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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization



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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

Introduction

1. The past year¹ was marked by increasingly complex crises for our world – poverty, inequality, hunger and rising unemployment; an uneven and uncertain global economic outlook; the escalating climate emergency; and conflicts, in particular the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. In every case, the poorest and most vulnerable people and communities are hit hardest.
2. Meanwhile, human rights are under assault, worsened by widening economic and social gaps and the lingering effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Women and young people continue to be shut out of economic, civic and social spaces, denying entire societies their contributions and ideas. Shrinking civic space, the rapid spread of mis- and disinformation and rising hate speech and misogyny are pushing people apart at a time when we need unity and solidarity more than ever.
3. We face the highest levels of geopolitical mistrust and competition in decades. Sharp divisions are growing within countries and across the global community. Countries and entire regions are turning their backs on one another, leaving the urgent and essential business of jointly shaping a better future to wither on the vine.
4. At the same time, humanity continues to grapple with balancing the great promise of technological innovations such as artificial intelligence and social media with the need to address clear threats to people’s rights to safety and privacy.
5. Nevertheless, as the present report shows, the women and men of the United Nations are determined in our efforts to address those crises and set humanity on a new path to peace, stability and prosperity. In the report, I highlight inspiring examples of our determination, based on our belief that a better world is not only necessary, but within our grasp.
6. Nowhere are the needs greater than in the midst of emergencies.
7. In 2022, together with our partners on the ground, we coordinated humanitarian response plans for 216 million people across 69 countries and territories and delivered life-saving assistance and protection to nearly 160 million people in urgent need. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we mobilized a record \$30 billion in humanitarian aid.
8. We responded to regional crises across the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, which face a deadly combination of drought, poverty, insecurity and the looming risk of famine. We reached 17 million people in the Horn of Africa with humanitarian assistance in 2022, and some 20 million people across the Sahel.
9. In Afghanistan, the United Nations and our partners reached more than 26 million people in 2022 with humanitarian assistance and protection, including in previously inaccessible locations, while pushing back against the unacceptable curtailment of women’s and girls’ rights, in particular their access to education and livelihoods.

¹ In line with the regular budget of the United Nations Secretariat, the reporting period is from 1 January to 31 December 2022. Given the peacekeeping budget period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, and the presentation of the report to the General Assembly in September, a few key highlights from the first months of 2023 are also included.

10. Peace is the beating heart of the United Nations. In 2022, our teams deployed a wide range of tools to prevent, mitigate, manage and resolve conflicts, while protecting the people affected by them.
11. Around the world, we redoubled our pursuit of peace, from the United Nations-brokered truce in Yemen, to our 41 special political missions and offices and 12 peacekeeping operations. The Peacebuilding Fund committed \$231 million to supporting peacebuilding efforts across 37 countries, with more than a third of those funds dedicated to supporting women and young people.
12. In Ukraine, the United Nations stayed and delivered, supporting close to 16 million people through our humanitarian response plan.
13. To mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact, we proposed the Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports (Black Sea Initiative) to Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. As at mid-June 2023, the Initiative had enabled the export of over 32 million tons of grain and other foodstuffs, with over half of food exports going to developing countries. Meanwhile, the United Nations continued its efforts under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations to facilitate the unimpeded access to the global markets of Russian food products and fertilizers, which are not subject to sanctions. We will continue to press for a just and sustainable peace, in line with the Charter of the United Nations.
14. We are collaborating with regional organizations, including the African Union, to build the foundations of peace in countries that have seen too little of it.
15. In 2022, we continued to rally countries around the urgent need to end the threat from weapons of mass destruction through important meetings on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.
16. The first ever United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism gave a voice to people who have a critical role to play in efforts to fight this scourge around the world.
17. Our country teams worked tirelessly throughout the past year to help Governments build stronger and more equal economies, societies and systems that can support their people.
18. And yet, halfway to 2030, progress on the Sustainable Development Goals has stalled and, in some cases, even gone into reverse.
19. Developing countries are victims of a dysfunctional and unfair global financial system that denies them the financing and debt relief that they need to invest in renewable energy, universal social protection, quality education, decent job creation, universal health coverage, sustainable food systems, infrastructure and the digital transformation.
20. To address the global financing crisis, we launched a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus proposal to accelerate achievement of the Goals, with the aim of mobilizing \$500 billion in new investments. Through the stimulus proposal, we target three actions on which the current international financial architecture can deliver results: (a) addressing costly debt and growing debt distress; (b) massively boosting affordable long-term financing; and (c) expanding contingency funds for countries in need.
21. The Transforming Education Summit placed education back on the global agenda and resulted in commitments to revamp education systems for the modern

world, recover ground lost in education during the pandemic and unlock the potential of technology for girls' education.

22. The General Assembly approved the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, which will bring the voices of young people into the heart of multilateral decision-making.

23. The Secretariat supported other parts of the United Nations family in accelerating global Internet connectivity and delivered policy advice to Governments and programmes for rural schools and communities. Over 400 million new users joined the global digital community in the past year, and more than 5.3 billion people are now online and able to access education, public services and digital tools to drive development and prosperity.

24. The past year saw a number of breakthroughs in addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Those breakthroughs include the adoption of a global biodiversity framework; the agreement reached at the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on a fund to address the loss and damage caused by climate change; the start of negotiations to develop a global, legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution; and recognition by the General Assembly of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

25. Throughout the year, the United Nations strengthened our work to place people's rights and voices at the heart of our programmes, services and advocacy.

26. We helped to promote the full and equal participation of women in peace and political processes in Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and elsewhere. In addition, the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy is helping to ensure that people living with disabilities can participate equally across every aspect of their societies.

27. At every step, we spared no effort to renew the world's commitment to multilateralism and the Charter. We advanced many of the proposals set out in my report on Our Common Agenda, laying the essential groundwork for important decision-making on multilateralism and global governance in the months and years to come.

28. We also continued to pursue our reform agenda at Headquarters and in the field.

29. The reinvigorated resident coordinator system won strong support from Member States for better aligning our work with government priorities and delivering more coherently on the ground. The change to an annual budget will help to support the vital process of reforming the United Nations for the future.

30. Internally, we continued to champion equality and diversity among our staff through the system-wide strategy on gender parity and the revised geographical diversity strategy.

31. We introduced the new United Nations Values and Behaviours Framework, which reflects our goal of an organizational culture based on inclusion, integrity, humility and humanity. Moreover, in keeping with our commitment to zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, we continued to strengthen coordination and accountability in preventing and responding to this scourge.

32. In these turbulent and uncertain times, the work and mission of the United Nations are more vital than ever.

33. The results outlined in the present report – achieved each and every day by our dedicated staff members – are helping to prevent and mitigate crises and are bringing us closer to a more peaceful and sustainable world.

34. The United Nations will never stop fighting for a better future.

Chapter II

The work of the Organization

A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development

Context

35. As the world's population reached 8 billion in 2022, progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals has not only stalled but reversed in terms of poverty, employment, health, education and other areas. The triple planetary crisis – climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution and waste – threatens all life forms, disproportionately affecting the poor. The COVID-19 pandemic and the global food and energy crises, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, have further impeded progress in achieving the Goals. Women and other vulnerable groups bear the brunt, with a staggering 15 million more women now living in extreme poverty. The complex links between population growth, urban and rural divides, poverty and climate change underscore the urgency of recommitting to a global vision of sustainable development.

Key objectives

36. The United Nations helps Governments to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other transformative strategies. Across the globe, our resident coordinators lead joined-up efforts by the United Nations family to provide support to Governments aimed at achieving global goals. Our guiding agendas include the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

Key outcomes

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

37. Despite global setbacks, we persevered and supported Member States in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

38. In March 2022, we established the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance to coordinate the world's response to rising food and energy prices, shrinking budgets, surging food insecurity and growing unrest. Between April and August 2022, the Group shared policy briefs with decision makers across the globe on how to safeguard lives and livelihoods.

39. At the high-level political forum on sustainable development held in July 2022, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Drawing from five regional forums and 44 voluntary national reviews, the high-level political forum served to establish common road maps to get implementation of the 2030 Agenda back on track.

40. The Transforming Education Summit, held in September 2022, placed education back on the global agenda. As a result, commitments were secured from 133 countries

to revamp education systems for the modern world, recover ground lost in education during the pandemic and unlock the potential of technology for girls' education.

41. Building on the United Nations Food Systems Summit held in 2021, we also created the new United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. The Hub brings together knowledge and expertise from across the United Nations family to support countries in transforming agriculture for the twenty-first century.

42. In a groundbreaking effort to empower young people, the General Assembly established the first United Nations Youth Office. At the Economic and Social Council youth forum, more than 22,000 participants debated with global policymakers on how innovative ideas can advance youth priorities.

43. In a historic achievement for global ecosystems, in 2022, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Through that Framework, the parties set ambitious new targets and actions to reverse biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and mobilize new funding for conservation to help to close a \$700 billion financing gap.

44. To better protect the world's oceans and life below water, participants at the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development agreed to scale up innovation, science, partnerships and action to achieve that Goal. Countries registered over 700 pledges, including billions of dollars to halt and reverse damage to the oceans.

45. In another milestone, in June 2023, Member States adopted by consensus an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdictions.

46. To unlock the power of local networks for sustainable development, we established a secretariat for the Local2030 coalition. The new office will leverage resources from the entire United Nations family to support local actors in driving transitions in the energy, digital, green, blue and care economies.

Moving towards the end of plastic pollution

Sending a hopeful sign for the future of our planet, Member States agreed, at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in 2022, to negotiate, by 2024, a new international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution, including in marine environments.

Outer space for sustainable development

In 2022, the United Nations celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Over the course of that year, more than 2,000 satellites were registered, breaking the annual record for the third time in a row. Overall, 88 per cent of satellites launched into space are registered with the United Nations. These satellites provide services and data that can drive sustainable development. The Register is an invaluable tool for transparency, maintained by the Secretariat since 1962 and formally established following the 1976 entry into force of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

Scaling up financing for development

47. In 2022, the United Nations family put a spotlight on the global finance divide. The *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022* highlighted critical barriers that limit the ability of developing countries to manage the fallout from the war in Ukraine and to invest in pandemic recovery, climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals. In following the recommendations set out in the report, we supported a high-level retreat on the global financial architecture. In July 2022, that retreat helped to launch the Bridgetown Initiative, paved the way for the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus proposal and led to recommendations for reform.

48. During the 2023 session of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, countries also committed themselves to expanding social protection and improving access to concessional financing and debt relief for vulnerable countries. At the same time, the Organization launched a financing facility to support countries in formulating new national financing strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. With our capacity development initiative for infrastructure management, for example, the United Nations helped more than 3,500 government officials maximize the value of such investments.

Sustainable Development Goal stimulus

To address the global financing crisis, the Secretary-General launched a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus proposal to accelerate achievement of the Goals, with the aim of mobilizing \$500 billion in new investments. Through the stimulus proposal, the Secretary-General targets three actions on which the current international financial architecture can deliver results: (a) addressing costly debt and growing debt distress; (b) massively boosting affordable long-term financing; and (c) expanding contingency funds for countries in need.

49. We also took action to boost private investment in sustainable development. The Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance helped to scale up long-term private financing for sustainable infrastructure and offered policy recommendations for mobilizing more funds. In addition, the Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair connected private financiers with investment-ready projects in emerging markets. Since 2018, the Investment Fair has showcased over \$11 billion worth of projects from 22 countries.

50. The Organization helped Member States to pool their development assistance for greater impact on the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund channelled over \$260 million to 31 United Nations organizations to help 119 Member States to respond to the cost-of-living crisis, extend social benefits for over 175 million people and leverage over \$2.3 billion in additional financing. The Fund also opened a new “development emergency” window to help to address the food, energy and finance crises.

51. We kept up our commitment to support development even in the most complex and fragile settings. One quarter of the world’s population lives in conflict-affected countries. The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without a focus on these settings. The United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, for example, not only addresses immediate needs but also facilitates investments in development opportunities to help to stabilize the region.

Leaving no one behind

52. We worked to uphold the Organization's commitment that everyone should have an equal chance for sustainable development, focusing especially on marginalized and vulnerable groups.

53. In 2022, we helped to launch more than 100 development initiatives in the context of the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years. This international agreement supports landlocked developing countries in addressing climate change, disaster risks and gender inequality. At the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in March 2023, global stakeholders also made new announcements in support of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. At the same time, we assisted small island developing States in advocating in favour of a new global agreement to strengthen their resilience.

54. In support of ageing populations, in the *World Social Report 2023*, we explored how policies on demographic change can help to leave no one behind. Our review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing included 109 countries, representing 84 per cent of older persons worldwide. Through the platform, we called for building ageing considerations into national policies and legislation.

55. Our proposal for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions continued to gain traction. The initiative contributed to the creation of a new window on social protection and job creation in the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund. An inter-agency coordination team is driving a coherent United Nations approach in pathfinder countries.

56. We also continued to advance disability inclusion through joint initiatives and its integration into strategic plans, as well as through existing programming across the United Nations system.

57. A stronger focus on vulnerable groups was also part of our United Nations E-Government Survey on the future of digital government. As part of a push for greater accessibility of online services, we highlighted significant digital divides, including the gender digital divide, as many countries remain unable to provide basic digital government services.

Climate action

58. In a challenging context, we helped countries to achieve breakthroughs on global climate action. During the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Governments struck a historic agreement to set up a new loss and damage fund to help vulnerable countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. The Conference also launched an unprecedented call to accelerate clean and just transitions to renewable energy and to reform multilateral banks to better support these transitions. For the first time, the outcome statement also contained a reference to the right to a healthy environment, which the General Assembly had recognized as a human right in 2022.

59. Our work with Member States unlocked a series of positive changes for the twenty-seventh session of the Conference and beyond. Championed by the Secretary-General, the Early Warnings for All initiative was launched by the United Nations to better protect vulnerable populations from disasters with timely hazard warnings and risk information.

60. We also convened Member States to the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to better coordinate risk management and enhance

resilience. The session resulted in new recommendations on how to enhance implementation of the Sendai Framework through its midterm review.

61. In response to escalating climate emergencies, we brought countries together to pledge hands-on support. The United Nations response to the floods of 2022 in Pakistan helped to lay the groundwork for the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, which resulted in nearly \$10 billion in pledges.

62. In support of the transition towards a “net zero” world, we helped to forge new partnerships. At the twenty-seventh session of the Conference, the Secretary-General’s High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities provided businesses, investors, cities and regions with a new “how-to” guide for developing stronger and clearer standards for net-zero climate plans.

63. We also helped to coordinate regional round tables to identify climate financing opportunities for investors. In this context, we launched the Just Energy Transition Partnership for Indonesia and Viet Nam and finalized an investment plan for the Partnership for South Africa. Building on the high-level dialogue on energy, new energy compacts generated a total of \$600 billion in voluntary commitments. A new Energy Compact Action Network will support their implementation. The Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda led to new proposals for transformative climate solutions.

Gender equality

64. Gender equality lies at the heart of United Nations values. For the first time, the Commission on the Status of Women acknowledged the links between climate change and gender equality. The Commission called on Governments, the United Nations, financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms to step up action by building resilience, mitigating risks and promoting sustainable recovery.

65. The 2022 annual gender snapshot report revealed the reality of global gender inequality: more than a quarter of countries are “far or very far” off track for achieving their 2030 gender targets. Less than 50 per cent of the data needed to monitor gender equality (Sustainable Development Goal 5) is available. At the current pace, it would take 286 years to remove discriminatory laws and close prevailing gaps in legal protections for women and girls. Equal representation in workplace leadership will take 140 years. National parliaments will not see gender parity for 40 years.

66. Through our partnership with the European Union, the Spotlight Initiative allocated nearly \$100 million in 2022 to action against gender-based violence. We strengthened protection systems, invested in social services and delivered programming in more than 30 countries. Working with the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women, we also supported projects in 15 sub-Saharan Africa and Latin American countries. This helped more than 446,000 women and girls to participate meaningfully in public life and 1.2 million women and girls to gain access to better services. Since 2019, the trust fund has awarded \$87 million in grants to 186 projects in 70 countries and territories.

67. To fast-track progress on gender equality, we stepped up our efforts under the Secretary-General’s call to action for human rights. We continued to implement a dashboard and checklist to coordinate advocacy on laws that discriminate against women and girls. We launched a new portal on quotas to advance the equal participation of women in all areas. We also promoted their equal participation in electoral processes, as well as the use of special temporary measures.

68. We helped to develop 30 national and local laws in countries across six regions. Those laws are aimed at tackling violence against women, boosting economic

empowerment and mobilizing political participation. Our support also extended to 12 countries currently undergoing constitutional reviews or amendments.

69. We made strides in defining a common approach to new care economies, including how to finance care infrastructure and services. Our efforts have contributed to more effective investments across 26 countries. Investing in care policy packages could generate 280 million jobs by 2030, with a further 19 million by 2035. We supported countries with capacity and policy development and helped to build 15 gender-responsive national social protection systems.

70. As part of our approach to empowering young people, we engaged with more than 200 youth organizations. Our work sparked community-based discussions on local gender equality priorities and prioritized inclusivity, intersectionality and safe engagement practices.

Regional support

71. As a result of our reform of the United Nations development system, we delivered more coherent policy support to Member States at the country level. With regional collaborative platforms and their issue-based coalitions, our resident coordinators and United Nations country teams now have access to world-leading expertise and strategic thinking, which better support the countries they serve.

72. Our five regional commissions maintained their annual regional forums on sustainable development. The forums offer an inclusive platform for countries and stakeholders to review progress made on the 2030 Agenda and to identify solutions for recovering from COVID-19 and other crises while achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Resident coordinator system

73. The investments made by Member States in a reinvigorated resident coordinator system are bearing fruit. Our resident coordinators are the entry points to the United Nations development system at the country level. The work of their teams has resulted in more integrated support being provided to countries on Sustainable Development Goal solutions. The leadership of resident coordinators is becoming increasingly crucial, connecting national needs to global and regional resources, leveraging additional financing for the Goals, brokering transformative partnerships and providing leadership in times of crisis.

74. As demand from host Governments for support relating to the Sustainable Development Goals increases, our resident coordinator system still faces significant funding shortfalls that hamper its ability to unlock more opportunities for implementing the 2030 Agenda in developing countries.

B. Maintenance of international peace and security

Context

75. Peace and security are threatened by the evolving nature of conflict, shrinking civic space, mis- and disinformation, hate speech, unregulated cyberspace, the climate emergency and the rollback of women's rights. We are also seeing the highest levels of geostrategic competition in decades. While these trends have been present for some time, the war in Ukraine has sharpened global divisions among Member States. This environment undermines the effectiveness of the global peace and security architecture and challenges our ability to prevent, manage and mitigate conflicts and assist with peacemaking. To chart a path forward, we need a renewed commitment to multilateralism and the Charter of the United Nations, as called for in the declaration

on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and my report on Our Common Agenda. My proposed New Agenda for Peace will outline a vision for multilateral action for peace and security.

Key objectives

76. We support Member States through a range of international peace and security activities, grounded in the principles of the Charter and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Our political, peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts are aimed at preventing and managing conflicts, responding to political crises and addressing emerging threats. To this end, we work to advance women's and youth participation in political and peace processes. Preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence, violations of children's rights in armed conflict, sexual exploitation and abuse as well as genocide and atrocity crimes is central to our work.

Key outcomes

Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

77. As peace and security conditions deteriorated, we increased our efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and promote sustainable peace, including through 41 special political missions and offices and 12 peacekeeping operations. The special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General worked with conflict parties to achieve ceasefires and political settlements. In Yemen, a United Nations-brokered truce delivered tangible benefits to the Yemeni people and enabled the parties to discuss the de-escalation of hostilities. In Libya, we supported inclusive consultations with stakeholders on overcoming the protracted political impasse and holding national elections. In Lebanon, our peacekeeping mission supported stability, including through support to a regular tripartite forum. In Abyei, we assisted efforts to improve intercommunal relations. In Colombia, the United Nations mission expanded its peacebuilding support, as requested by the new Government, and accompanied the resumed peace talks between the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army). In the Central African Republic, we supported the government-led peace process that contributed to dialogue and the dissolution of armed groups.

78. In the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the United Nations not only stayed and delivered but also rapidly scaled up its response across the country and beyond, including its refugee response. In view of severe humanitarian access constraints in areas in the east and south of Ukraine, we consistently advocated for access while respecting the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in accordance with international law. The United Nations also continued to work with all concerned to mitigate the global impacts of the crisis. To ease global impacts on food and fertilizers, we actively engaged in negotiating and facilitating implementation of the Black Sea Initiative, which was signed by Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and witnessed by the United Nations in July 2022. We also signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world markets. These efforts demonstrate that persistent diplomatic engagement and innovative use of multilateral instruments can help parties to find common ground even in the most complex situations, a message that the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace will convey to Member States. As the war continues unabated, the United Nations will maintain efforts towards preventing further escalation and promoting a just and sustainable peace, in line with the Charter, international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

79. Our partnerships with regional organizations remained essential. In South Sudan, we worked with regional and subregional organizations to advance the political process. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, we worked with the African Union and regional partners on maintaining the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework as a platform for regional cooperation.

80. United Nations peacekeeping adapted to challenging environments through the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Action for Peacekeeping Plus strategy. Peacekeepers serve in harsh conditions and at great personal risk; tragically, some make the ultimate sacrifice. We responded to the increase in peacekeeper fatalities from malicious acts with improved training, equipment, medical trauma care and improvised explosive devices detection and by strengthening the defence of our bases in the field.

81. We increased efforts to address mis- and disinformation and hate speech through better monitoring, analysis, guidance and training and through proactive communication and advocacy. We also built new partnerships to scale up this work, including with Governments, regional organizations, civil society and social media companies. Our missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lebanon used social media to better explain their mandates. In the Central African Republic, we helped to train media organizations on the peace process and mis- and disinformation. In Libya, we assisted initiatives to counter mis- and disinformation and hate speech during elections and supported the participation of women therein. In the Horn of Africa region, we organized a multi-stakeholder workshop on hate speech and mis- and disinformation. In Kosovo,² we worked to reduce divisive ethnic narratives with human rights education.

82. We also continued to support Member States and their populations in non-mission settings. In West Africa and the Sahel, we worked with regional partners to support political transitions in Burkina Faso and Guinea and to address transboundary threats, including violent extremism and the impacts of climate change on peace and security. In Papua New Guinea, we supported parties in advancing agreement on Bougainville's future through the Bougainville peace process.

83. Our peacekeeping operations and special political missions continued to support their host countries in protecting civilians. To adapt to new challenges, our missions tested digital technologies for better situational awareness, analysis and early warning to help to prevent violence against civilians. In Mali, our expanded digital mapping tools helped us to improve the impact of our military and police patrols. In the Central African Republic, new apps allowed us to respond more proactively and robustly to alerts. In the Sudan, we supported the implementation of a broader national strategy to better protect civilians. We also stepped up our work to prevent harm to civilians from our own military and police in all missions.

Women and peace and security

84. Strengthening women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and political processes and decision-making is a core priority for us. In Colombia, our advocacy on the women and peace and security agenda led to near gender parity in the delegations to the peace talks with the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army). Responding to a request from the Security Council, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders agreed to a joint action plan that called for all sides to include no more than two thirds of any gender in their delegations. In the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South

² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Sudan, our missions worked to increase women's participation in local peace committees, regional peace processes and decision-making bodies.

85. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we supported the integration of the women and peace and security agenda into the transition plan, which resulted in an increase in women's participation in the Nairobi peace process to nearly half of the 110 civil society organizations. Our work also contributed to temporary special measures in the electoral code to mobilize the nomination of women candidates. To improve women's safety and security, we carried out conflict mapping, early warning and analysis and deployed mixed engagement teams and gender-responsive patrols.

86. We supported women's participation in peace and political processes, including in Iraq, Libya, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Our work helped to promote women's representation in delegations, consultations with women's civil society organizations, and innovative inclusivity mechanisms. In Afghanistan, we assisted in-country efforts to facilitate engagement between Afghan women and de facto authorities.

87. Together with partners, we convened digital dialogues to engage women's voices on peace and security, including in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Haiti, Lebanon and Libya, as well as in North-East Asia and in the Middle East and North Africa region.

88. The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund mobilized over \$44 million to support 300 women's rights organizations and partners from 32 countries. Our Elsie Initiative Fund continues to support uniformed women in peace operations. We also launched a new funding mechanism for women human rights defenders.

89. By December 2022, some 42 per cent of heads and deputy heads of our missions were women. We also met and exceeded our targets for gender parity among uniformed personnel, except in military contingents, where women are still starkly underrepresented.

Peacebuilding support

90. In 2022, the Peacebuilding Fund approved a record \$231 million to support peacebuilding projects in 37 countries. More than a third of these funds supported women's and youth empowerment. Other priorities included regional, cross-border and transition support in over 30 conflict-affected and fragile settings. We partnered with regional organizations, including the League of Arab States, on the projects. Recognizing that peacebuilding remains underfunded, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to improve financing for peacebuilding in the future.

91. The Peacebuilding Commission broadened its geographical scope and inclusion. The Commission now supports 14 countries and regions, and for the first time, it discussed priorities in South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Central Asia. Nearly 30 civil society representatives attended Commission meetings – a new record.

Electoral assistance

92. We worked with Member States around the world to help to deliver credible and peaceful elections. Our technical assistance and preventive diplomacy not only supported election processes but also helped to address challenges concerning the acceptance of results, disinformation and hate speech, and women's participation.

93. To foster youth participation in elections, we collaborated with United Nations agencies to create the first Arab Network for Youth in Elections. Through partnerships with regional organizations, we exchanged lessons learned, promoted South-South cooperation and built capacity. We also supported regional events with the League of

Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Southern African Development Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

Rule of law and security institutions

94. Our support for police and rule of law institutions remained central to our peace and security work. Over 10,000 United Nations police officers in 19 missions helped to strengthen national policing capacities, including through greater use of data analytics, foresight and behavioural science.

95. We supported national justice institutions in prosecuting crimes against civilians. This resulted in the first convictions by the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic and an increase in high-profile cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan. We also supported national corrections institutions in reinforcing the security and rehabilitation of high-risk detainees.

96. Our revised standards for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups helped to reduce risks. In the Central African Republic, we supported community violence reduction initiatives, which focused on the needs of at-risk youth. We also assisted national authorities with the safe storage and management of small arms and light weapons.

97. We assisted in national security sector reform, including in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lesotho, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen. With our mine action services, including the removal of explosive ordnance, we made life safer for millions of people across 29 countries and territories.

Security Council affairs

98. We continued to assist the Security Council in carrying out its critical responsibilities. In 2022, we supported the Security Council in organizing 292 meetings and 127 consultations. These deliberations resulted in 54 resolutions and 7 presidential statements on international peace and security. We also supported Council committees and working groups, which met 125 times, both in person and virtually.

Children and armed conflict, violence against children, conflict-related sexual violence and the prevention of genocide

99. In 2022, children in conflict zones were affected by escalation, attacks on schools and hospitals, improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war, sexual violence, as well as denial of humanitarian access and humanitarian crises. Children with disabilities and those displaced were most vulnerable. We helped to verify at least 27,000 violations against children by government and non-State forces, including terrorist groups. More than 12,400 children formerly associated with armed forces or groups benefited from protection or reintegration assistance during the year.

100. We drew global attention to the impacts of violence that children face before, during and after conflict, including forced displacement, abduction, trafficking, detention and adoption. We worked with Member States to strengthen violence prevention and protection. We also raised awareness about children living in camps and detention facilities, which requires alternative solutions. We urged States to prevent recurring cycles of violence by repatriating, rehabilitating and reintegrating their nationals.

101. Over the past year, conflict, shrinking civic space and weakened rule of law also exposed civilians to more sexual violence. With our monitoring and reporting, we

helped to verify approximately 3,000 cases of conflict-related sexual violence. We launched a new global framework for the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly. In Ukraine, we signed a framework agreement with the Government to address conflict-related sexual violence, and we are in the process of implementing similar prevention plans in countries including the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and South Sudan. We are also working with regional organizations such as the African Union and the League of Arab States to respond to sexual violence in conflict.

102. We monitored and raised the alarm over risks of atrocity crimes and supported atrocity prevention. Our efforts resulted in action plans promoting the roles of women and traditional leaders in preventing atrocities, and the role of sports in countering hate speech. We also supported five United Nations country teams in developing action plans on hate speech. For the first time ever, we brought people together to commemorate the International Day for Countering Hate Speech on 18 June 2022.

C. Development in Africa

Context

103. We are now at the midpoint of implementing the 2030 Agenda and have just completed the first 10 years of Agenda 2063 of the African Union. However, the world is off track. Progress is insufficient. The COVID-19 pandemic and the food, energy and financial crises have contributed to a reversal of development gains. Decisive steps are needed to increase Africa's ownership and resilience.

Key objectives

104. The United Nations promotes sustainable development and peace in Africa by supporting the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. We focus on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and on their interlinkages with peace, security and human rights. We also support intraregional integration and cooperation.

Key outcomes

105. In 2022, we supported African Member States in taking ownership of their development with analytical insights and technical support. We helped to establish control mechanisms for financial flows, enhancing efficiency in public expenditures and creating accessible African private savings and sovereign funds. Our work contributed to improving development finance and reducing dependence on foreign assistance. We amplified calls to shift official development assistance from quantity to quality and advocated for a fairer international financial architecture. We also supported economic transformation and resilience through trade, particularly the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

106. On energy, we advocated for a just and equitable global energy transition that acknowledges different starting points and priorities. African countries want to take charge of their energy future, so we supported energy planning exercises across the continent to advance national priorities.

107. We continued to address the root causes of conflict through sustainable development that leaves no one behind. We assisted Member States in promoting women's rights and their meaningful participation in all aspects of political, economic and social life. In partnership with Member States, we helped to prioritize the

strengthening of health systems in Africa. We also worked towards empowering more African youth as contributors in a shared global future.

108. Together with the African Union, we directed more global attention to nutrition and food security. With our “Delivering as one” approach, we leveraged the Africa Dialogue Series to explain the issues, activate partnerships and broker knowledge to accelerate Africa’s development.

Unlocking Africa’s triple paradox: finance, energy and food

The African continent is rich in finance, energy and food, yet African economies are starved of these resources. We must resolve this paradox and make full use of the continent’s resources to drive inclusive sustainable development.

D. Promotion and protection of human rights

Context

109. Collectively, we face multiple challenges to human rights: widening economic and social gaps between and within countries, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts, impunity, rising costs of living, and the triple planetary crisis. Recognizing that human rights are essential for lasting peace, sustainable development and justice, we must ensure that human rights guide the solutions to our most pressing challenges. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 2023 is an opportunity to reinvigorate the consensus envisioned in the Declaration and to strengthen the United Nations human rights architecture.

Key objectives

110. The work to advance human rights spans the three pillars of United Nations engagement, encompassing support for international human rights mechanisms, the mainstreaming of human rights within development and peace operations and the advancement of the principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability. Our efforts extend from overcoming immediate challenges such as the onset of a pandemic to intergenerational challenges such as climate change. Under the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights, a range of practical, cross-pillar activities are inspiring commitment across the United Nations system. They include addressing the shrinking civic space; climate justice; addressing violations in the digital sphere; and using human rights as a tool to meet the Organization’s broad objectives.

Key outcomes

Support for international human rights mechanisms

111. As COVID-19 lockdowns subsided, we helped human rights mechanisms to resume in-person work. This included the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council as well as its special sessions on Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Iran, 55 in-country visits by special procedures mandate holders, and the reinstatement of events involving non-governmental organizations at the Human Rights Council and the sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Our activities contributed to greater engagement from national parliaments on human rights, a more involved civil society, and stronger national human rights institutions.

Human rights within development efforts

112. Human rights are central to our development work. Human rights analysis informed 51 common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that were concluded in 2022. Under the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, we developed a self-assessment tool to support United Nations country teams in integrating human rights into analyses, programming and advocacy. Our work on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators resulted in better data on discrimination, civilian deaths in conflict and killings and disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists. We also developed guidance for country teams to support Member States in integrating human rights into their voluntary national reviews.

Human rights for sustainable development

We provided advice on budgeting for human rights, enhancing fiscal transparency, leaving no one behind in the design of social and economic rights measures, and empowering grass-roots organizations to monitor national development plans.

Peace and security

113. We trained defence and security forces in over a dozen countries and territories, promoting respect for international human rights standards. In addition, human rights emergency response teams were deployed in seven regional offices, strengthening our capacity to anticipate and respond to human rights crises and enhancing inter-agency cooperation on the prevention agenda. We also developed a new policy that formally recognizes the linkages between sexual exploitation and abuse and human rights and provides practical guidance on a human rights-based, victim-centred approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse. We are working closely with United Nations country teams and United Nations entities on its implementation.

Non-discrimination

114. With our support, over 700 participants from States, civil society and the United Nations took part in the inaugural session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. This event will contribute to a United Nations declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent. We deployed anti-racial discrimination advisers to our regional human rights offices in Bangkok, Beirut, Brussels, Pretoria and Santiago to strengthen our capacity and support actions and stakeholders at the national level. We launched the "Learn, speak up and act!" campaign to raise awareness about racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination. We also introduced an online platform for companies to assess their compliance with United Nations standards of conduct for businesses to help to reduce discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

Participation

115. To help to preserve and expand civic space, we focused on safety for participants in public debates and decision-making, including by establishing human rights observatories and citizen platforms. We built awareness and advocacy around this issue with a report on the human rights impact of Internet shutdowns. We also promoted the participation of the least developed countries and small island developing States in the Human Rights Council.

Accountability

116. We supported investigative mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council, with mandates in more than 10 countries and territories. Our advocacy contributed to the establishment of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement. This initiative marks an important step in the landmark agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality.

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance

Context

117. The global humanitarian situation is dire. Critical challenges – protracted and new armed conflicts, the climate crisis and major disasters, record levels of displacement, hunger and the risk of famine, the continued effects of COVID-19, and the global economic slowdown – compound and cascade. These interconnected issues affect lives and livelihoods across the globe. At the same time, violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, including attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers, and health-care and education services, continue with impunity and have a disproportionate impact on women and children.

Key objectives

118. The United Nations works to ensure coordinated, coherent, effective and timely humanitarian responses to save lives and alleviate suffering in disasters, conflicts and other emergencies. With partners, we advocate for humanitarian principles, promote respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and mobilize resources to prepare for and respond to crises. Early action and rapid response, including through anticipatory approaches, remain crucial to effective coordination. The United Nations also brings Governments, partners and communities together to reduce disaster risk and losses.

Key outcomes

119. In 2022, we coordinated humanitarian response plans for 216 million people across 69 countries and territories to ensure that they receive life-saving assistance and protection. With generous support from donors, the United Nations and our partners mobilized \$30 billion for these plans – a record, but still 40 per cent short of the \$52 billion required. At the country level, our partners assisted 157 million people, or 79 per cent of the people originally targeted.

120. New and deteriorating crises, including in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Ukraine, were the main focus of our work in 2022. In Ukraine, the United Nations and partners delivered humanitarian assistance and protection to close to 16 million people, including \$1.2 billion in unprecedented cash assistance for nearly 6 million Ukrainians. In total, we helped to mobilize \$5 billion for Ukraine and the region. We also helped to facilitate the Black Sea Initiative, which cleared the passage of grain through the Black Sea. Together with the Memorandum of Understanding on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world markets, this Initiative reconnected a critical source of food and fertilizer supplies to world markets, easing pressure on global food security and ultimately helping millions of people.

121. The United Nations and partners continued to deliver support in Afghanistan. Over 26 million people, in particular women and girls, received humanitarian assistance and protection, including in previously inaccessible locations. In Pakistan, heavy rains and floods affected 33 million people, with 8 million people displaced.

We supported the government-led disaster response with life-saving and livelihood assistance while preventing the outbreak of communicable diseases.

122. Hunger and food insecurity had reached record levels by the end of 2022. Close to 260 million people across 58 countries and territories needed urgent food and nutrition assistance, including 35 million people at risk of starvation and 376,000 suffering from famine-like conditions.

123. Responding to historic drought and the risk of famine in the Horn of Africa, the United Nations and partners assisted 17 million people. In Yemen, the United Nations and partners reached over 10.5 million people every month with humanitarian support, including food for 15 million of the most vulnerable.

124. Our Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds remained indispensable. Disbursing \$2 billion, they catalysed life-saving assistance, including in underfunded crises. Some \$595 million of the funds facilitated early, scaled-up and sustained responses to food insecurity. In the Horn of Africa, \$194 million unlocked critical cash and nutrition assistance, food, medical services, shelter and clean water. In Afghanistan, our funds allocated \$289 million to meet dire humanitarian needs.

The FSO *Safer* tanker: preventing a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe

Under the overall coordination of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, and under the programmatic leadership of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Programme is engaged in a global operation to remove more than a million barrels of oil from the decaying FSO *Safer* tanker off the Red Sea coast of Yemen, which poses the threat of a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe. A major spill would devastate fishing communities on the country's Red Sea coast, likely wipe out 200,000 livelihoods instantly, expose whole communities to life-threatening toxins and affect millions with polluted air. It would also result in the closure of the Hudaydah and Salif ports, which are essential to bringing food, fuel and life-saving supplies into Yemen, where 17 million people need food assistance.

125. In 2022, we supported Member States and partners as they began consultations for the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We also facilitated thematic global dialogues to explore the interconnected nature of risk. Meanwhile, we continued to mainstream disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action. We promoted the use of reliable risk data to better assist people who are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. These efforts enhanced the global understanding of risk drivers, vulnerability and exposure. Our joined-up analytics strengthened disaster risk plans, scenarios and financing decisions, including the United Nations humanitarian needs overviews and common country analysis.

F. Promotion of justice and international law

Context

126. The principles of justice and international law, as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes, are enshrined in the first two Articles of the Charter of the United Nations.

These principles therefore constitute the very foundation upon which the international community cooperates.

Key objectives

127. The United Nations promotes justice and international law through various actions and mandates, such as those related to oceans and law of the sea, international trade, treaties and international agreements, peace operations, international tribunals and other international accountability mechanisms, and sanctions. In addition, the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, settles legal disputes submitted by States and provides advisory opinions on legal questions.

Key outcomes

128. The International Court of Justice considered high-profile cases and delivered judgments on the merits in the cases of *Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda*, *Nicaragua v. Colombia* and *Chile v. Bolivia*. The Court was also seized of four new contentious cases, including the proceedings between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, in which the Court indicated provisional measures.

129. In December 2022, the General Assembly requested the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In March 2023, the Assembly also requested an advisory opinion on the obligations of States in respect of climate change.

130. Other United Nations or United Nations-assisted tribunals continued their work. In June 2022, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon sentenced Hassan Habib Merhi and Hussein Hassan Oneissi, in relation to the 2005 attack in Beirut that killed the former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri and 21 others and injured 226 more. In September 2022, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia affirmed the convictions and life sentence against Khieu Samphan for genocide against the Vietnamese population, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions committed between 1975 and 1979. This ruling completed its final case.

131. Oceans and the law of the sea remained a priority for Member States. The second World Ocean Assessment provided scientific information on the critical role of oceans and seas as a basis for policymaking discussions on the triple planetary threats to achieving the 2030 Agenda: climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

A historic agreement on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

The United Nations facilitated the finalization and adoption by consensus, in June 2023, of a historic agreement on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction after two decades of talks. The agreement, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, will support the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and can make a significant contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

132. On international trade law, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted a Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity

Management and Trust Services. The General Assembly also adopted the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships, aimed at enhancing legal protection for purchasers of ships while safeguarding the interest of shipowners and creditors.

2022 Treaty Event and disarmament

The 2022 Treaty Event renewed focus on universal participation in multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General. States acted on a range of multilateral treaties, particularly in the field of disarmament.

G. Disarmament

Context

133. There are mounting concerns over rising global tensions, active armed conflicts, increased military spending and heightened nuclear risk, as well as the threat of other weapons of mass destruction. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of adequate preparedness to prevent and respond to a broader range of risks, including biorisks. The proliferation and widespread availability of conventional arms, including illicit small arms and light weapons, affect international security, and the emergence of new technologies poses additional challenges.

Key objectives

134. The United Nations supports multilateral negotiations and other efforts towards achieving general and complete disarmament. Our key priorities include eliminating nuclear weapons, upholding the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction, regulating conventional weapons, responding to the challenges of emerging weapons technologies and promoting regional disarmament efforts and public awareness.

Key outcomes

135. In 2022, we supported Member States with milestone multilateral disarmament meetings. The first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction all yielded important gains that will pave the way for future progress. Although the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons did not reach an outcome, States parties engaged in meaningful discussions, including on reducing nuclear risks and on accountability for nuclear disarmament.

136. We assisted expert discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems. In addition, we supported an intergovernmental process aimed at ensuring a safe, secure and peaceful cyber domain, and another on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles.

137. To advance disarmament on the ground, we helped to link local ammunition management with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as community violence reduction programmes. We also continued to support activities on small arms and light weapons control as part of a comprehensive approach to

sustainable security and development. To reduce illicit arms flows, we worked with the African Union and six countries to collect illegally held small arms. As a result, more than 9,500 weapons were destroyed.

138. We supported States in advancing a political declaration on strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Over 80 States endorsed the declaration. We also continued to empower women, young people and other partners through our Disarmament Education Dashboard and Youth for Disarmament initiative.

139. At the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean, we helped with national action plans and monitoring frameworks to advance the Road Map for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030. We also worked with national authorities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean on small arms control and the prevention of gender-based violence.

Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons

Through a 10-day field exercise, we worked on strengthening the operational readiness of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons. The goal of the exercise was to ensure that this vital investigation tool would be ready for use if needed.

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism

Context

140. The compounding effects of climate change, COVID-19, political instability, war and displacement are exacerbating drug problems, organized crime, corruption and terrorism, especially in crisis settings and vulnerable areas. Links between illicit trade, financial flows and trafficking in all its forms are a growing concern, while terrorism continues to threaten international peace and security, particularly in conflict areas where terrorists exploit fragilities.

Key objectives

141. The United Nations supports Member States in tackling issues related to drugs, crime and terrorism. We assist in setting and implementing international standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice and help to ensure compliance with obligations in multilateral instruments on drugs, corruption, transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Key outcomes

Crime prevention and countering transnational organized crime

142. In 2022, we continued to assist Member States on criminal justice. We helped to train 2,700 prison officers and criminal justice practitioners in 30 national prison services in the safe, secure and humane custody of prisoners based on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). We also

provided guidance on how to correctly classify and better treat prisoners, as well as on the handling of special categories of prisoners.

143. To counter organized crime, we helped six Member States to develop their strategies and trained over 250 policymakers from 47 countries on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We assisted 29 countries in drafting or revising firearms legislation, 4 countries with legislation on trafficking in persons and 1 country with legislation on the smuggling of migrants.

144. On issues related to cybercrime, we facilitated five intergovernmental sessions and five multi-stakeholder consultations to negotiate a draft convention to address the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, which is expected to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session. We also supported 60 countries in countering and preventing cybercrime. In six countries, we helped to establish digital forensic laboratories for cryptocurrencies. We also worked with Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean in multi-stakeholder partnerships to educate over 56,000 young people on cybercrime in age-, gender- and disability-sensitive exhibitions in children's museums.

145. To help to tackle illegal deforestation, our joint programme with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) assisted countries in detecting corruption and fraud in the forestry sector and disrupted five criminal organizations.

Countering the world drug problem

146. We continued to address the world drug problem. Our drugs monitoring platform provided a multi-source system for collecting, visualizing and sharing drug data, including geographical insights on drug-trafficking trends. Building on this and on our remote-sensing expertise using satellite imagery, we established an information centre in Uzbekistan for impartial monitoring of drugs and crime in Afghanistan and their impact on surrounding countries. We also helped to create more monitoring capacity.

147. To promote alternative livelihoods in communities that cultivate illicit crops, we supported the export of 300,000 tons of coffee to Europe with the fair trade certification, generating profitable and sustainable income for 2,000 households in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

148. We expanded the capacity of service providers in Egypt and Pakistan on opioid agonist therapy and trained over 1,100 police officers from Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam on how to strengthen the partnership between law enforcement, civil society and the health sector.

Terrorism prevention

149. Setting a critical milestone, we organized the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in New York. It brought together over 600 participants, including 100 victims of terrorism from 25 Member States, to foster stronger global solidarity in support of victims of terrorism. The Congress provided a major advocacy and engagement platform for victim-centric approaches to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

The first High-level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism

Together with the Government of Spain, we organized in Málaga the first High-level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism. Over 430 participants, including representatives of Member States, regional and international organizations, United Nations entities and civil society organizations, discussed how to meaningfully engage civil society in counter-terrorism efforts and to promote human rights- and rule of law-compliant responses to terrorism.

150. Two new members joined the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact in 2022, making it the largest coordination mechanism in the Organization. Over 1,000 focal points from 136 Member States, 45 entities and 13 international and regional organizations now collaborate across our Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform to facilitate the work of the Compact.

151. We fostered partnerships in Africa. In Marrakech, Morocco, we brought together heads of counter-terrorism and security agencies from West Africa in the first high-level event to discuss capacity-building and training. We also supported Member States in East Africa in their efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

152. The link between technology and terrorism remained a focus. We assisted Member States in leveraging new and emerging technologies for counter-terrorism and addressing the risks from their misuse.

153. We also addressed the risk of nuclear terrorism. We trained over 500 officials from 120 countries on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, with the help of new manuals, fictional training cases and a new e-learning course.

Chapter III

Effective functioning of the Organization

Key workstreams

154. The United Nations Secretariat consists of over 36,000 staff in 474 duty stations across the globe. The work of the Secretariat is underpinned by the highest ethical standards of conduct, efficient use and management of all resources, and effective delivery of mandates.

Key outcomes

155. The United Nations security management system, chaired by the Department of Safety and Security, enabled the United Nations operations and programmes to perform a wide range of mandates and assisted over 264 million people in the past year, including in high-risk settings.

156. The Secretariat facilitated a large number of global intergovernmental meetings and international conferences in addition to calendar meetings of the United Nations bodies. The number of meetings held globally and supported by the Secretariat has increased year-on-year by 66 per cent.

157. Enabling accessible multilingual dialogue remained a core effort for us. Our activities included redesigning the online portal for all United Nations terminology in the six official languages and creating a new multilingual interactive dashboard that displays the full text of General Assembly decisions before publication.

Leveraging intergovernmental meeting data for better delivery

Official records of intergovernmental meetings are heavily document-based. In 2022, we introduced a new approach that leverages intergovernmental meeting data in e-deleGATE, the *Journal of the United Nations* and eLUNa to automatically generate meeting summaries, speakers' lists, transcriptions of speeches and annual compilations of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Our innovations provide Member States with more timely and high-quality information in the six official languages.

158. Management reform implementation efforts were focused on streamlining policies and procedures. The General Assembly confirmed the shift to an annual budget, enabling more realistic resource estimates, accurate planning assumptions and an increased focus on programme delivery.

Improving programmatic planning, management, delivery and reporting

We expanded the analytics portfolio of the United Nations enterprise resource planning solution (Umoja) with new dashboards in support of a more efficient and transparent management of the United Nations financial, human and physical resources. The dashboards are contributing to improved programme planning, delivery and reporting.

159. Other continuous improvement efforts included the introduction of enhanced automated tools to support hiring managers in streamlining recruitment timelines and improving contract management in supply chains. We also made progress in

modernizing talent management frameworks and identifying strategies to attract more diverse talent and enhance leadership and career satisfaction. For operational continuity, we strengthened our resilience against future pandemics, including through new guidance and the launch of new training programmes.

160. We improved the efficiency of our peacekeeping operations and fieldwork, including through the flagship triangular partnership programme. We also strengthened our service delivery architecture to support Secretariat entities in field locations, including the resident coordinator offices, and enabled more efficient collaboration with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Our environmental performance in peace operations improved further through efforts to mitigate wastewater risk, reduce fuel use for electricity generation and increase the use of renewable energy.

161. Increasing gender parity, equitable geographical distribution and wider geographical representation among our staff are key priorities for the Organization. The Geographical Diversity Strategy is being reviewed and a road map to accelerate progress is being developed. The Secretariat is on track to achieve overall gender parity by 2028. Gender parity at senior levels has been achieved since 2020. However, work remains at some levels and in some entities, particularly in field locations.

162. Implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy focused on action on disability inclusion and accessibility across the work of the United Nations system. In 2022, 73 entities and 130 country teams reported on implementation efforts, meeting 30 per cent of the benchmarks set by the Strategy.

163. To reinforce organizational values, the Secretariat introduced the United Nations Values and Behaviours Framework for staff. We also developed a Fraud and Corruption Awareness Handbook and a mission predeployment reinforcement training package on standards of conduct for military and police commanders. Some 180 staff completed training in Kamino data science, aimed at enabling data-driven decisions. By mid-2023, over 350 additional staff had enrolled in the new version of the programme, with the numbers expected to grow. The #NewWork network, a staff-led initiative anchored on collaboration, innovation, agility and co-creation to change the work culture, grew to more than 1,800 members in 154 locations, including personnel in peace operations and special political missions.

United Nations 2.0 and our future workforce

In 2022, we brought together strategic workforce planners, experts and human resource professionals from the entire United Nations system to guide the transition of the workforce to a United Nations 2.0 with a “quintet of change” in data, digital, innovation, strategic foresight, and behavioural science. The purpose is to build stronger skills and expertise to effectively deliver on our mandates and to better assist Member States in navigating the opportunities and challenges of the twenty-first century.

164. Over 37,000 United Nations personnel participated in leadership dialogue sessions on the United Nations Values and Behaviours Framework. A steering group, led by the Special Adviser on Addressing Racism in the Workplace, was created to oversee the implementation of the strategic action plan aimed at addressing racial discrimination in the Organization. Implementation efforts were supported by dialogue series arranged by the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services. In line with the policy on protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and cooperating with audits and investigations, the Ethics

Office conducted timely and thorough preliminary reviews and referred cases for further investigation when necessary.

165. The Organization fostered a coordinated approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse across its duty stations and promoted a culture of accountability. It continued to address policy and procedural gaps and support effective advocacy and communication while improving transparency, assistance to victims and support at the country level.

166. The Victims' Rights Advocate advanced projects to secure legal aid for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and engaged Member States to facilitate the resolution of outstanding paternity and child support claims.

167. We strengthened our public communications in support of the United Nations system. Our teams across the globe responded to international crisis with accurate and timely news and information and delivered global campaigns on the Sustainable Development Goals, peace and security, the climate emergency, mis- and disinformation and hate speech. With our Verified initiative, the Organization supported COVID-19 vaccination efforts and reached vulnerable populations with life-saving information.

