



# Chief Executives Board for Coordination

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**First regular session of 2019**  
Geneva, 9 and 10 May 2019

## Summary of deliberations

### I. Introduction

1. The first regular session of 2019 of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), chaired by the Secretary-General, was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva, on 9 and 10 May 2019.
2. Held entirely in retreat format, the session consisted of three segments, on the following themes: (a) the state of the world; (b) engagement on climate action; and (c) work for a brighter future – from strategy to action: facing the fourth industrial revolution.
3. The Board also received an update on the implementation of the system-wide strategy on gender parity.
4. In the present summary, the main points of the session are highlighted.

### II. Segment 1 – state of the world

5. The Secretary-General presented an analysis of the recent challenges to multilateralism within the context of escalating political and trade tensions in the world. Ever-expanding applications of artificial intelligence, as well as the further development of autonomous weapons, bring even greater complexity and unpredictability to the future.
6. In the ensuing discussion, the Board agreed that the current state of the world had demonstrated structural, rather than conjunctural, characteristics, resulting from decades of social and economic changes. In particular, the Board identified a set of megatrends to be addressed, which included a growing and ageing population, urbanization and megacities, the digital divide and the expansion of new technologies.
7. The Board noted decreasing momentum in global economic growth and increasing instability across regions. Two major areas of concern were identified: (a) the potential consequences of the unprecedented volume of worldwide debt, exposing Governments to fiscal and budgetary risks; and (b) the dysfunctionality of the international financial system.



8. The Board reiterated its commitment to upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations with impartiality and independence while striving to achieve peace, prosperity and respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Board also highlighted the importance of communicating more effectively about the fundamental role of the United Nations in today's world, through a clear and pragmatic narrative.

### **III. Segment 2 – climate change**

9. In 2015, world leaders gathered in Paris to agree on a blueprint for climate action that was intended to set the world on a clear path for reversing the effects of climate change and promoting sustainable development. However, two and a half years after the Paris Agreement entered into force, carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere continue to break records, and, according to the 2018 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, emissions of greenhouse gases must be reduced to net zero by the middle of the twenty-first century to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. This requires immediate action and rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.

10. Recognizing climate change as an existential global threat, the Secretary-General decided to convene a summit on climate action in New York on 23 September 2019, inviting all leaders to make a concerted effort to mobilize the international community to raise its ambition substantially and muster political will for transformative action to combat climate change.

11. In order to leverage the collective capacities of the United Nations system in support of the vision of the Secretary-General of an action-oriented summit, CEB held a dedicated discussion on the topic of climate change. The Board was invited to consider a joint appeal for action, which was intended to combine the United Nations system's strategic vision of realizing agreed climate ambitions with a commitment to undertaking action and targets in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, climate finance and innovation.

12. Opening the discussion, the Secretary-General stressed that the United Nations system had played an important role in supporting Governments to address climate change by developing transformational policies to achieve zero net emissions by 2050 and a reduction of 45 per cent by 2030. Emphasizing the need for Member States to step up their ambitions to tackle climate change and to express their specific commitments at the Climate Action Summit, in September 2019, in the lead-up to the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in 2020, the Secretary-General highlighted the urgency of decisive and timely climate action.

13. Board members benefited from introductory presentations by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, Petteri Taalas; the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Patricia Espinosa; and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2019 Climate Action Summit, Luis Alfonso de Alba.

14. Providing a snapshot of current facts and figures on climate change and emissions, Mr. Taalas noted that most of the existing and future risks that the world economy was facing were climate-related, highlighting that human loss owing to climate disasters had been declining, while economic loss continued to increase. While temperatures had been rising globally, adverse consequences in per capita output seemed to be concentrated in countries with relatively hot climates, including most low-income countries. Mr. Taalas warned against further delay in pursuing

ambitious climate action, pointing out that climate change mitigation would be significantly cheaper than inaction.

15. Giving an overview of the current state of intergovernmental dynamics in the lead-up to the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, Ms. Espinosa stressed the moral imperative of honouring the Paris Agreement by ensuring that the nationally determined contributions, which parties must resubmit or update by 2020, reflected enhanced commitments to climate action across all segments of society. Highlighting that the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Katowice, Poland, had reinforced the momentum for climate action, delivered the operational guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and demonstrated that multilateralism worked, Ms. Espinosa emphasized the need to strengthen intergovernmental processes under the United Nations system and provide increased support to Member States to develop the institutional and regulatory frameworks necessary to drive the transition towards a low-carbon future.

16. Supplementing the substantive presentations, Mr. de Alba provided the Board with a snapshot of the current state of preparations for the Climate Action Summit, stressing the need to move from agreements to implementation.

17. Turning to internal management measures, the Board was provided with an overview of the current state of sustainability efforts within the United Nations system, most notably phase I, on environmental sustainability in the area of management, of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020–2030, finalized under the leadership of the High-level Committee on Management in April 2019 and prepared in a collaborative effort by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through the United Nations Environment Management Group and Sustainable United Nations, a project of UNEP. Building on the progress made to date, the Group and the facility will advise the respective organizations of the United Nations system how to implement the strategy using common methodologies through which to define targets in a harmonized manner, exchange experiences and apply best practices.

18. The Secretary-General further noted that climate action should be integrated into the work of the United Nations, across all pillars, through a comprehensive effort by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to link system-wide policy guidance, including the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020–2030, with implementation and operationalization tailored to individual countries, building on existing and future guidance by the United Nations Environment Management Group and Sustainable United Nations.

19. During the ensuing discussion, CEB members:

(a) Expressed their full support for the joint appeal from the United Nations system to the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit (see annex);

(b) Reaffirmed the critical importance of strengthening green and sustainable public and private investments to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, including through the Green Climate Fund;

(c) Underscored the need for carbon pricing as a critical tool to reduce emissions substantially;

(d) Stressed the need to continue to build synergies between climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals, such as with regard to health, through existing United Nations inter-agency mechanisms;

(e) Emphasized the importance of engaging with all segments of society, including populations adversely affected by policies tackling climate change, and providing targeted solutions to local circumstances;

(f) Underlined the importance of strengthening the messaging and communication of the United Nations system in order to reach and connect to all audiences, including policymakers, businesses, workers and young people;

(g) Stressed the need to strengthen initiatives towards combating marine plastic pollution and e-waste and, in that regard, highlighted the efforts of the United Nations system to eliminate single-use plastics at its duty stations;

(h) Highlighted the critical importance for the United Nations system to lead by example with regard to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in its operations;

(i) Emphasized the need to strengthen sustainable procurement practices globally and within the United Nations.

### **Conclusion**

20. At the conclusion of the segment, the Secretary-General highlighted the Board's consensus on the importance of creating, together with Member States, local authorities, civil society and the business community, conditions to achieve zero net emissions by 2050 and a reduction of 45 per cent therein by 2030 while raising ambition with regard to adaptation, mitigation, finance and innovation in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The discussion concluded with the Board endorsing phase I, on environmental sustainability in the area of management, of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020–2030 ([CEB/2019/1/Add.1](#)), and the joint appeal from the United Nations system to the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit (see annex).

## **IV. Segment 3 – work for a brighter future – from strategy to action: facing the fourth industrial revolution**

21. After taking up his role as Chair of the Board in 2017, the Secretary-General asked members of CEB to consider the potential impact of global megatrends on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. In November 2017, CEB first examined the opportunities and challenges presented by frontier technologies and the fourth industrial revolution and the potential areas in which the United Nations system could engage most effectively. In the past two years, the Board has deliberated on the threats and opportunities posed by artificial intelligence, biotechnology, new weaponry and cyberspace and asked the High-level Committee on Programmes to conduct in-depth analyses of the potential socioeconomic impacts of rapid technological change, in the areas of work, education and learning and food in particular, with a focus on the unique needs and perspectives of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in this context, to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable were not further disadvantaged and left behind by new technologies.

22. The Board recognized the imperative for the organizations of United Nations system themselves to be more adept at utilizing new technologies and mainstreaming the use of more innovative practices into the daily operations of individual entities and the United Nations system as a whole in order to become better equipped at adapting to the challenges facing the world today and to best support Member States in their pursuit of the Goals. In that regard, the High-level Committee on Management engaged in a series of discussions on fostering innovation and mainstreaming it into the operational and management practices of the system. Furthermore, the Board

tasked the CEB secretariat, together with the United Nations Innovation Network, with developing a customized innovation toolkit for the United Nations system.

23. The third segment of the session was aimed at bringing together the various work streams that had started in November 2017 (see [CEB/2017/2](#), paras. 20–22), to determine how entities should utilize and apply the work completed and to identify remaining challenges and areas for collaboration. The segment was moderated by an external government innovation expert, who also provided insights into how other public sector entities were viewing the fourth industrial revolution and the future of work.

24. In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General recalled the series of deliberations held by the Board on the challenges arising from, and the opportunities afforded by, technological change and innovation as they related to the pursuit of sustainable development and the role of the United Nations system. He recognized the various efforts through which the groundwork had been laid for action, in particular the contributions of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management of CEB and the United Nations Innovation Network. He looked forward to taking stock of what had been achieved within the work streams and to charting the way forward.

25. At the start of the segment, the Board was provided with a status update on the work of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation along with highlights of the Panel's findings by one of its members. A diverse set of actors had been convened by the Secretary-General to propose ways to work better at the international level in order to steer new technology towards good and to contain its malicious use and curtail any unintended consequences. The Panel took a comprehensive approach, considering a wide range of topics, including the impact of technology on the Goals, how to promote digital inclusion, risks to human rights and social cohesion, and the global cooperation vehicles that help to shape a common digital future, address challenges and provide opportunities for all. The Panel recognized the important role of the United Nations in such contexts, but it was also of the view that United Nations organizations would still need to improve their digital readiness by developing greater organizational and human capacity regarding relevant issues and strengthening their ability to respond to the need of Member States for policy advice and capacity development.

26. Presented next were the results of a third innovation capacity survey, conducted by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. The results illustrated the progress made by United Nations system entities since the survey had initially been undertaken, in preparation for the first regular session of 2018. The results showed that, while there was still a significant range across entities in terms of having an established architecture for innovation, there were some indicators of a changing culture within the system, illustrated by the increased willingness of entities to innovate and a change in the behaviour of senior leadership. Nevertheless, there remained an aversion to taking risks. Cultural change was highlighted as a key driver of innovation, and partnerships with actors both internal and external to the United Nations system were seen as instrumental in enabling such change. Moreover, the results showcased the fact that many entities had put specific policies in place to facilitate innovation and that, as compared with less advanced entities, the top innovators were, among other things, more likely to dedicate resources (such as physical space in which to innovate, and funding) to innovation and put in place transformational strategies. The survey also indicated that innovation leaders systematically monitored and evaluated their progress. Consequently, a dashboard would be made available by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to track organizations' progress on the basis of information provided through periodic innovation capacity surveys.

27. The Board was then presented with a preview of the online version of the United Nations innovation toolkit, comprising a diagnostic assessment and thematic modules on innovation strategy, partnerships, architecture, culture and evaluation. The content had been informed by both United Nations experiences and leading global practice on innovation and had been tested and validated by practitioners from across the system to ensure that it met the needs of the United Nations. The guest speaker, from the United Nations System Staff College, described the staged roll-out plan for the toolkit, which the College would implement in partnership with the United Nations Innovation Network. The deployment approach would leverage the diagnostic tool for cultural transformation, strengthen internal and inter-agency networks of innovation champions and mainstream the toolkit into a range of leadership and management skills learning interventions. The College aimed to roll out the toolkit progressively throughout 2019 and would make it the centrepiece of current and future system-wide learning initiatives. Board members were encouraged to support the use of the diagnostic assessment within their organizations to stimulate dialogue and cultural change.

28. The moderator shifted the focus of the discussion from innovation to the future of work and the fourth industrial revolution, providing some context and analysis. He indicated that the first and second industrial revolutions lasted about 100 years in each case, the first 50 years representing a “germination” phase, characterized by large financial investments in new technologies and business models, and the second 50 years composing a “fruition” phase, which the gains of the investments were harvested and built upon. He posited that another fruition phase was just beginning, and that the next 50 years could be the most significant in human history if society were able to drive progress in terms of growth, quality of life, equality and sustainability. Therefore, the policy choices made today must allow the United Nations system and Member States to take full advantage of the suite of new technologies, including to support the achievement of the Goals.

29. The moderator outlined what he viewed as six meta-issues confronting the future of work. First, regarding jobs and social safety nets, he noted that, while the types of jobs that might exist in the future could not be predicted, policymakers needed to ensure that the rate of job creation outpaced that of job loss and to develop policies that cushioned the transition for those left behind. Second, with regard to talent and learning, in addition to preparing students for a shift in desired skills, policymakers also needed to ensure that workers would be able to be reskilled throughout their careers in order to remain competitive in the ever-changing job market. Third, policymakers needed to look at how benefits stemming from the fourth industrial revolution were distributed among and within countries. Fourth, the future of work would have an impact on how and where people would work and learn, with three-dimensional printing and the rise of the gig economy expected to have a significant impact on the physical trade of goods and services. Fifth, the moderator noted several regulatory conundrums, as well as the need for existing regulatory structures to become more adaptable to changing societal and economic circumstances in order to overcome the pacing problem between the rate of technological advancements and the ability of regulatory mechanisms to keep up. Sixth, he noted the impact of technological change on the ways in which people communicated and on their trust in institutions.

30. In connection with the aforementioned issues, the moderator proposed five policy pillars to consider regarding the way to maximize impact on public policy. They included ensuring that good job growth outpaced the destruction of jobs and creating a balance between automation and new tasks by using technology to augment work, rather than to replace workers. He also called for investment in the reskilling and upskilling of the population and making them a natural part of an individual’s

working life, as well as the development of a modern social safety net, designing technology for the benefit of all and establishing agile governance structures that could respond to challenges and adapt policy and regulations faster.

31. Speaking in his capacity as Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes, the Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Guy Ryder, presented a programme of work that the Committee had explored under the direction of the Secretary-General on the impact of frontier technologies and related issues on the United Nations system, in particular the interrelated system-wide work on: a United Nations system strategy on the future of work; a United Nations system-wide strategic approach to achieving inclusive, equitable and innovative education and learning for all; and a United Nations system-wide approach and road map for supporting capacity development on artificial intelligence. Speaking in his capacity as Director General of ILO, Mr. Ryder also introduced the conclusions of the Global Commission on the Future of Work, a contribution to the ILO centenary initiative, which took a human-centred approach to the topic.

32. Mr. Ryder shared that, in addition to technology, other drivers of change in the world of work, such as demographics, human mobility and climate change, were also covered in the report, as well as how to shape the policy debate on the basis of societal preferences and ensuring policy cohesion at the international level. Three specific areas for investment were highlighted in the report: (a) investment in people and their capabilities, and the focus on establishing access to lifelong learning and social protection mechanisms; (b) investment in the institutions of work and ensuring that institutional capacity could respond more flexibly to the changing nature of work; and (c) investment in the jobs of the future, including in the professionalization of the care economy, the green economy and the rural economy.

33. Speaking in her capacity as Chair of the High-level Committee on Management, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, Jan Beagle, presented the recently launched work stream on understanding the implications of the fourth industrial revolution for the United Nations workforce and the urgency of driving innovation in the business models of the United Nations system. The Committee would reflect on the composition of the system's workforce, including the changing nature of the type of work that United Nations staff would be asked to perform and related job profiles and contractual modalities, the various workspaces needed in which to perform the work, and the skill sets and staffing models needed. It would also consider attracting and recruiting talent, which would require identifying existing gaps in workforce skills and diversity and managing the talent. The Committee would also consider performance management and career development, leadership and establishing a workplace culture and a duty of care to attract and retain the workforce needed. The Human Resources Network of the High-level Committee on Management had brought the topics forward on its agenda and had developed pilot initiatives to establish more innovative recruitment processes, including joint online outreach events and the use of artificial intelligence in screening applicants.

34. In the ensuing discussion, the CEB members observed that the topics of artificial intelligence and the changing landscape of work and education were closely interlinked and interrelated. To maximize the impact of the three strategies developed by the High-level Committee on Programmes, they recognized the potential synergies to be gained from implementing the strategies in a comprehensive manner, and the benefit of sharing best practices and collaborating across the system.

35. Board members reflected on their experiences and efforts relating to decent work, education and learning, innovation and technology, highlighting best practices. They shared common challenges, including disruptive technologies, climate change,

migration patterns and gender and demographic gaps. They also shared their views on the scope of inter-agency collaboration in addressing the challenges and noted the importance of linking the work completed by CEB and its high-level committees with other efforts within the system, including any efforts undertaken on the basis of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

36. The imperative to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age and to close the digital divide among and within countries were recurrent themes. CEB members recognized that digital technology could create new opportunities for people, but could also exacerbate existing inequalities. In that regard, they stressed the importance of ensuring that technology and changes in the world of work would benefit all and the importance of the United Nations system's role specifically in assisting developing countries with related issues, including priority setting, policy development and capacity development. They also noted that the United Nations system had a clear role to play not only in providing a platform for stakeholders but also in taking an active role in shaping the discussion on norm and standard setting on the basis of the values of the United Nations.

37. Board members noted that the use of innovative practices and new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and big data, had been applied to improve organizational mandate delivery and also noted the importance of incorporating the "do no harm" principle at the outset when designing solutions. The Board also shared its experiences of engaging with outside partners, including academia and business, to support mandate delivery, as well as standard setting and normative discussion to establish an inclusive approach that incorporated diverse perspectives.

38. Board members recognized their leadership role in driving the necessary cultural change in the system to enable the United Nations to step up its support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They noted the importance of the issues being considered by the High-level Committee on Management on the future of the United Nations workforce, such as changes to recruitment, talent management, contract types, reskilling and upskilling and keeping pace with change.

39. In his closing remarks, the Secretary-General thanked Board members for an extremely interesting and rich discussion, which he noted had provided a clear perspective on where the United Nations system was and where it needed to go when it came to adapting to the new realities created by frontier technologies and the advent of the fourth industrial revolution. He expressed his wish that Board members continue to incorporate innovation into their respective organizations across the various strands of work and urged executive heads to consider the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

40. The Secretary-General requested Board members to support the implementation of the three system-wide strategies that had been developed to advance the collective understanding of the United Nations system of the societal impact of rapidly developing technologies and to strengthen its readiness to address the challenges and opportunities that the technologies posed for the achievement of the Goals. On innovation, the Secretary-General identified the following three areas of action for all entities:

(a) To utilize the toolkit to help to mainstream and scale up innovation, stressing the importance of the leadership of the executive heads;

(b) To exchange information and best practices and coordinate initiatives with the support of the United Nations Innovation Network and to ensure the follow-up to this effort to mainstream innovation across the United Nations system, with support from CEB, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management, as appropriate;

(c) To ensure that the global mainstreaming effort trickles down to the field in a coordinated and organized manner through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

### **Conclusion**

41. The Board endorsed the United Nations system strategy on the future of work (CEB/2019/1/Add.2), the United Nations system-wide approach and road map for supporting capacity development on artificial intelligence (CEB/2019/1/Add.3) and the United Nations system-wide strategic approach for achieving inclusive, equitable and innovative education and learning for all (CEB/2019/1/Add.4).

42. The Board welcomed the United Nations innovation toolkit and committed itself to encouraging its use throughout the system as part of a broader effort to stimulate and promote a culture of innovation in United Nations system entities.

## **V. Presentations and updates**

### **A. System-wide strategy on gender parity**

43. The Senior Adviser on Policy provided the Board with an update on the implementation of the system-wide strategy on gender parity. Progress was evident, for example, in the Secretariat, where the trend towards parity at all levels was promising, in particular at headquarters duty stations. Parity among the most senior staff, including the positions of Under-Secretary-General, special representative of the Secretary-General and resident coordinator, was within reach. At lower grades, parity had already been attained up to the P-4 level. Greater challenges to reaching parity had been encountered in field duty stations, in particular in peacekeeping operations.

44. During the discussion, it was evidenced that the implementation of the strategy had to be pursued strongly as a culture change initiative, requiring intense communication and dialogue with all stakeholders, including staff and Member States. Further efforts towards implementing gender-sensitive and enabling work environments needed to be undertaken to remove barriers in order to sustain the efforts towards attracting and retaining qualified women. The Board and the Secretary-General renewed their commitment to the implementation of the strategy.

### **B. United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy**

45. The Deputy Secretary-General provided a briefing on the efforts towards the creation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (CEB/2019/1/Add.6), noting that 1 billion persons globally were living with disabilities. The High-level Committee on Management had adopted the Strategy on behalf of CEB, including the consideration that disability inclusion should be pursued not only at headquarters duty stations but also in field operations. The Deputy Secretary-General invited Board members to support the implementation across organizations and duty stations, noting that the Senior Adviser on Policy had been assigned a coordinating role in this regard.

46. The Secretary-General emphasized the need for the United Nations system to accelerate its efforts to innovate on structures, culture and policies to better support staff with disabilities.'

## **VI. Other matters**

### **A. Endorsement of documents**

47. The following documents, prepared for consideration by the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes at their respective thirty-seventh sessions, held on 3 and 4 April 2019 and on 8 and 9 April 2019, were endorsed electronically by CEB after its session:

(a) Conclusions of the High-level Committee on Management at its thirty-seventh session ([CEB/2019/3](#));

(b) Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-seventh session ([CEB/2019/4](#));

(c) United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development ([CEB/2019/1/Add.5](#)).

### **B. Tribute to Board members**

48. The Secretary-General paid tribute to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, José Graziano da Silva; the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Michel Sidibé; and the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, Jan Beagle, all of whom were attending a CEB session for the last time during their respective tenures.

### **C. Dates and venue of the forthcoming session**

49. The Board members were reminded of the proposed dates of the CEB second regular session of 2019, namely, Friday and Saturday, 15 and 16 November 2019, to be held at the Greentree Estate, Manhasset, United States of America.

## Annex

### **Joint appeal from the United Nations system to the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit**

1. We, the leaders of the United Nations system organizations,\* appeal to Member States to step up ambition and take concrete action to limit global temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and adapt to the effects of climate change, as they strive to fulfil their obligations on human rights, including the right to health, the right to food security, the right to development, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women, intergenerational equity, and decent work and a just transition for all, as stated in the Paris Agreement. As set out by the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is necessary to prevent irreversible changes. Achieving this goal will require changes on an unprecedented scale at all levels, but it is still possible if we act now. With great urgency we call upon Member States to come to New York in September with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020 and in support to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **I. Mitigation**

2. We call upon Member States to take urgent action to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that climate change mitigation is a moral, ethical and economic imperative.

3. The United Nations system supports Member States to make and fulfil their commitments under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the nationally determined contributions and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, strengthening synergies, avoiding trade-offs and ensuring policy coherence in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

4. Whilst acknowledging the progress and decisions adopted by individual UN organizations we are committed to strengthening our support by mobilizing scaled-up climate finance, facilitating technology transfer and capacity building, to enable Member States to raise ambition in their nationally determined contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and reaching the goal of zero net emissions in 2050; and to achieve sustainable development co-benefits that will make a difference in the lives of all peoples.

#### **II. Adaptation**

5. We call upon Member States to ensure that appropriate adaptation measures are taken to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems, particularly people in those regions most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including those at risk through forced displacement and migration. We urge Member States to identify and build adaptive capacities and solutions in vulnerable communities and ecosystems and devote the maximum available resources and support to the progressive

\* UN Secretariat, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO, WHO, WBG, UPU, ITU, WMO, IMO, WIPO, IFAD, UNIDO, UNWTO, IOM, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, UNODC, UN-Habitat, UN Women, UNOPS, UNU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNFCCC, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA.

realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of all persons to ensure that no one is left behind.

6. The United Nations system supports Member States to pursue inclusive, risk-informed sustainable development and strengthen actions to monitor, prevent and manage climate and disaster risks, including through the promotion of the national adaptation plans and the development of coherent national disaster risk reduction strategies.

7. We are committed to strengthening our responsiveness to Member States' needs to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change, including on the stability of regions, states, cities and communities, build resilience, scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all, address loss and damage caused by climate induced disasters and enhance responsiveness of social protection systems to climate-related events. We stand ready to support countries especially small island developing states and least developed countries to implement concrete actions to strengthen adaptation and resilience and we encourage Member States to come and showcase these actions at the Summit.

### **III. Finance**

8. Climate finance is critical to deliver action on the necessary scale to address climate change. In the context of the enhanced mobilization of financial resources, developed countries must deliver on the goal of mobilizing governments and the private sector to achieve the goal of USD100 billion per year by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries and further enhance their efforts on scaling-up financial resources.

9. We emphasize that States should maximize the positive impact of climate finance by ensuring that climate finance is used to maximize transformational change to reduce emissions and build systemic climate resilience; is accessible and benefits the most likely to be affected, including women, youth and children; guards against potential negative impacts of climate finance through establishment and implementation of effective environmental, social and human rights safeguards; and guarantees access to effective remedy in the event of harm.

10. We call upon Member States to build enabling policy frameworks to facilitate access to public and private finance and to implement and scale-up public policies to redirect finance flows towards low-emission and climate resilient development.

11. We are committed to strengthening this system-wide effort to create an enabling environment for investment, mainstream climate action across relevant national financial planning and integrate market-based instruments to sustainably crowd in and scale up responsible private sector investment. We encourage Member States to share their national climate finance roadmaps, viable approaches and success stories.

### **IV. Innovation**

12. We call upon Member States to pursue ambitious climate actions with opportunities for innovations in advancing sustainable development.

13. The United Nations system supports the enhancement of capacity of Member States to develop and utilize relevant data and technological innovations to find solutions for climate and sustainable development challenges and disaster risk reduction and management, including the use of new and emerging technologies, including information and communication technologies, data and tools. The Fourth

Industrial Revolution offers tremendous potential for a paradigm shift to low-emission climate-resilient development pathways.

14. Innovation, however, does not only entail technology, but also foresight approaches, new business models and financial instruments as well as innovative cooperation and partnerships, including enhanced regional cooperation, which are essential for ensuring a rapid and effective mid to long-term transition to a high-resilience low-emission development pathway.

15. We are committed to strengthening this support and to building innovative partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including academia, scientific community, NGOs, children and youth, women's groups and entrepreneurs, trade unions, the private sector and local governments, to leverage concerted actions in areas of climate change mitigation/adaptation/finance/technology. We encourage Member States to share their innovative approaches to combat climate change with other countries at the Summit.

## V. The United Nations System

16. The United Nations system is committed to raising its own ambition to take concrete steps to combat climate change and to integrate more systematically sustainable development considerations into how we operate. Building on current efforts, we will develop a United Nations system-wide environmental and social sustainability strategy 2020–2030, to ensure the United Nations system practices the principles that it promotes and systematically embodies the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing the full picture of environmental and social sustainability in its policies, strategies, programmes, projects, facilities and operations.

17. In particular, we commit to reduce our environmental impacts via targeted actions on GHG emissions, waste management, air and water pollution and biodiversity degradation. In the area of GHG emissions, in particular, we intend to align with the recommendations of the IPCC report, and we will take concrete steps in energy demand reductions in all facilities and operations, transition to renewables, and improvements in our travel and transport management and climate neutrality.

18. We will adopt environmental management approaches based on the principles of continuous improvements and on the integration of sustainable development considerations on all our internal management functions to ensure that opportunities for improvements are captured wherever possible including via the application of environmental and social safeguards in projects and programmes. Building on the Greening the Blue initiative, we will upscale and improve our sustainability reporting framework to communicate transparently about our progress, our efforts and challenges on the journey.

19. At the Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in September, we will present our system-wide efforts towards reaching climate neutrality in our internal operations by 2020 and enhancing environmental and social sustainability in all UN activities.