi
A/76/6 (Sect. 30) and Corr.1	Programme 26, Internal oversight
A/76/6 (Sect. 31)	Programme 27, Jointly financed activities
A/76/6 (Sect. 34)	Programme 28, Safety and security
A/75/6/Add.1	Programme budget for 2021
E/AC.51/2021/9	Note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan for 2022 by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
A/76/69	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 (General Assembly resolution 62/224)
E/AC.51/2021/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
E/AC.51/2021/4	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Global Communications
E/AC.51/2021/5	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs
E/AC.51/2021/7	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
E/AC.51/2021/6	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

E/AC.51/2021/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
E/2021/47	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2020 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2021/8	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 60/257)
E/AC.51/2021/L.3	Note by the Secretariat: provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2021/L.4 and addenda	Draft report of the Committee

