



**Report of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)
at its Twenty-Third Session
(WMO Headquarters, Geneva, 19-20 March 2012)**

Introduction

1. The High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its twenty-third session at WMO Headquarters in Geneva on 19 and 20 March 2012. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are attached, respectively, in Annexes I and II to the present report.

1. Sustainable Development: Preparations for Rio +20 and Beyond

2. The Chair reminded HLCP members that delivering on sustainable development was now a major issue on the agenda of Member States, the Secretary-General and the UN system as a whole. There were many dimensions to the current discussion on sustainable development. To structure the Committee's consideration of the issues, its deliberations would first focus on the more immediate concerns regarding the Rio+20 conference and its outcome, followed by longer-term considerations regarding the role of the UN system in supporting sustainable development beyond Rio+20, including in the context of elaboration of the critically important post-2015 development framework.

3. The Chair asked HLCP members to focus in their deliberations on how to support and enhance the voice of the Secretary-General to convey a common UN system-wide vision for and perspective on sustainable development, and to identify key issues to be highlighted at the Conference that emphasized the synergies and complementarities of the UN system.

a) Preparations for Rio+20

4. The Chair noted that the Secretary-General assigned high priority to issuing a CEB statement to the conference as well as to holding a high-level CEB side event on 21 June 2012. He recalled that a joint preamble, prepared under the aegis of the Chair of HLCP, had been approved by CEB at its fall 2011 session, as an input to the Rio +20 preparatory process. That document served as a framework for the UN system to signal its collective readiness to Member States to "support the world's nations and peoples to make sustainable development a reality."

In addition, CEB recommended that a second joint statement, to be issued as a “clarion call” to the Rio+20 conference itself, be submitted to CEB for its endorsement at its spring 2012 session.

5. Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA, and Secretary of CEB, provided an overview of the status of preparations for Rio+20. He noted that Member States were concurrently gathered in New York to commence negotiations on the draft outcome document on the basis of amendments on the earlier zero draft document. He pointed out that the current compilation text had expanded to almost 200 pages from the 17 pages of the original text that had been prepared by the UN Secretariat. He also noted that inter-agency coordination in the lead-up to the Conference was organized through monthly ECESA-Plus meetings of Rio+20 focal points. At these meetings, agencies were briefed on political and substantive issues as well as logistical concerns related to the Conference. Country-level preparations involving national authorities and UN country teams were being supported by UNDP and UN-DESA in 79 countries.

6. Highlighting activities in which UN agencies could be involved during the Conference period, he noted the holding of a Partnership Forum and the organization of thematic days (16 – 19 June 2012) which would provide agencies with opportunities to showcase sustainable development initiatives and to forge new partnerships. All new commitments announced during the Conference would be included in an on-line registry to improve follow-up and accountability among stakeholders. He added that UN agencies were invited to contribute to the registry.

7. Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, ECOSOC Support and Coordination Division, DESA, presented draft elements for a CEB statement to the Rio+20 conference. Mr. Hanif noted that the draft before the Committee was built around eight key messages to create a compelling narrative for sustainable development intended to lead to concrete actions and effective implementation of sustainable development commitments. Those messages included:

- Recognizing that some progress had been made in addressing the challenges of sustainable development while also acknowledging existing gaps and risks to people and the planet;
- Noting that the global economic landscape had changed in fundamental ways over the past 20 years, leading to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction, but at a high environmental cost, and with rising inequality and exclusionary policies;
- Underscoring that enhanced international cooperation and collective action at the global level was necessary to address these problems, in particular by focusing on: (a) renewing political commitment; (b) integrating the three pillars of sustainable development; (c) accelerating implementation; and (d) improving accountability.
- Recognizing the need to move the current economic model onto a sustainable pathway using the tool of a green economy while recognizing the key principles of national sovereignty, common but differentiated responsibilities, country ownership in the process of transformation, as well as the need for increased funding from the international community, capacity building, technology transfer, and technical support.

- Focusing on accountability, measuring progress and defining precise goals for advancing sustainable development, including Sustainable Development Goals at Rio+20 which needed to be universally applicable, and complement and reinforce the MDGs.
- Strengthening the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development by reinforcing the environmental pillar of sustainable development and UNEP.
- Ensuring greater coherence in the sustainable development activities of the UN system as a whole, including those of the International Financial Institutions which would lead to better coordination in delivering policy advice, finance and capacity building to governments.
- Reviving the “Spirit of Rio” and emphasizing that Rio+20 must be an implementation conference that identifies a framework for action, including an increase in and allocation of new, additional, predictable financial resources, and provides the road map to the “future we want” - a future with dynamic economic development, universal social well-being and a healthy environment for present and future generations.

8. Mr. Hanif concluded by noting that Rio+20 must effect transformational change. The UN system needed to look beyond individual themes and mandates and take a broader view on the actions and changes that were necessary.

9. In the ensuing discussion, Committee members expressed support for the eight messages presented, which represented a “compelling narrative” for sustainable development leading to effective implementation of sustainable development commitments. Members felt that the draft should be refined to more closely follow this narrative.

10. Members were also of the view that a CEB statement needed to take a broad view, which would emphasize the linkages and interconnectedness of the different dimensions of sustainable development. The statement also needed to highlight the UN system’s capacity to come together in a coherent and coordinated manner in support of Member States’ decisions and efforts to develop and implement sustainable development policies and practices.

11. A number of HLCP members highlighted individual issues that needed to be incorporated in the statement, including the centrality of human rights, trade, education, science, information technology, tourism, sustainable industrial development, resource-efficient production and consumption, gender equality and the empowerment of women, food security and sustainable agriculture, population, and oceans. Participants also pointed out that it was important for the statement to convey the synergies and linkages that existed among the various critical areas for action.

12. Members agreed that a CEB statement should serve as a key advocacy tool for the Secretary-General as well as the UN system as a whole to sharpen the system’s focus and messages, demonstrate complementarities of mandates and programmatic activities, and showcase the value-added of the UN to sustainable development efforts of Member States. A joint statement would also present a common reference point for the UN system and convey the system’s readiness to support Member States in advancing sustainable development at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels.

13. The Committee also supported the proposal to hold a high-level CEB side event at the Rio+20 conference, with the participation of the Secretary-General and Executive Heads, as an opportunity to demonstrate the capacity of the UN system to deliver as one in supporting Member States in the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome. HLCP members agreed that the side event needed to be forward-looking and focus on concrete actions and initiatives through which the UN system would advance sustainable development objectives.

14. *HLCP decided to revise the draft statement taking into account suggestions made by HLCP members. Once finalized, HLCP would recommend the draft statement to CEB for endorsement (Annex III). HLCP also decided to recommend to CEB the holding of a high-level side event at Rio+20.*

b) Oceans Compact

15. The Chair noted that the critical role of oceans within the overall framework of sustainable development had been receiving heightened attention in international policy discussions. He recalled that UNESCO had played an important role in drawing the attention of CEB and HLCP to the issue of oceans, and the need to review UN-Oceans in the lead up to Rio+20. He underscored that the issue of oceans was also prominent in the Secretary-General's Five-Year Action Agenda.

16. At the request of the Secretary-General, the HLCP Chair, in consultation with relevant agencies and programmes and the Office for Legal Affairs, had been tasked to commission a small group of independent experts to prepare a first draft of an "Oceans Compact" document. Based on the feedback received from HLCP members, a revised version of the document was now before the Committee for its review. It was hoped that the Oceans Compact would provide a basis for the Secretary-General to provide inputs to the Rio+20 Conference and beyond.

17. The Chair pointed out that the draft Oceans Compact was an initiative to provide a platform for multiple stakeholders to work together to address effectively the issues of declining ocean health, diminished productivity and weak management, and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the shared goal of "Healthy Oceans for Prosperity" through three inter-related objectives: (i) improving the health of the oceans; (ii) protecting, recovering and sustaining the oceans' environment and natural resources; and (iii) strengthening the management of oceans. These were areas where key actions would be required or where scaling up of current initiatives would accelerate needed transformative changes with regards to oceans. Institutional arrangements, policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, programmes, partnerships and activities are in place, at the global and regional levels, to use the vast potential wealth of the oceans to build a society that uses ocean resources wisely. However the results are not yet showing a reverse in negative trends. The Compact would assist Member States to implement and meet the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other relevant global and regional conventions and instruments, and would build upon the range of existing and ongoing activities of UN system organizations. In this regard, several members referred to the work being undertaken under the Global Partnership for Oceans.

18. In the ensuing discussion, HLCP members expressed appreciation for the Chair's efforts and noted the urgency for action to reverse the rapid deterioration of the worlds' oceans.

Participants supported the initiative of the Secretary-General to develop an Oceans Compact and welcomed the Compact's emphasis on supporting existing efforts, as well as enhancing coordination and cooperation at all levels. They noted that it was critical for the Compact to assist Member States in the implementation and meeting of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other relevant global and regional conventions and instruments, and to build upon the range of existing and ongoing activities of UN system organizations. They stressed that the Compact should not duplicate existing global and regional legal oceans frameworks, but instead serve as a bridge across existing instruments advancing their implementation.

19. Several members stressed the need for the Oceans Compact to provide strategic guidance to all stakeholders and be accompanied by a detailed action plan with clear targets, benchmarks and timelines, to be developed through an open and inclusive process involving all relevant UN system organizations. It was suggested to create an Oceans Advisory Group to support the elaboration of an Oceans Compact action plan, facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders and promote action towards restoring the health, productivity and resilience of oceans. The Advisory Group would be comprised of policy makers, scientists and leading oceans experts, private sector representatives, and Executive Heads of relevant UN system organizations. It would also contribute to providing new impetus, focus and direction for the work of UN Oceans as the preeminent platform of the UN system for implementing the Oceans Compact and Action Plan.

20. Regarding the objectives outlined in the draft Oceans Compact, several participants stressed the need to enhance the social component of the Compact by more systematically addressing the impact of ocean degradation and marine hazards on the safety and livelihoods of people, in particular people living in coastal areas and people who depended on the oceans for their livelihoods. The importance of science, knowledge and capacity building also needed to be emphasized in the Compact. Other issues to be highlighted included ocean acidification, the role of the private sector and the economic contribution of the oceans. It was also emphasized that these objectives should focus on integration of all three pillars of sustainable development.

21. *HLCP agreed to recommend the finalized draft Oceans Compact to CEB for endorsement at its Spring session (Annex IV).*

c) Rio +20 and Beyond

22. In introducing the item, the Chair pointed out that sustainable development was a key component of the initial discussion on the post-2015 global development agenda and was a centre-piece of the Secretary-General's Five Year Action Plan. HLCP had already envisaged this when it began its work on "Moving towards a fairer, greener, more sustainable globalization" in 2009. The report of the High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability as well as the forthcoming UNCTAD XIII conference, on the theme "Development-centred globalization: Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development", also emphasized particular aspects of the broader debate. The challenge for the UN system was to strengthen linkages among the processes and gain clarity on its future direction, and that of the multilateral system as a whole, on sustainable development within the global development agenda.

23. Turning to the report on "Moving towards a Fairer, Greener and More Sustainable Globalization," the Chair recalled that HLCP, at its previous session, had agreed to take up the

revised report and to consider elements that might contribute to the UN system's work in the lead-up to Rio+20 and beyond. The longer paper had been revised to reflect the comments received from CEB Executive Heads in response to the request from Mr. Somavia, Director-General of ILO, and the Chair, following the CEB retreat discussion on the previous draft of the paper in October 2011.

24. He thanked the writing team, Elliott Harris, Vice-Chair of HLCP, Angela Cropper, UNEP, and Raymond Torres, ILO, for their efforts in revising the report and for preparing a much shorter synthesis version of the paper which sought to present the core messages and key arguments of the paper in a more accessible and concise way.

25. The Vice-Chair, in introducing the revised report, expressed appreciation for the insightful and constructive comments by Executive Heads, which had been reflected in the document before the Committee. He noted that the basic thrust of the report - that the lack of policy coherence was the source of the inequalities and imbalances that characterized the results of globalization – was widely supported by them as was the notion that the process of globalization itself did not represent a problem. The challenge was rather to address the lack of policy coherence to ensure that globalization resulted in more equitable, sustainable and greener outcomes for a greater number of people and that it enabled inclusive growth, job creation, effective social protection and environmental conservation.

26. The Vice-Chair added that making globalization fairer, greener and more sustainable required a rebalancing and rethinking of development priorities. Improving the quality of economic growth by ensuring that growth was more balanced, stable and inclusive as well as putting in place comprehensive and effective social protection systems were among the critical interventions needed to promote greater fairness and equity. The UN system had an important role to play in facilitating greater policy coherence at all levels and supporting countries in developing suitable measures for achieving sustainable development. Reform of the existing system of global governance was needed, however, to ensure that the varied structures of the UN discharged their normative, operational, technical support and coordination functions more effectively and in response to country needs.

27. Complementing Mr. Harris' presentation, Mr. Torres emphasized the need for more stocktaking of successful experiences of policy integration and coherence at the country, regional and global level. Ms. Angela Cropper underscored the need for policy coherence, and for the UN system to focus on core variables and for it to organize itself better, and more efficiently, in order to serve Member States. She also stressed the need for greater integration and enhanced lines of communication between the UN system and the international financial institutions.

28. At the opening of the discussion, HLCP members were asked to share their views on the shorter synthesis paper, as well as on its potential uses by CEB. The Committee thanked the authors for their effort and work. Many members expressed appreciation for the clear, nuanced and well-argued synthesis paper.

29. Some members noted that the UN system was at a juncture of realignment and transformation and asserted that the synthesis paper provided much-needed impetus for the system to reflect on the role and relevance of global institutions in meeting current global demands and future challenges, particularly in the light of the far-reaching implications of geo-economic and political realignments. One of the challenges for the multilateral system was to demonstrate its continued relevance in the face of rapid change. It was pointed out that the UN

system brought to bear normative, operational, technical and research functions, all of which should be deployed in service to all Member States in order to meet the universal challenge of sustainable development. The UN's important convening role was highlighted in this connection.

30. The role of the UN in advancing policy coherence and supporting Member States included presenting alternative models of globalization and assisting individual countries to develop appropriate policies that fit their specific needs. The UN system needed to be more proactive in addressing complex development issues and should play a forward-looking role in contributing to the discussions surrounding the development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and elements of the post-2015 development agenda. HLCP members also pointed to the tension that existed between the broader system-wide view on global challenges and the narrower perspectives related to individual mandates and funding modalities. The paper challenged the UN system to re-align itself to a changed global environment, reflecting fully how the process of globalization has affected it, and to review options for altering its *modus operandi*. The synthesis paper was seen as thought-provoking and useful in informing the thinking of Executive Heads regarding broader development-related processes, including QCPR and the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, the importance of a people-centred approach was highlighted, encompassing all dimensions of human security. It was also stressed that the paper should explicitly enumerate the trade-offs impacting particularly on the social pillar, and address inter-generational issues. Some members underscored the continuing importance of the economic pillar for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

31. ***HLCP took note of the full report and agreed that a slightly revised version of the synthesis report, also taking into account key comments made during the discussion, would be prepared for transmission to CEB at its Spring 2012 session for its further consideration (Annex V).***

32. Janos Pasztor, Executive Secretary of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, EOSG, presented key aspects and main recommendations of the report of the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability. Commissioned by the Secretary-General in August 2010, the 22 member Panel had been tasked to formulate a vision to “eradicate poverty and reduce inequality, make growth inclusive and production and consumption more sustainable, while combating climate change and respecting a range of other planetary boundaries.”

33. The Panel's final report, “Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future worth Choosing,” was launched in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2012. It contained 56 recommendations aimed at advancing sustainable development and fostering sustained and inclusive growth and prosperity. Recommendations were divided into three broad categories: empowering people to make sustainable choices; working towards a sustainable economy; and strengthening institutional governance.

34. The report proposed a range of intermediate and long-term actions to make sustainable development a reality. Several key elements of the report required particular attention by all stakeholders. Those included the nexus approach which emphasized the interlinkages of sectoral issues, the issues of funding and private investments, the need to incorporate externalities in the way progress was commonly measured and assessed, improvements in the international institutional architecture, and the need for vastly expanded partnerships in support of sustainable development.

35. Mr. Pasztor informed the Committee that the Secretary-General intended to transmit the Panel report to world leaders, Member States, UN agencies, representatives of civil society and the private sector, inviting them to convey to him their commitments to implement concrete actions and proposals for advancing global sustainability. In following up on those recommendations that were addressed directly to the Secretary-General, including the global sustainable development outlook report and the development of a new sustainable development index, he planned to engage CEB members to build on existing initiatives and ongoing work within the UN System. He also informed HLCP that concerning the science-related recommendations, the Secretary-General would be asking the UNESCO Director-General to lead a group of Executive Heads and heads of organizations partnering with the UN system to develop a proposal for a major science initiative.

36. Richard Kozul-Wright, Chief of UNCTAD's Unit for Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries, provided an overview of the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the UNCTAD XIII conference to be held in April 2012 in Doha. The report focused on the topic of "Development-led globalization: Towards sustainable and inclusive development paths" and analyzed the underlying structures and causes for the current global imbalances. It outlined a way forward towards a global economy that was based on sustainable and inclusive growth and development. The report sought to advance consensus on alternative principles, priorities and policies of a development-led globalization needed to turn a tentative economic recovery into an inclusive and sustainable future for all. The path world leaders would now choose would have long-term consequences for the economy, society and the environment. He suggested that UNCTAD XIII could be the starting point for a new consensus on globalization and global growth.

37. HLCP thanked Messrs. Pasztor and Kozul-Wright for their briefings. Some members pointed out that the process towards a new development paradigm needed to be fully participatory, taking into account the programmatic experience and expertise of the UN system as well as existing and growing areas of collaboration. Work on enhancing resilience as complementary to efforts to improve sustainability needed to be strengthened. CEB was seen as having an important role to play in bringing the various dimensions together into a cohesive sustainable development strategy for the UN system. In response to the invitation of UNCTAD, several HLCP members indicated their plans to attend the UNCTAD XIII conference.

38. *HLCP took note with appreciation of the report of the Panel on Global Sustainability entitled 'Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future worth Choosing' and agreed to ask CEB to provide HLCP with guidance on the specific role it wished HLCP to play in facilitating the UN system's response to recommendations contained in the report (Annex VI - list of GSP recommendations).*

2. Follow-up to HLCP/CEB decisions

a) Regional Dimension of Development

39. At the CEB fall 2011 session, Ms. Rima Khalaf, coordinator of the Regional Commissions and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, presented the "Independent Study on the Regional Dimension of Development and the United Nations system" suggesting ways in which

the UN system could better support Member States within the changing context of regionalism, including a renewed political recognition from CEB of the importance of growing regionalism and an acknowledgment of the increasing importance of the regional dimension of development.

40. Further to the Board's request for HLCP to review the Study's recommendations and report back at its spring 2012 session, the Committee reviewed a Note prepared by the Regional Commissions, suggesting a way forward in this regard. Mr. Amr Nour, Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office, provided the Committee with a background of the Study. He emphasized that the Study was a UN system-wide effort with contributions submitted by 24 organizations apart from the five Regional Commissions. He also noted that since the last CEB meeting, the issue had been taken up by the UNDG Advisory Group which had agreed that there should be greater collaboration and dialogue between the Regional UNDG Teams and Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCMs) to emphasize coherence and consolidation of regional efforts.

41. Mr. Nour recalled that the Study had taken into account the increasing importance of the regional dimension of development in light of accelerating regionalism in many parts of the world with the twin objectives of: (i) examining the key issues driving the "new regionalism"; and (ii) suggesting ways in which the UN system, including the Regional Commissions, could better support Member States within this changing context and add value to this process.

42. He noted that the Study identified a trend towards a "new regionalism" as a response to the increased pace of globalization and the perceived gaps in global economic governance, characterized by a diversity of forms and organizations. In contrast to the more state driven, more formal regionalism seen during the previous phases, this new regionalism was driven more by issues, than institutions, and was more diverse and deeper in terms of the areas it sought to cover, in particular issues related to human rights and the social sector. It reflected less formal arrangements between governments, greater involvement of non-governmental actors and a wider scope of issues. The UN system seemed to be well-positioned to promote development by supporting synergies in that context. The Study also detailed a significant degree of engagement by UN organizations at the regional level, noting that outcomes were more effective and successful, both in terms of impact and implementation, whenever there was a high degree of collaboration among UN organizations agencies to support regional initiatives or processes.

43. The Committee was requested to: (a) endorse the first two recommendations of the study which sought a renewed political recognition from CEB of the importance of regionalism and the regional dimension of development, and the need for a coherent regional strategy for development taking into account regional priorities and specificity; (b) invite RCMs in the regions to consider the implementation of recommendations 2 to 10, which were focused on highlighting key elements of processes and organizational frameworks that needed to be put in place to facilitate substantive engagement in the regions, and to report back to HLCP on this matter at its spring session in 2013; and (c) advise CEB accordingly.

44. In the ensuing discussion, participants thanked the Regional Commissions for their efforts in spearheading the Study and emphasized its utility in leveraging and drawing on the strengths of the UN system to support systematically regional engagement in line with regional and national priorities. The point was made that the discussion on the Study could have benefitted from a better elaboration of the notion of regionalism, particularly in regard to the interaction and relation of the global level with the growing number of new regional bodies being set up. The need for complementarity with different organizations in fulfilling different roles as well as the comparative advantage of some organizations was highlighted. It was

suggested that recommendations 2 to 10 of the Study needed to take into account entities that were operational and more explicitly mention the central role of UNDG and the Regional UNDG Teams. Regarding the latter, a proposal was submitted to reformulate the Study's recommendations.

45. Some participants noted the need for the recommendations to take into account universal human rights norms and standards in the interaction with regional organizations. Other participants called for coherence in the engagement of the UN system with the work of the multitude of regional organizations which had overlapping memberships in addition to coherence between RCMs and Regional UNDG Teams.

46. By way of clarification, it was noted that Regional Commissions had been promoting coherence of RCMs and Regional UNDG Teams for some time, and that this trend had been captured in the Study. Regional UNDG Teams, though a recent phenomenon, were an internal UN inter-agency coordination mechanism focused on the provision of coherent and timely support to Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams. RCMs, however, served as the platform that brought together regional organizations with regional actors for policy coherence and support, and complimented long standing strategic alliances with regional organizations that could be further harnessed for the entire UN system. A suggestion was made to take account of the complementarity, synergies, and role of the Regional UNDG Teams through a recommendation from the HLCP as opposed to amending the Study. It was recalled, in this connection, that the UNDG Advisory Group had adopted agreed language in this regard.

47. It was further clarified that participants should not lose sight of the broader goal which aimed at bringing the growing regional realities to the attention of the UN system and incorporating the regional dimension of development in the ongoing discussion on the continued relevance and repositioning of the UN system. The overarching objective was to enhance the UN's ability to deliver coherently and synergistically in regions. In addition, it was pointed out in this context that the Study might be useful as a contribution to the preparatory process for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

48. *The Committee took note of the discussion on the Study and agreed to convey the views of its members to the CEB.*

b) Human Rights and Development

49. Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Chief of Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, recalled that at the CEB fall 2011 session, Ms. Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented the issue of human rights in development cooperation and emphasized the need for a principled, norm-based engagement by the UN system with Member States on human rights issues, as well as strengthened policy coherence across the UN system. The Board had thanked Ms. Pillay for her important statement and leadership and requested HLCP to help advance the relevant issues of policy coherence on human rights in the UN system, under the leadership of OHCHR. Mr. Mokhiber introduced a short note outlining a way forward to advance policy coherence on human rights within the context of HLCP.

50. He noted that the UN Charter established three pillars as the core of the organization's work, namely, peace and security, economic and social progress and development, and human

rights. The 2005 World Summit and all major conferences since had reaffirmed the inter-linkages among these three pillars and supported further integration of human rights in the work of the UN system.

51. He added that human rights had been considered as a cross-cutting issue in the work of all four Executive Committees of the UN Secretariat established at that time (EC-ESA, ECPS, ECHA and UNDG). While good progress had been achieved, there was a perceived need for more regular, policy-level discussions on human rights to further strengthen policy coherence and integrity across the UN system, based on the norms and standards of the Organization.

52. Mr. Mokhiber underscored that, given its mandate, HLCP would be a natural forum to further pursue human rights-based policy coherence in these fields. The OHCHR note proposed to include human rights and policy coherence as a standing agenda item of the HLCP in order to keep the Committee members informed and engaged on relevant developments on the ground in the UN human rights system. In addition the note suggested that HLCP could develop a rolling agenda for more in-depth discussion on selected thematic issues where strengthening of policy coherence was particularly important from human rights perspectives. The note also proposed the additional option of a small ad-hoc task team, led by OHCHR, which could be formed among interested HLCP member organizations in order to prepare for the discussion. Finally, it proposed the integration of human rights in joint CEB advocacy on development issues.

53. Members expressed overwhelming support for the inclusion of human rights concerns in the work of HLCP and CEB, in particular as an opportunity to deliver consistent advice to Member States. They noted the timeliness of the issue and supported coherence of the work of the UN system in this area. Some members suggested that consideration of human rights issues by HLCP should go beyond policy coherence and discuss emerging and difficult issues as well as the need to approach events beyond a strictly “enforcement” lens. Participants also fully endorsed the integration of human rights in joint CEB advocacy.

54. While noting that human rights issues were relevant to organizations of the UN system, participants cautioned against the creation of additional ad-hoc mechanisms to undertake such work. This was particularly important given consideration of human rights issues and concerns in other mechanisms and processes such as the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism. Some cautioned against placing a standing item on the Committee’s agenda and suggested that issues be taken up as and when warranted.

55. The importance of taking account of the particularities of operational, humanitarian organizations working in very difficult political environments was stressed. Some participants expressed the view that, in tabling agenda items relevant to human rights, the Committee would need to respect the limitations inherent in the institutional mandates of some members. Others suggested the need to take into account concerns and sensitivities by Member States, such as those relating to conditionalities.

56. The Committee took note of the overwhelming support for the inclusion of human rights issues in the agenda of HLCP. It therefore agreed to include human rights policy coherence as a regular HLCP agenda item, as and when required, to discuss relevant human rights themes. In preparation of such discussions, it asked OHCHR to consult the membership when proposing themes. The Committee also agreed to more systematically integrate human rights in joint CEB advocacy statements and system-wide messages.

c) The World at 7 Billion and Beyond

57. The Committee recalled that the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) briefed the CEB at its fall 2011 session, on the implications for the work of the UN system of a world of seven billion people, focusing on challenges and opportunities for poverty reduction, sustainability and equity. The Board agreed to his proposal that detailed work be carried out by HLCP under the leadership of UNFPA, which would prepare an issues paper for consideration by the Committee at its current session. HLCP had an exchange of views on the content of the issues paper and discussed the way forward.

58. Introducing the Issues Note, Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Director, Programme Division, and Mr. Ralph Hakkert, Technical Advisor on Data and Research of the Technical Division of UNFPA, noted that the recent passage of the seven billion world population milestone provided impetus to reflect on world population dynamics and their implications for sustainable development. The Issues Note set out a proposed initiative that envisaged, *inter alia*, the establishment of an inter-agency working group under HLCP to undertake a more detailed assessment of the demands that population trends would place on the achievement of common development goals. The work would also include a stock-taking of the contributions of the UN system to addressing the projected trends as well as the identification of associated challenges and opportunities for further action. The assessment was expected to result in a draft position paper to be reviewed by HLCP at its 24th Session.

59. In addition to the proposed inter-agency process, Mr Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of UN-DESA, suggested the establishment, through HLCP, of an open-ended technical network to respond to the invitation from the General Assembly for the UN system and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to contribute to the 2013 General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The open-ended technical network would comprise members of the Global Migration Group (GMG), as well as all other entities of the UN system that had an interest in contributing to the High-level Dialogue. UN-DESA offered to serve as the secretariat of this network, which would be co-chaired by UNFPA and IOM.

60. HLCP members thanked UNFPA for its efforts and welcomed the Issues Note. Participants agreed that the gravity of a world in which increased population dynamics posed immeasurable challenges also opened up new opportunities for the UN system in its various mandated approaches. Organizations of the system needed to reflect on the impact of current and future population dynamics on the world and, by extension, their mandated activities. The proposed processes, which were meant to ensure coherence and unity of purpose of the UN system around population dynamics still required further clarification, however, and would need sufficient time to garner institutional support from member organizations of HLCP.

61. Participants further noted that it would be useful to clarify the role of the two proposals in relation to processes currently underway within the UN system. In this regard, it was crucial to ensure synergies with the preparatory work of the UN system in the context of the post-2015 development framework. Participants stressed in this connection that population considerations needed to be an integral part of any future framework from the start. In taking this work forward, due regard should be paid to human rights concerns, particularly those of older persons. Similarly, issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as educational

systems for youth were mentioned as relevant to population issues and needed to be sufficiently reflected in the Note.

62. Participants urged the concurrence of the Principals of the GMG on how the open-ended technical network would build on and leverage its resources, and avoid a duplication of functions. While the proposed processes intended to ensure coherence and unity of purpose of the UN system around population dynamics, participants noted that they still required further reflection and would need sufficient time to garner institutional support from member organizations of HLCP. The need to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to both issues, taking into account the wider context of a world at seven billion was also highlighted. These views notwithstanding, HLCP members looked forward to participating in and contributing to all efforts to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach.

63. In response to some of the issues raised during the discussion, it was clarified that the two proposals differed in both objectives and scope, in spite of some partial overlap. Whereas the migration proposal sought to make a direct contribution to a specific process, namely the 2013 General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the seven billion proposal sought to promote a common long-term vision of the agencies on a variety of population issues, which included migration but also several others. Therefore, both proposals should be taken forward in a coordinated but separate way leading up to the 2013 General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the 2014 General Assembly Special Session on Beyond the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

64. *HLCP requested UNFPA to review its proposal and submit for consideration by the HLCP at its 24th session, the Terms of Reference of an inter-agency working group tasked with producing an HLCP position paper on mainstreaming population dynamics across the UN system, with greater specificity in terms of deliverables. A final position paper could be submitted through HLCP for the approval of CEB at its spring 2013 session.*

65. *Given the need for a system-wide preparation for the 2013 General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Committee recommended the establishment of a time bound Ad-hoc High-Level Working Group on International Migration and Development, under HLCP, co-chaired by UNFPA and IOM, with secretarial support from UN-DESA. Following consultations with GMG, the Ad-hoc High-Level Working Group would convene all relevant programmes, funds and specialized agencies to develop a set of outcomes and actions for the consideration at the 2013 General Assembly High-Level Dialogue, including assessing the lessons learned since the 2006 General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in responding to the opportunities and challenges of international migration and in building collaboration and partnerships. The set of outcomes and actions will be submitted through HLCP for the approval of CEB at its spring 2013 session.*

d) Disaster Risk Reduction

66. At its spring 2011 session, CEB committed to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in programmes and operations in the UN system through the development of a common agenda, and to give disaster risk reduction the highest political support. It also agreed to continue working on the further implementation of HLCP's recommendations at its sixteenth session in

2008 for disaster risk reduction, and to consider how such recommendations might be expanded and broadened in light of disaster impact trends.

67. Following a briefing at its last session by Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, HLCP requested UNISDR to make available a tool for Committee members to assess their institutions on the state of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. The outcome of this survey was presented to the current session by Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Director a.i. UNISDR. Based on the results of the self-assessment tool, previous discussion with CEB and HLCP, as well as related findings of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Committee was asked to establish a director-level, time-bound working group, facilitated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to develop: (i) a checklist/toolkit to further guide mainstreaming; and (ii) a strategic plan of action to ensure the highest possible degree of coherence and effectiveness of the UN system in the field of disaster risk reduction.

68. Ms. Molin Valdes informed the Committee that the findings of the survey reflected the broad recognition that disaster risk reduction needed to be more effectively integrated into sustainable development policies, planning and programming in order to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries. She thanked HLCP members for their very positive responses, which demonstrated a noteworthy commitment to the topic of disaster risk reduction by the UN system.

69. She noted that the majority of the UN system organizations had referred to a mandated engagement on disaster risk reduction. Nevertheless, UN system engagement primarily remained at the technical level with only a small number of organizations ensuring institutional priority or strategic focus on disaster risk reduction. Several agencies still focused mainly on humanitarian or post-disaster aspects of disaster risk reduction and less on building resilience in their sectors and preventative action. The survey findings also pointed to fewer strategic and institution-wide approaches at headquarter locations which were needed to influence the global agenda and provide support to national programmes.

70. Ms. Molin Valdes added that much effort was being expended by UN system organizations to monitor work on disaster risk reduction within their broader institutional monitoring of development or humanitarian impacts, but with little evidence of established standards for monitoring and/or links to related country-level efforts within UNDAF and/or monitoring of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Monitoring could be more effectively used to provide best practice for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in sustainable development. She added that while respondents had also referred to a number of studies and tools, only a few organizations cited the availability of standard guidance and inter-agency coordination mechanisms or had dedicated staff capacity in their respective regional offices.

71. The analysis of the responses to the questionnaire provided an initial overview of efforts by the UN system to integrate disaster risk reduction. These efforts had been complemented by the appointment of a high-level Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the convening of the world's foremost gathering on reducing disaster risk through the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and building the resilience of communities and nations through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. In spite of all these efforts, gaps in mainstreaming still existed. The responses provided a basis for an exchange in closing these gaps by achieving greater coherence of which a consolidated UN framework on resilience could be built. This would enable the UN system to integrate better disaster risk reduction and contribute

to the Rio+20, post-2015 development agenda, and a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

72. Participants noted that the findings presented opportunities for greater coherence within the UN system on disaster risk reduction and identified ways to more systematically mainstream disaster risk reduction in close consultation with national authorities. Various organizations were taking steps to bolster their support for disaster risk reduction, including UN-Women which, given the strong gender dimension to disaster risk reduction, was developing its corporate policies and thematic guidance. Some participants also noted that disaster risk reduction was also an area of increasing coordination between the UN system and Regional Commissions.

73. Participants supported the preparation of a toolkit to assist the UN system in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. Recent examples from the ILO and FAO in developing similar tools to mainstream decent work and agriculture, respectively, could offer guidance. However, participants requested clarification on the objectives and terms of reference of the proposed working group.

74. The Committee requested UNISDR, under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to lead the preparation of the proposed checklist for the UN system to mainstream disaster risk reduction taking into account their ongoing policies and programmes. These efforts should build on existing inter-agency mechanisms and thematic platforms in place. The Committee also requested the Special Representative to convene a time-bound senior management group to prepare a system-wide Plan of Action on how to more strategically identify and act on core issues and gaps in disaster risk reduction. HLCP would revert to this issue at its spring 2013 (25th) session.

e) Climate Change

75. At its 21st session, HLCP agreed to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Climate Change for another year, in order to forge a unified approach to the 17th Conference of Parties (COP-17) of the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban and develop programmatic approaches to support the implementation of climate change actions. At its 22nd session, the Committee reviewed the Group's proposed approach to Durban, stressed the need for the system to be strategic, and recommended a focus on key policy issues. It also agreed to hold a high-level CEB side-event, which was held on 7 December 2011 and moderated by the HLCP Chair, with the participation of the UN Secretary-General, the Executive Heads of UNFCCC, UNDP, UNIDO, WMO, the Vice-President of the World Bank, and Ministers of India, Italy, Kenya and Samoa.

76. Ms. Elena Manaenkova, Assistant Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and Chair of the HLCP Working Group on Climate Change, briefed the Committee on progress made to date on the activities of the Working Group and provided suggestions regarding the way forward. Ms. Manaenkova introduced the report of the meeting of the HLCP Working Group on Climate Change, held on 17 February 2012, during which the Group reviewed the status of implementation of its 2011 Plan of Activities and Priorities, and reflected on its future programme of work.

77. In assessing the particular value added of the body, Ms. Manaenkova noted that the Working Group identified several critical areas in which its work contributed to supporting efforts of Member States to address climate change challenges. The Working Group had mobilized the wide range of expertise and knowledge available within UN system organizations, and promoted programmatic coherence through information sharing, by undertaking several initiatives, which had already helped Member States in implementing climate change action, and by streamlining climate-related issues in individual programmatic mandates of UN system organizations. These included, for example, UN CC:Learn (with 32 partners and 5 country level pilot projects), REDD+ (implemented in 40 countries), an international partnership on climate smart agriculture, the Climate Finance Options Platform (climate finance tracking, monitoring and finance services to countries), the Global Framework for Climate Services (under implementation through an intergovernmental process), or Climate Information (ClimDev) for Africa, an initiative launched in 2007 and now sponsored by AU, UNECA and AfDB and implemented by a new dedicated entity - African Climate Policy Centre.

78. Ms. Manaenkova also noted that there was an important future role to play for the Group in further advancing strategic, programmatic and operational coherence and coordination of UN system multi-sectoral activities at the global and regional levels. She noted that the Group recommended adding ‘mitigation’ as an explicit focus area of its work programme in light of new developments and enhanced opportunities to support countries’ mitigation efforts through joint action at the global level. Dr. Renate Christ, Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change joined Ms. Manaenkova in noting the importance of the work of the Group and requested that the Panel be invited to participate in its work.

79. Participants thanked Ms. Manaenkova for her efforts in chairing the Working Group and concurred with the need to extend its mandate. They supported the inclusion of “mitigation” as an additional priority focus area for the Group. Participants also called for greater coherence between the work of the Group and the UNDG Task Team on Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Rio +20.

80. The Committee agreed to extend the mandate of its Working Group on Climate Change for another two years. The Committee requested Ms. Manaenkova to continue as Chair, and that the Group hold further in-depth discussions on its Plan of Activities and Priorities in 2012. The Committee also agreed to include “mitigation” as an additional priority focus area for the Group and urged closer coordination with the UNDG Task Team on Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Rio +20. Finally, the Committee agreed to invite the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to participate in the work of the Group. On this basis, the Committee will revert to this issue at its spring 2014 (27th) session with periodic updates from the Chair of the Working Group to the Committee.

3. Programme Matters

a) Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)

81. Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, DESA, provided an overview of the salient features and dominant themes of the 2012 QCPR process. He reminded the Committee that QCPR was a mechanism through which the General Assembly assessed the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN operational activities for

development. In addition, QCPR established system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the UN system in response to the evolving international development cooperation environment. In the fall of 2012, the General Assembly was expected to adopt the new QCPR resolution providing guidance on how to improve the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the support provided by the UN development system to programme countries.

82. He noted that the QCPR process was being carried out within the context of a rapidly changing development cooperation landscape, owing to geo-economic realignments. Relevant features included changing needs of programme countries, including the growing prominence of middle income developing countries (MICs) and the situation of countries emerging from conflict; the mounting scale and scope of South-South cooperation; a funding environment characterized by fiscal austerity; and the expanding role of non-state development stakeholders, including NGOs, foundations and the private sector.

83. These trends, combined with an enhanced focus on efficiency, effectiveness and operational impact on the ground, challenged the UN system to adjust its strategic focus, funding options and business practices. The guidance and directives of the QCPR were aimed at helping to maintain the relevance of the UN development system in an increasingly competitive and fast-changing global environment. Mr. Hanif stressed that, in this context, the system needed to apply a more pragmatic and flexible approach to coherence and cooperation that better responded to individual country needs and circumstances. In this context, he mentioned some of the initial findings of the studies regarding Resident Coordinator system and UNDAF. He said there was a need to adjust these tools to country specific situations and the supply side approach should be discontinued.

84. He invited the Committee to identify specific strategic issues related to the QCPR process, in particular related to the UN's comparative advantages and strengths vis-à-vis the emergence of the growing number of new development actors and stakeholders, funding modalities for operational activities, and systemic challenges related to governance issues. Mr. Hanif also thanked UNDG members for their cooperation in the QCPR preparatory process.

85. Following the presentation, participants agreed with Mr. Hanif's assessment that the UN system was facing considerable challenges in a radically changing environment for development cooperation and pointed to the importance of the QCPR to assist the UN system to better respond to changing realities on the ground. The QCPR process was seen by many as an opportunity to advance Member States' understanding of the critical role of the UN at the global, regional, and national levels by highlighting key areas of the UN's work in both the normative and operational realms. It was essential that the QCPR process demonstrated the effectiveness and value-added of UN development cooperation and addressed critical areas of concern regarding funding modalities for operational activities.

86. It was also noted that the QCPR process allowed for addressing the need for increasing support for the Resident Coordinator System, the importance of UN norms and principles, including human rights, for operational activities, the role of the UN in providing policy advice and technical support, knowledge sharing, standard setting and contributing to medium and long-term development and transformational change at the country level. The UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism was seen as an important joint advocacy tool to advance the UN's normative agenda.

87. Members also underscored the importance of linking the QCPR process with other ongoing policy processes, including with regard to sustainable development and the post 2015 development agenda. Some members suggested that the discussion on QCPR revealed a number of fundamental issues related to the policy coherence role of HLCP, the difficult prioritization process inside the UN and the increasing risk of being driven by short term versus long term development impacts, which should be both further discussed and aligned with the Committee's work on "moving towards a fairer, greener and more sustainable globalization". The need to urgently articulate a dialogue within the HLCP on the post-2015 development agenda was emphasized in this regard.

88. *HLCP thanked DESA for the consultative process in preparing the report of the Secretary-General. Committee members were invited to provide further contributions in writing to DESA in the lead-up to the QCPR.*

b) System Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

89. Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships of UN Women, introduced the UN System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) for the implementation of the UN system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women. She recalled that CEB, in 2006, had endorsed a system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in accordance with ECSSOC Agreed Conclusions 1997/2. In addition, CEB had requested the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) to develop, in broad consultation with the UN System, a system-wide action plan that would operationalize the policy and accelerate gender mainstreaming within the UN system. CEB had agreed that the action plan would specify in detail the actions required for implementing the six main elements of the strategy, reflect a system-wide understanding of concepts, norms, standards and indicators, and build on lessons learned and the achievements of each individual organization. The Chair of IANWGE was asked to report to HLCM and HLCP on the implementation of the Action Plan, which had now been finalized. Ms. Puri noted that UN Women had accomplished and finalized the Plan within a six-month period.

90. She added that, under the leadership of UN Women, as Chair of IANWGE, a preparatory process for the development of the SWAP had been carried out which involved extensive consultations with more than 50 entities of the UN system and included a pilot exercise. The pilot exercise covered a diverse cross-section of UN organizations to test the SWAP's feasibility and viability. The process resulted in the development of the SWAP as a unified gender framework designed to promote common understanding, enhanced coherence, systematic self-assessment, and a progressive approach to gender mainstreaming. Ms. Puri underscored that the SWAP transformed accountability for the work on gender equality of UN system entities from a reactive to a proactive one. It served to provide simultaneously both a snapshot of the state of gender in the entity and an aspirational guide pointing the direction in which managers might progress. The SWAP, which included a set of 15 common system-wide performance indicators, constituted a framework for reporting and accountability that was expected to markedly advance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the policies and programmes of UN system organizations.

91. Ms. Puri noted that reporting on the SWAP would commence in 2013 by setting a baseline for the UN system. Such reporting would contribute to the Report of the Secretary-General to ECOSOC on “Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system.” It would thus facilitate and substantiate accountability to Member States for the work of the UN system on gender equality and the empowerment of women. She added that the roll-out of the SWAP over the next year was critical and would require the continued engagement of all UN System entities backstopped by UN Women. She stressed that the centrality of the roll out phase for the sustainability and success of the SWAP could not be overly emphasized.

92. Following Ms. Puri’s presentation, HLCP congratulated UN Women on the highly successful preparation of the SWAP, noting with appreciation the outstanding collaborative and inclusive approach that had been applied throughout the process of developing the action plan. Representatives of organizations that had participated in the pilot exercise emphasized the framework’s practical application and usefulness in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the policies and programmes of the UN system, noting that the highest quality of the SWAP consultative process also matched its substantive soundness, commending both. In a number of entities, the SWAP had already proved “inspirational” and motivated UN agencies to take additional action on the corporate level to strengthen institutional gender policies, providing both a valuable tool for advocacy and galvanizing efforts and interest both within and across the entities. Several representatives of technical agencies noted with appreciation the flexibility built into the plan, which met the particular needs of their organizations. Others noted that the returns on investing in the SWAP far exceeded the inputs that were required. As such, the return on investment of the exercise was valuably high as was also evidenced in the thoroughness with which it had been prepared.

93. *HLCP took note with great appreciation of the progress achieved in the development of the UN System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) on the implementation of the UN system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It highlighted the exemplary practice in coordination, coherence, collaboration and substantive quality of the results achieved under the leadership of UN Women. HLCP also encouraged UN system entities to take the SWAP (Annex VII) forward in order to ensure a seamless continuum from development to implementation.*

4. Other Issues

a) UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

94. The Committee noted that UNESCO had requested it to consider, for possible endorsement by CEB, a UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The Plan of Action, drafted during an inter-agency meeting convened by the UNESCO Director-General on 13 and 14 September 2011, included measures such as the establishment of a coordinated inter-agency mechanism to deal with issues pertaining to the safety of journalists and impunity.

95. Mr. Guy Berger, Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development of UNESCO, briefed the Committee on the elements of the Plan of Action. He cited the staggering number of journalists and media workers killed or injured while performing their professional

duties. He emphasized the gravity of the problem and the importance of guaranteeing journalists a free and safe environment, in which they could fully exercise their right to freedom of expression, thereby safeguarding the wider population's right to accurate information. Mr. Berger also informed the Committee that the initiative included measures, such as the establishment of a coordinated inter-agency mechanism, to deal with issues pertaining to the safety of journalists and impunity that would involve the monitoring of progress at both national and international levels. Safety and impunity were also to be incorporated into UN contributions to national strategies, notably development assistance programmes and the possible inclusion of media-stakeholders in some of the preparatory processes of development assistance frameworks. Mr. Berger added that the Plan also foresaw the extension of work already conducted by UNESCO to prevent crimes against media workers. This included assisting countries to develop legislation and mechanisms favourable to freedom of expression and information, and supporting their efforts to implement existing international rules and principles, in particular the 1997 UNESCO General Conference Resolution regarding violence against journalists. In addition to its submission to CEB for endorsement, UNESCO intended to present the Plan of Action to the March 2012 session of its International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

96. Participants expressed support for the plan of action and requested UNESCO, through its inter-agency-led process, to elaborate a mechanism and work plan that the Committee could take forward.

97. *The Committee agreed to support the Plan of Action and forward it to CEB for its consideration and subsequent endorsement (Annex VIII).*

b) World Summit on the Information Society

98. Ms. Doreen Bogdan, Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department, ITU, recalled that the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union addressed CEB at its spring 2011 session to initiate a process of consultations on a possible framework for the 2015 review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS, pursuant to the Tunis Agenda and General Assembly resolution 60/252. Mr. Touré had highlighted the ITU resolution on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes that included a proposal to hold a high-level event organized under the aegis of CEB based on a multi-stakeholder approach. He further proposed that the UN Group on Information Society (UNGIS), under ITU leadership, prepare a Plan of Action to organize the proposed high-level meeting, to be held in 2014. The Board welcomed the briefing, approved the proposal and requested that the Plan of Action be presented to it at its spring 2012 session.

99. Ms. Bogdan presented the proposed Plan of Action, noting that in follow-up to the CEB decision, ITU, as Chair of UNGIS, had initiated an open consultation process with more than 250 WSIS stakeholders from more than 100 countries who had been contributing proactively to the process. This process had formed the basis for the elaboration of the plan of action, consisting of proposed expected final outcomes of the Overall Review Process (WSIS+10) and the proposed preparatory process and meetings within the framework of the overall review up to 2015. The process built on close collaboration with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). Following the conclusion of the open consultation process, the legislative body of ITU resolved to support the organization of a High-Level event on the

Overall Review in 2014. In addition, the UNESCO General Conference agreed to support an event in 2013.

100. In the ensuing discussion, participants expressed appreciation for the Plan of Action and resolved to support the series of relevant events to be held in the run-up to the WSIS review. Some concerns were raised on the number of meetings and reporting requirements included in the Plan of Action.

101. *With these considerations transmitted to ITU, the Committee agreed to forward the Plan of Action to CEB for its consideration and subsequent endorsement (Annex IX).*

c) EMG Report “A Framework for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system

102. For the past two years an inter-agency initiative had been exploring how to advance environmental and social sustainability in the UN system, under the guidance of the Environmental Management Group (EMG). The result was the issuance of a report entitled “*Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System*” including a broad policy Statement and Framework for joint action.

103. Mr. Hossein Fadaei, Acting Secretary of the EMG presented the report, noting in particular that the Environmental and Social Sustainability initiative would assist the UN system to collectively measure its progress towards sustainability as a whole, and to better see the risks, opportunities, and trade-offs inherent in its work. He added that a number of norms and standards had already been developed but that there was no coherent institutional strategy for making these principles and norms operational across the UN system. The Framework would fill that gap by enabling organizations of the UN system to continue internalizing sustainability principles into its policies, programming and operations in a systematic and coherent manner, thus allowing them to lead by example and work in a more efficient and accountable manner.

104. The report, which was the result of interagency consultations co-chaired by UNDP and UNEP with contributions from 23 UN entities, was approved by Senior Officials of the EMG in September 2011. Mr. Achim Steiner, Chair of the EMG, was requested to submit the report to CEB for its consideration and follow up action. The next step was to evolve the policy-level framework into an implementation plan and an operational model that could be adapted and used by individual UN entities. Additional work was also required to strengthen the social and economic dimensions of the framework.

105. Participants welcomed the report and the sustainability framework. They agreed on the need for the UN system to capitalize on efforts of the EMG and a commitment by the UN system to implement the framework. It was suggested that the report and its framework could also be a relevant subject for a future CEB side-event.

106. *HLCP took note of the EMG report entitled “A Framework for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system” The Chairs of the subsidiary machinery of the CEB (HLCM, HLCP, UNDG) and the EMG Chair may wish to consider how the report and its framework could be considered by the UN system.*

d) UN-Water

107. Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Water, presented the contribution and deliverables of UN-Water to the Rio+20 Conference and beyond. In opening his presentation, he reminded HLCP members that UN-Water was a functional network of HLCP aimed at strengthening coordination and coherence among UN system organizations dealing with issues related to all aspects of freshwater and sanitation. UN-Water, at its meeting in February 2012, had agreed to four overall goals in support of the overarching objective of ensuring universal coverage of water supply and sanitation services as a central development goal. UN-Water's goals included facilitating the execution of a UN-wide 10-year initiative to provide universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, defining appropriate development targets for wastewater management and treatment, supporting countries in adopting and implementing measures for improving water resource management, and undertaking a global review of progress against key development targets.

108. *HLCP took note of the UN-Water deliverables.*

e) Consolidation of the CEB Secretariat

109. Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Secretary of CEB, provided the Committee with survey results on the consolidation of the CEB Secretariat. He informed the Committee that the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to consult UN system organizations on consolidating the CEB Secretariat at UN headquarters in New York and to report thereon to the 67th session of the General Assembly.

110. Mr. Stelzer noted that a brief study examining the advantages and disadvantages of the current as well as proposed arrangements was currently being prepared. He emphasized that the most recent review of the role and function of the CEB, which was initiated in 2007, had not been completed. The review had been envisaged as a two-stage process with decisions to be taken in the first phase which would be reviewed after two years, with necessary adjustments to be made in light of experience gained. In this regard, the issue of consolidating the CEB Secretariat was to be viewed within the wider context of the second phase of the CEB review which the Secretary-General intended to undertake during his second term. The second phase review of CEB would take stock of experience gained to date, and cover pending as well as possible new recommendations for the Secretary-General's and the Board's consideration in fall 2012. He noted that the Secretary-General would consult with CEB members on this matter at the forthcoming spring 2012 session of CEB.

f) HLCP Retreat

111. Participants noted in their interventions throughout the Committee's consideration of its various agenda items that the policy coherence role of HLCP needed to be reviewed, possibly at a dedicated retreat which would, *inter alia*, look at the Committee's forward looking work plan and working methods. They noted that HLCP had under consideration a number of agenda items that merited a deeper reflection to ensure coherent and collective action by the UN system. Given the critical importance and system-wide dimension of the post-2015 development agenda, it was suggested that this issue be added to the agenda of future HLCP meetings.

112. Mr. Achim Steiner, Chair of HLCP, observed that a dedicated retreat session at the Committee's next session could enable a serious reflection on: (i) managing how the Committee follows-up on its work, particularly on issues addressed to it by CEB, and (ii) how the Committee could, through the second phase review of the CEB, articulate its experiences, including in interfacing with other CEB subsidiary mechanisms and other processes, such as the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, with a view to identifying areas of duplication or complementarity. Mr. Steiner proposed that the Committee add an extra day to its fall 2012 session in New York at the Greentree Estate to discuss this and a suggestion was made that the Committee may also wish to hold an inter-sessional meeting on relevant issues at the margins of ECOSOC when most of its members would be in New York.

113. *The Committee agreed to add an extra day to its 24th session in the fall 2012, which would be held on 13 – 15 September.*

g) Future sessions

114. The Committee confirmed that it would hold its 24th session on Thursday 13, Friday 14, and Saturday 15 September 2012 in New York. The Committee would dedicate its session on Saturday 15 September to discussing its role and function.

List of Annexes

| | |
|------------|--|
| Annex I | Agenda |
| Annex II | List of Participants |
| Annex III | Draft CEB Joint Statement to Rio +20 |
| Annex IV | Draft Oceans Compact: Healthy Oceans for Prosperity An Initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General |
| Annex V | “Fairer, Greener, more Sustainable Globalization” - Synthesis Report |
| Annex VI | GSP List of Recommendations (A/66/700 - Annex I) |
| Annex VII | UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity |
| Annex VIII | Plan of Action for the Overall Review of the Implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS +10) |

Agenda

- Item 1. Sustainable Development: Preparations for Rio +20 and Beyond**
- a) Preparations for Rio+20**
 - b) Oceans Compact**
 - c) Rio+20 and Beyond**
- Item 2. Follow-up to HLCP/CEB decisions**
- a) Regional Dimension of Development**
 - b) Human Rights and Development**
 - c) The World at 7 Billion and Beyond**
 - d) Disaster Risk Reduction**
 - e) Climate Change**
- Item 3. Programme Matters**
- a) Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)**
 - b) System Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**
- Item 4. Other Issues**
- a) UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity**
 - b) World Summit on Information Society**
 - c) EMG Report “A Framework for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN system**
 - d) UN-Water**
 - e) Consolidation of the CEB secretariat**
 - f) HLCP Retreat**
 - g) Future sessions**

List of Participants

Chair: **Achim Steiner** (UNEP)
Vice-Chair: **Elliott Harris** (IMF)
Secretary: **Phyllis Lee** (CEB secretariat)

United Nations

| | |
|--|--|
| Executive Office of the Secretary-General | Mr. Janos Pasztor |
| Department of Economic and Social Affairs (CEB) | Mr. Thomas Stelzer (Secretary of Mr. Navid Hanif |
| Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights | Mr. Craig Mokhiber Ms. Stefania Tripodi |
| Regional Commissions | Mr. Amr Nour |
| United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) | Ms. Helena Molin Valdes Mr. Tom Hockley |
| Office for Legal Affairs | Mr. Serguei Tarassenko |
| International Labour Organization | Ms. Telma Viale Ms. Ana Romero Mr. Raymond Torres |
| Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations | Ms. Lorraine Bernadine Williams Mr. Abdessalam Ould Ahmed |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | Mr. Hans D'Orville Mr. Guy Berger Ms. Krista Pikkat |
| World Health Organization | Dr. Andrew Cassels Ms. Ivana Milovanovi |
| World Bank | Ms. Dominique Bichara |
| International Monetary Fund | Mr. Axel Bertuch-Samuels |
| Universal Postal Union | Mr. Olivier Boussard |
| International Telecommunication Union | Ms. Doreen Bogdan Ms. Beatrice Pluchon |

| | |
|---|--|
| World Meteorological Organization | Ms. Elena Manaenkova Mr. Christian Blondin |
| International Maritime Organization | Mr. Zhu Jianxin Mr. Jesper Loldrup |
| World Intellectual Property Organization | Mr. Naresh Prasad Mr. Sherif Saadallah Mr. Muhammed Enayet Mowla |
| International Fund for Agricultural Development | Mr. Luis Jiménez-McInnis |
| United National Industrial Development Organization | Mr. Sarwar Hobohm |
| International Atomic Energy Agency | Ms. Margit Bruck-Friedrich |
| World Trade Organization | Ms. Emmanuelle Ganne Mr. Karsten Steinfatt |
| World Tourism Organization | Mr. Marcio Favilla |
| * * * * * | |
| United Nations Conference on Trade and Development | Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright Mr. Lucas Assuncao Mr. Mongi Hamdi Ms. Padmashree Sampath Mr. Alexey Vikhlyaev Mr. Enrique Pacini |
| United Nations Development Programme | Ms. Cécile Molinier |
| United Nations Environment Programme | Ms. Angela Cropper Mr. Jan Dusik Mr. Enrik Slotte Ms. Elizabeth Mrema Ms. Barbara Ruis Ms. Corli Pretorius Ms. Maaïke Jansen |
| United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | Mr. Steven Corliss Mr. Adelmo Risi |
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East | Mr. Robert Stryk |
| United Nations Children's Fund | Ms. Gunilla Olsson |

| | |
|--|---|
| United Nations Population Fund | Mr. Mabinque Ngom Mr. Ralph Hakkert |
| World Food Programme | Mr. Paul Larsen |
| United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes | Mr. Sandeep Chawla |
| United Nations Human Settlements Programme | Ms. Cecilia Martinez |
| UN Women | Ms. Lakshmi Puri Ms. Aparna Mehrotra Mr. Asger Ryhl |

* * * * *

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Ms. Emelia Timpo |
| United Nations System Staff College | Mr. Jafar Javan |
| Environment Management Group Secretariat | Mr. Hossein Fadaei |
| Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change | Ms. Renate Christ |

* * * * *

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| CEB secretariat | Ms. Xenia von Lilien Mr. Yasin Samatar |
| UN-Water | Mr. Federico Properzi |

3 April 2012

Draft CEB Joint Statement to Rio +20

1. We, members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board, are strongly committed to the success of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). We recognize that sustainable development has been an overarching goal of the international community since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. We urge world leaders who will gather at Rio+20 to renew the political commitment towards this goal so as to reset the world on a sustainable development path.
2. We reaffirm the continuing validity of the UNCED outcomes. Sustainable development, with its interlinked economic, social and environmental pillars, remains a top priority for our organizations.

Progress towards sustainable development

3. In the two decades since the UNCED, the world has undergone tremendous change. We have added nearly one and a half billion people to the planet – around a billion in our cities – and brought hundreds of millions of people out of the worst kind of poverty. Yet more needs to be done. Actions taken today and during the next decades will define our population future.
4. Many people now live longer and healthier lives, child mortality rates have declined substantially. Maternal mortality has fallen, more women have access to reproductive health services, more children and young people – boys and girls alike – are attending and completing school. There has been considerable progress in empowering women and disadvantaged groups. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are broadening people's horizons, improving their education and expanding their choices.
5. We acknowledge the broad progress that has been made in many regions, including in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, despite the gains, we observe massive disparities between and within regions and countries.

New global landscape

6. We have witnessed a redesign of the global political and economic landscape with a new set of pace-setters and change-makers, including dynamic developing countries, and within countries, women and youth in particular.
7. However, the benefits of globalization have not been shared equally. Economic growth has not generated sufficient jobs in the quantity and quality needed. High youth unemployment and gender inequality persist, dimming the aspirations of a generation. The voices of women and youth are still too often not sufficiently taken into account in decision-making.
8. Nearly one billion people go hungry. Some 200 million children suffer stunting. We urge world leaders to redouble efforts to eradicate hunger and realize food and nutrition security for all. We

call for scaled-up investments in social protection, safety nets and food assistance programs as well as in sustainable agricultural production, to ensure that nutritious food is available and accessible for all, particularly the most vulnerable people.

International cooperation and action

9. We need to reinvigorate Agenda 21's global partnership for sustainable development and significantly scale up our achievements to date. We have no time to waste.
10. We recognize that addressing long-term threats to human and ecological well-being through international cooperation and action has been difficult. Governments are often pressed to cope with immediate domestic socioeconomic difficulties and the aftermaths of disasters. However, it is equally important to be mindful of inter-generational equity and protecting our planetary home.
11. Countries have reduced fatalities from disasters thanks to growing prosperity and progress in science and technology. Yet many environmental challenges require urgent international cooperation and action to avoid catastrophic damage to the planet we leave to our descendants. A binding agreement to limit greenhouse gases emissions must quickly be reached to prevent mass migration and displacement from climate change impacts.

Revisiting the current economic model

12. The multiple global crises have brought into question our current volatile economic model which has neglected natural resources impacts and social justice. Food and fuel crises have particularly highlighted the risks arising from resource constraints such as energy. A new development model is now needed centered on the planet, its people, and on fairness, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
13. We recognize that broad-based economic growth has been and continues to be the most effective contributor to poverty eradication. But meeting the needs of a growing world population requires a more balanced distribution of resources.
14. Growth in the 21st Century must use far less energy and resources, pollute less, generate sufficient decent work, and include all sectors of the population, including women and youth. We see an inclusive green economy, enabled by sufficient institutional and policy space, as a tool that provides such growth.
15. We recognize sustainable consumption and production patterns and trade as enablers of such growth. Policies must avoid trade protectionism and negative impacts especially on the poor and vulnerable groups and on the livelihood potential of future generations.
16. Developing countries will need to overcome a number of hurdles – financial, technological and institutional - to make the most of the opportunities that a green economy might offer so as to benefit all sectors of society, including the poor and most vulnerable. Capacity building in the areas of science, technology and innovation in developing countries--enabled through increased support from the international community, and facilitated by ICTs--is needed to smooth the transition to sustainable development.

Goals, accountability, and measuring progress

17. We are heartened that momentum is building for agreeing at Rio+20 to define sustainable development goals (SDGs). These will need to complement and reinforce the MDGs, which have been instrumental in advancing poverty eradication and social development. The SDGs should form part of an integrated, coherent agenda for addressing the critical changes of the post-2015 period.
18. We stress that a key feature of SDGs should be that, while respecting national sovereignty and policy space as well as common but differentiated responsibilities and other UN principles, they would apply to all countries and unite them in common efforts to tackle sustainable development challenges. We strongly emphasize that many developing countries will continue to need financial and technological support in their efforts to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development.
19. Our hope is that Rio+20 will deliver a firm commitment in this regard and identify the critical areas for the further careful elaboration of goals by an agreed deadline.
20. A number of priority issues have emerged which might serve as the basis for identifying sustainable development goals at Rio+20. Among these are: equity, poverty, decent jobs, sustainable agriculture and food security, energy, water, sanitation, climate change, oceans, sustainable cities, sustainable transport, tourism, disaster risk reduction, health including reproductive health, population, education, including for sustainable development, science, culture, youth, access to information, gender equality and women's empowerment and better indicators, accounting frameworks, and analytical tools for progress, based on more and better data, taking into account the needs of people today and in coming generations.

Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

21. Rio+20 provides an opportunity to strengthen the institutional framework for effective coordination and support to Member States in achieving sustainable development.
22. We urge world leaders to commit and follow through in integrating the three pillars of sustainable development, accelerating implementation and improving coherence of actions among all actors, including different parts of the UN system and the international financial institutions. We urge that the integration of the pillars be reflected in improved and integrated decision-making at all levels, reflecting the voices and fostering the participation of all major groups of society, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, workers and trade unions, business and industry, farmers, local authorities and the scientific and technological communities.
23. We call for putting in place a strengthened institutional framework to advance integration, implementation and coherence and for concrete proposals to make that happen. A number of governments and civil society organizations are calling for a Sustainable Development Council. Others propose a high-profile body for sustainable development. Many advocate strengthening the General Assembly and ECOSOC to guide and promote sustainable development. Many also propose the strengthening of UNEP.

UN system coherence

24. We must better organize expertise within the UN system and the international community to deliver coordinated and coherent policy advice, capacity-building, and finance to governments to assist them with the design and implementation of public policies and strategies for sustainable development.
25. These issues require a coordinated approach by the UN system, stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector, to find joint innovative and lasting solutions to the challenges of sustainable development.
26. Rio+20 should identify a framework of action and seek a substantial increase and allocation of new, additional, predictable, and adequate financial resources, official development assistance (ODA), grants and credits and investment – particularly for social sectors, including women and youth, and for the development of infrastructure and productive capacities--in order to support the implementation of national policies and development strategies in developing countries.

Reviving the spirit of Rio

27. We urge world leaders to achieve ratification of and universal participation in all the treaties and conventions promoting the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, including those relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as workers and migrants rights, rights of refugees, stateless and internally displaced persons, and rights of women, children and youth, as well as to natural resources, international transport, oceans and seas and land use.
28. Rio+20 must provide the roadmap to the future we want – a future with peace, dynamic economic and social development, universal social well-being, and a healthy and equitable environment for present and future generations where women and men, boys and girls equally contribute to and benefit from development.
29. Rio+20 must revive the “spirit of Rio” and be a development implementation conference. It must result in a compelling political document that must be accompanied by actions.
30. Let all states and stakeholders also come to Rio+20 ready to announce and launch new voluntary initiatives for sustainable development that will make a measurable difference to peoples’ lives and the welfare of ecosystems.
31. As Chief Executives of the UN System, it is our sincere hope that the outcomes of Rio+20 will rise to these challenges.

The Oceans Compact: Healthy Oceans for Prosperity
An Initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General

DRAFT
23 March 2012

The world's oceans are key to sustaining life on the planet. They provide a range of benefits for human well-being and prosperity – temperature modification, carbon sequestration, food production, employment creation, transport routes, habitats and biodiversity, tourism and an energy source, et al. Humans, however, have put the oceans under risk of irreversible damage by over-fishing, ocean acidification (from absorbed carbon emissions), increasing pollution, unsustainable coastal area development, and unwanted impacts from resource extraction, resulting in loss of biodiversity, decreased abundance of species, damage to habitats and loss of ecological functions.

We need to reverse these trends by using the vast potential wealth of the oceans to build a society that uses ocean resources wisely. We need to adopt a different vision for the oceans and establish a new understanding of their capacity. We need to create new partnerships while strengthening key existing ones, and develop ways of sharing the wealth of the oceans to benefit all. The Oceans Compact is an initiative to set out a strategic vision and provide a platform for all stakeholders to collaborate and accelerate progress in the achievement of the common goal of “Healthy Oceans for Prosperity,” thus effectively addressing the issues of declining ocean health and productivity as well as weak ocean management.

The Compact will assist Member States to implement and meet the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other relevant global and regional conventions and instruments, and will build upon the range of existing and ongoing activities of UN system organizations.

The Oceans Compact is underpinned by the overarching idea of providing for sustainable use and conservation of the world's oceans. It builds on scientific and societal knowledge, where the imperatives of maintaining ocean and coastal ecosystems, sustainable use and conservation of natural resources and economic development are balanced; the interdependence of land and ocean systems is maintained; and the drivers of unwanted impacts from human use to the well-being of people and oceans are addressed. The Compact aims to support actions by Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, scientists, the private sector and industry to tackle challenges in protecting and restoring the health and productivity of the oceans for the benefit of present and future generations.

In late January 2012, the United Nations Secretary-General launched his Five-Year Action Agenda as “A plan to make the most of the opportunities before us. A plan to help create a safer, more secure, more sustainable, more equitable future. A plan to build the future we want.” The Action Agenda provides an opportunity to kick-start the long-term plan for the Oceans Compact.

From Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Declaration to the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010, Governments have affirmed the need to intensify efforts to protect and sustainably manage the oceans, seas and coastal areas and their living resources. World leaders will be called upon in Rio to re-affirm and enhance these commitments. Rio+20 represents an opportunity to collectively embrace such commitments, which need to be translated into an Action Plan with concrete targets/expected results, benchmarks and timelines, which aims at improving the health of oceans and therefore the well-being of humans.

OCEANS - ONE GOAL, THREE OBJECTIVES

At Rio+20, the UN Secretary-General will encourage Member States, the private sector and civil society to make global and individual commitments to restoring oceans to healthy, productive and resilient systems, by the year 2040, to ensure human well-being and prosperity. To attain the goal of “Healthy Oceans for Prosperity”, we need to discover new and innovative ways to protect ocean resources, use them more efficiently, while ensuring sustainable use and conservation of natural resources by all stakeholders. Three inter-related objectives advance this goal:

1. ***Improving the health of the oceans and protecting people depending on them*** – reducing pollutants from sea and land-based activities, in particular litter, harmful substances and nutrients from wastewater, industrial and agricultural runoff entering the world’s oceans, by encouraging a green economy approach and the implementation of existing agreements; reducing the impact of environmental degradation and marine hazards on livelihoods; promoting more sustainable management of coastal areas; and reducing vulnerability of coastal people to effects of ocean degradation and hazards (natural and anthropogenic), including tsunamis.
2. ***Protecting, recovering and sustaining the oceans’ environment and natural resources*** - recovering more than XX% of depleted or overfished stocks to fully exploited levels, conserving and rehabilitating YY% of the marine habitats important for carbon sequestration, conserving and protecting marine and coastal biodiversity and halting the spread of invasive alien species, by strengthening existing arrangements and frameworks.
3. ***Strengthening ocean knowledge and the management of oceans*** – strengthening general science-based knowledge and capacity building for ocean management; addressing the need for robust ocean observation and relevant infrastructure, including capacity development in ocean and coastal areas; supporting the development of the global integrated assessment of the state of the marine environment including socio-economic aspects by 2014; enhancing mandatory and voluntary management frameworks along with coordinated global, regional and national mechanisms to ensure integrated ecosystem management, protection of coastal populations; and promoting the sustainable use and conservation of ocean resources. This must be underpinned by a robust global ocean observation and knowledge infrastructure and the successful operation of the General Assembly’s Regular Process.

Realizing the objectives of the Oceans Compact will require the creation of conditions so that pilot and demonstrative interventions and actions, as part of an integrated and results-oriented “Action Plan”, can be undertaken and, where appropriate, up-scaled to ensure an improved quality of life and enhanced opportunities for the hundreds of millions of people whose lives depend on the oceans. This will involve:

- Building and sharing the scientific knowledge base for sustainable management of ocean and coastal resources, protecting coastal populations, and maintaining ecosystem services;
- Creating the economic and social conditions to ensure sustainable livelihoods and economic development through green practices, increased societal awareness and participation, and integrated ocean-related policies;
- Improving ocean governance through enhanced and coordinated global, regional and national mechanisms.

MOVING FORWARD

Our growing scientific knowledge, communications, technology and resources, coupled with the productive potential of the oceans means, that it is possible to feed a significant part of the world and enjoy healthy oceans. But these efforts need to be scaled-up, strengthened and secured with innovative and sustainable financing and appropriate technologies, and underpinned by effective institutional and legal frameworks to facilitate viable management and sustainable development over the coming decades. It will take **time and commitment**. In various areas of the oceans there are **policy and regulatory**

frameworks in place that are facilitating transformative change. Good governance schemes that address the many problems associated with flags of convenience and governance systems to support integrated, sustainable ecosystem-based management for fisheries and aquaculture must be developed. Changing the way we use the oceans will require changes in many areas including in **market and finance incentives** such as certification and investor schemes, and environmental, social and governance reporting. But further work is warranted. Developed and developing countries' public and private sectors need to **improve their capacity for ocean administration and knowledge sharing, and promote capacity building**. Civil society's capacity to engage in ocean issues could also be strengthened through citizen science, ocean awareness and literacy, environmental citizenship and youth programmes.

To accompany the elaboration of the Oceans Compact Action Plan, to facilitate stakeholder dialogues and to catalyze support in various quarters for concrete actions in oceans, it is proposed to create an Ocean Advisory Group, composed of high-level policy-makers, scientists, leading ocean experts, private sector representatives and Executive Heads of involved UN system agencies. This Advisory Group will contribute to developing a new focus and direction for the work of UN-Oceans as the key platform for catalyzing UN system-wide cooperation and arrangements for implementing the Oceans Compact and its Action Plan.

2 April 2012

“Fairer, Greener, more Sustainable Globalization” A Synthesis Report by the High-Level Committee on Programmes

Introduction

- 1. Globalization, conventionally defined as a process of economic integration between countries, has opened up significant opportunities** for improving the living standards of women and men throughout the world.¹ And yet at the same time, globalization has not fully realized its potential for shared prosperity. It has, instead, occurred against a backdrop of widening social inequalities,² continued environmental degradation; and a pattern of economic growth that is not sustainable over the long term.
- 2. The real issue is not globalization as such but the “proper management” of its effects.**³ Most of the social, environmental and economic imbalances associated with globalization are not the outcome of the process itself, nor do they justify any systematic attempt to slow or reverse the globalization process. Instead, they reflect the inability of existing policies and institutions to address the various tradeoffs and conflicts of interest that characterize most interactions.
- 3. This report argues that a coherent national and global policy approach integrating the three pillars of sustainable development can help make the results of globalization fairer, greener and more sustainable** by addressing the tradeoffs –perceived or real– between economic, social and environmental objectives, and tackling the existing imbalances. This approach would prioritise core UN values, such as the primacy of people’s rights and aspirations, including in terms of social and economic well-being, while ensuring that the pursuit of these rights and aspirations is consistent with preserving the natural environment and respectful of our responsibilities toward next generations.
4. The report starts with a brief diagnosis of globalization, its benefits and the social, environmental and economic challenges that should be addressed (Section 1). It then examines a comprehensive policy approach for making globalization fairer, greener and more sustainable (Section 2). Finally, Section 3 discusses possible reform options of global governance that would help consensus and action around the policy package identified in the previous section, with particular focus on the role of the UN system.

¹ Globalization is a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional phenomenon. In addition to the “economic and financial” globalization, there is the globalization of “technologies” (particularly evident in the spread of information and communications technologies and especially cellular telephony in the developing world); of “ideas” fostered by the access to information over the Internet and the spread of social media, as well as the rising frequency of personal travel; etc. This report focuses mainly on the economic and financial aspects of globalization, as it is here that its “discontents” are most evident.

² See, for example, World Bank (2005), ILO (2008), IMF (2007); OECD (2008)

³ Fischer (2003).

Section 1. Making globalization fairer, greener and more sustainable: opportunities and challenges

Globalization has brought about major opportunities...

5. **Globalization has brought unprecedented growth in trade, investment and capital flows** and has spurred the exchange of ideas, and the development of science and new technology in many areas, promoting competition, increasing productivity, and contributing to faster economic growth. The acceleration of growth in developing countries, based on hard-won improvements in economic policy making in the two preceding decades,⁴ is a major success of globalization. This growth has enabled an unprecedented reduction in poverty and acceleration of overall development.

6. **But the overall results of this process have been mixed.** There have been “winners” and “losers”, both across and within countries; dramatic improvements in some areas, less progress in others—reflecting the complex linkages between growth and human development.⁵ Often, outcomes depend on how a given country or group is affected by the broader environment (such as global macroeconomic stability), and on country-specific factors that determine how the potential of globalization is exploited, such as the quality of domestic institutions.⁶

7. **Globalization has also brought about a fundamental shift in the structure of the global economy.** The spectacular growth of the dynamic emerging economies and the strong economic performance of developing countries more generally have made them the principal source of global growth and rising global demand. With their rising economic weight has come a shift in the balance of political and economic power, reflected, inter alia, in the ongoing reform of the governance structures of some international institutions.

... but it has occurred in the context of widening social inequalities...

8. **Globalization may have exacerbated certain pre-existing “imbalances” with profound consequences for the functioning of economies.**⁷ In particular, globalization has gone hand-in-hand with an increase in income inequalities within countries⁸ (as well as to some extent a concentration of wealth) which have intensified further since the global financial crisis, threatening social mobility, the very basis of the social contract.

9. **Moreover, while poverty was on a downward trend before the global crisis, broader development prospects did not always improve.** Despite an unprecedented abundance of food at the global level, nearly 1 billion people continue to go hungry, and the vulnerability to volatile food prices undermines the food and nutrition security of hundreds of millions more. More generally, improvements in the Human Development Index have been slow at best, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, with access to essential services like education and health becoming more unequal in some countries.⁹

... intensified environmental degradation...

10. **The period of accelerating globalization has also been one of further environmental degradation.** Greenhouse gas emissions have risen so dramatically that global climate conditions have

⁴ Globalization itself may have exerted a disciplining effect on countries’ economic policies, raising the costs of major policy mis-alignments as markets become more inter-connected; it may have encouraged investment in human capital to preserve and enhance competitiveness in an increasingly skills and technology-based global economy; and it may have increased the pressure to implement the necessary institutional reforms, particularly the case with financial deepening in some developing countries. Mischkin, 2009; Rajan and Zingales, 2003.

⁵ Bourguignon et al., 2002, among others.

⁶ Different measures of globalization are associated with different outcomes. For example, the literature has shown that how globalization is measured determines whether globalization is good for the poor. Globalization measures such as export activity and foreign investment are often associated with poverty reduction, while measures such as the removal of tariffs or quotas are linked to rising poverty. See *Globalization and Poverty (2007)*, Ann Harrison eds., University of Chicago Press.

⁷ The Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization (see ILO (2004)) describes some of these imbalances.

⁸ Ortiz and Cummins (2011)

⁹ UNDP (2010). However, over the past ten years, the increase in the HDI in Sub-Saharan Africa has been more rapid than in any other region.

been affected—global warming, rising sea levels, higher frequency of extreme weather conditions, accelerating desertification. Forests, the availability of clean water, bio-diversity and entire eco-systems are under threat.

... and unstable growth

11. **Economic growth itself has become increasingly unbalanced, unstable and prone to shocks.** Financial globalization may have elevated economic risk and volatility, and it has certainly heightened the risk of the cross-border contagion of economic disruption. Moreover, the present pattern of economic growth has not led to a commensurate expansion of decent work opportunities, especially among youth.

Lack of policy coherence, and not globalization per se, is a fundamental cause of the imbalances...

12. **Faster economic growth was expected to create room for social progress and faster development.** But the links between growth and progress on other fronts are not automatic, and market liberalization has not been accompanied by the type of well-designed government regulation needed to help ensure balanced outcomes. With the increased mobility of capital vis-à-vis labour, capital gains have expanded greatly while the share of labour incomes in the gains from growth has declined.¹⁰ In addition, the market-based approach treats the environment and other global public goods largely as “free” goods without a market value.¹¹ In the absence of public policies to internalize such externalities, the exploitation of natural resources has become increasingly unsustainable.

13. **Policies for macroeconomic stability have seemed to take precedence over other policy objectives.** Without doubt, macroeconomic stability is a pre-requisite of sustained growth, and hence development and improved standards of living. But macroeconomic stability can be consistent with a range of social outcomes, some more pro-poor and more environment-friendly than others. Relatively less attention has been paid to those combinations of policies for macroeconomic stability and growth that would maximize also outcomes in the social and environmental spheres.

14. **Finally, the role of global governance institutions was limited by perceptions and/or ideological considerations.** Decentralized solutions were thought to be generally better adapted to meet the needs of markets. Moreover, an active role of the State (and by extension of global institutions) was seen as inhibiting the full potential of markets—by this thinking, the State should be limited to providing essential services and local public goods.¹² As a result, global institutions have been unable to tackle effectively some of the most significant global problems, despite rising public awareness of their importance.

The global financial crisis has helped change thinking...

15. **The global economic and financial crisis has opened up opportunities for doing policy differently.** Indeed, the worst of the potential effects of the crisis were avoided precisely because policy making changed course: the role of the State increased as countries launched counter-cyclical policy responses. Strengthening of social protection was often central element of these responses, in recognition both of the negative impact of the crisis on employment and individual welfare, as well as of the economic contribution of social protection. The imperative of coordinated policy action was accepted and acted upon, with a greater role of transnational governance bodies (G20, WTO, IMF) and initiatives notably the Global Green New Deal and the ILO Global Jobs Pact.

¹⁰ Several studies point to linkages between globalization and labour market instability. See in particular the joint WTO-ILO study (WTO-ILO, 2011).

¹¹ However, there have been changes and improvements, particularly over the past two decades, with rising awareness of the need to mainstream action to counter the effects of climate change and environmental protection into economic policy making.

¹² Indeed, in many low-income countries, the share of government spending in overall GDP has risen significantly over the last two decades, as governments have stepped up their social spending. At the same time, governments have been less active in the economic sphere, reflecting both the widespread privatizations in the 1980s-90s as the policy focus on reducing the obstacles to private sector development.

16. **There is also growing recognition of the long-term benefits of reducing inequalities, strengthening social protection, and greening the economy.**¹³ There is evidence that, on average, countries with more equitable income distribution are able to maintain growth spurts longer.¹⁴ Well-designed employment and social policies enables people, particularly the poor and marginalized, to invest in their nutrition, health and livelihoods and to improve their skills, knowledge and productive capacity, thereby reducing their vulnerability to exogenous shocks, while also acting as an overall short-term shock absorber and automatic stabilizer. The transition to a greener economy and rational policies to address climate change generate new sources of growth and employment creation—and the new “green” jobs are likely to be both more sustainable and more decent than many of the jobs that would be lost in traditional “brown sectors”.

17. **Despite some recent progress in these areas, some important gaps remain.** There has been insufficient progress in financial sector reform and creating a multilateral framework of rules and disciplines for cross-border financial activities (such as provided by the WTO in the area of trade). Insufficient attention has been given to areas where global policy coordination is crucial, such as international taxation, making the financial system work for the real economy, respect for core labour standards, climate change, debt resolution mechanisms, the fight against corruption, quality of governance to ensure fair access to the opportunities arising from globalization, etc. Moreover, the scope for changing the thrust of policy are dwindling rapidly, as countries confront rising fiscal and debt-related constraints.

18. **Moreover, growth process must be sustainable and generate significant levels of employment and income needed to overcome the effects of the global crisis and meet growing expectations from increasingly educated populations.** At the heart of this must be policies to encourage investments in the expansion of the productive capacity of individuals and the economy. New technologies need to be introduced and linkages between firms, sectors and industries strengthened, in order to encourage the creation of new markets for agricultural, industrial and manufactured goods, generating new jobs and income, and enhancing overall productivity.

... and there is growing awareness of the demographic and other transitions that lie ahead

19. **Several other important and closely inter-linked issues must be addressed,** in addition to the imperative of speeding the recovery from the multiple crises (food, fuel and financial) of the last five years. One is the need to mitigate and adapt to *climate change* which, if unchecked, will accentuate other challenges. *Demographic change* and the challenges it poses—notably as regards population ageing in industrialized countries and an increasingly young population in many developing countries, particularly in the so-called fragile states;¹⁵ intensified *urbanization* in developing countries, deepening the difficulty of increasing and sustaining growth in the face of pressing needs for infrastructure, food and social services; and the imperative of integrating the youth into productive jobs. *Migration* could help address these challenges, providing benefits to both host and source countries, but an agreed international framework for orderly migration is needed.¹⁶ *Food, water and energy insecurity* hinders both social and economic development, and could lead to conflict over access to scarce resources.

The costs of inaction are high and growing...

20. **Widening inequality presents one of the greatest threats.** Rising unemployment and job precariousness (especially among the youth), social exclusion and a widespread perception of inequality

13 In their recent Call to Action at the World Economic Forum in January 2012, Mark Carney, Margaret Chan, Angel Gurría, Donald Kaberuka, Haruhiko Kuroda, Pascal Lamy, Christine Lagarde, Luis Moreno, Josette Sheeran, Juan Somavia and Robert Zoellick highlighted the need to “address inequalities in all countries” and “enable green growth”, as part of a coordinated effort to exit the crisis (see <http://www.weforum.org/content/pages/call-action>).

14 See Berg and Ostry (2011).

15 The rising cost of health care in developed countries, if not addressed, will lead to unsustainable increases in expenditure that will threaten future economic growth and result in the exclusion of people from access to social services. A similar problem will soon confront developing countries as well, as their standards of living and expectations continue to rise.

16 More generally, the dramatic increase in human mobility that has accompanied the most recent phase of globalization has far-reaching implications for policy that must be carefully considered.

and unfairness have created a climate of social tension and unrest,¹⁷ reflected in social protests in a growing number of countries. Combined with deficits in democratic governance, transparency, and anticorruption efforts, this situation threatens social cohesion and political stability, and can lead to social and political upheavals, as evidenced by the “Arab Spring”.¹⁸

21. **Unmitigated and accelerating climate change and further degradation of the environment would impede economic activity**, impose ever higher adaptation costs (particularly on developing countries) and eventually result in employment losses in many sectors. Without concerted action, many natural resources could be severely depleted, leading to price shocks for raw materials and food and, possibly, conflict over scarce resources; environmental- and climate-related risks will generate abrupt and erratic future shocks to the economy, including in the form of more frequent natural disasters with forced or involuntary displacements. Such disruptions would undermine the social fabric and the foundations of the economy.¹⁹

...but the benefits from making globalization fairer, greener and more sustainable are significant.

22. **Addressing the persistent global macroeconomic imbalances by internal and external rebalancing**—reducing excess debt-financed demand in deficit countries, and lowering the dependence on exports as a source of growth by boosting aggregate domestic demand in surplus countries—would provide a major boost to global recovery, reduce a source of volatility in speculative capital flows and exchange rates, and lessen the scope for future shocks and crises. This would enhance the overall stability, sustainability and inclusiveness of the growth process.

23. **Socially-inclusive employment and social protection policies can act as automatic stabilisers.** They would not only help sustain the purchasing power of the lower-income groups and stimulate aggregate demand in economic downturns, but would also reduce the immediate and longer-term social costs of shocks and crises, as experience in several countries has demonstrated.

24. **Greening globalization reduces environmental damage and the negative impacts from climate change in the long run, and creates additional employment and business opportunities in the short run**; higher resource efficiency and greater growth opportunities for low-carbon industries and in the “green” sectors. However, the transition challenges must be adequately addressed. In this context, “greening” agriculture—the sector most sensitive to environmental degradation and climate change, but also one of largest polluters—is critical.

25. **In short, an appropriate mix of policies and institutions is needed to ensure that the benefits and costs of globalization are more equitably shared** and that the results of the process are economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable. Nor is the pace of globalization a problem in and of itself, but rather ensuring that it occurs as part of a well-designed policy framework and dealing with its differentiated impact across societal groups, sectors, and countries.

Section 2. The way forward: considerations of priorities and policies

¹⁷ See UN-DESA (2011).

¹⁸ The experience of the “Arab Spring” underscores the importance of political and cultural elements, alongside the economic, social and environmental ones. This report focuses, however, only on the latter three, to preserve the direct link with the sustainable development agenda and the upcoming Rio+20 conference.

¹⁹ In her Foreword to the 2011 Human Development Report, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark states that “failure to reduce the grave environmental risks and deepening social inequalities threatens to slow decades of sustained progress by the world’s poor majority — and even to reverse the global convergence in human development.”

26. **Achieving sustainable development requires a rebalancing of priorities and a fundamental rethinking of policy** that accord full attention to goals such as stable and inclusive growth, full employment, social and environmental protection, and addressing inequalities. Efforts to meet the economic, social and environmental objectives of policy will often be complementary. But there will also be difficult tradeoffs among these objectives, where short-term progress in meeting pressing priorities in one area can only be achieved at the expense of another.

27. **An integrated and coherent policy approach can minimize and resolve these tradeoffs.** The objectives and policies in each area must reflect the interdependences and linkages, at both the national and global levels. The rethinking of policy must also address the root causes of existing global and national imbalances and, particularly, the trends that drive rising inequalities.²⁰

28. **Both national and global policies need to be recast to make globalization fairer, greener and more sustainable.** The principal focus is on the necessary combination of national policies that can contribute to this end, but globalization itself affects national policymaking in a variety of ways, and some issues are inherently global and cannot be addressed by national policies in isolation. Attention must thus be directed at improving critical aspects of the functioning of the global system, for which fundamental changes in the system of global governance may be required.²¹

Recasting national policies to achieve “fairer” outcomes

Growth

29. **It is pointless to call into question the importance of economic growth**—the size of the economic pie, as well as how it is shared, ultimately determines human welfare. But the quality of growth is critical—ensuring that growth is more balanced, stable and inclusive, and translates more directly into more widely shared improvements in living standards.²² This requires an enabling environment and effective sectoral policies that promote private sector development, particularly for small-scale enterprise as a major source of employment and engine of growth.²³ As an example of focused sectoral policies, effective policies for sustainable agriculture can be an important vehicle for growth and equity in many developing countries, offering great potential for securing rural livelihoods, employment and income, thus lessening the pressure on cities caused by urban migration and the resulting social tensions.²⁴ Such shorter-term policies for growth will only succeed if underpinned by a sustained investment in human capital, including through effective health and education policies, that contribute to greater equality of opportunity and strengthen individual capacity to contribute to, and benefit from, the growth process.

30. **The “right” combination depends on each country’s specific circumstances** and must be defined consistent with national priorities—and governments must have the “space” (and capacity) to formulate coherent policies that meet their circumstances. As such, there can be no one set of

²⁰ Among these trends are growing rural/urban gaps, rapid industrialization, slow growth of agriculture, and rising returns to higher levels of schooling; the erosion of employment guarantees and the end of extensive state employment, particularly in the transition economies; and the unequal distribution of assets, high fertility rates among poorer households, and regressive public spending. See World Bank (2005), and ILO (2011a).

²¹ The focus on coherent policies does not seek to downplay the complexities involved. Addressing the various imbalances requires properly defining the role of the State, promoting knowledge and innovation and access to technology, the mobilization of resources, and capable institutions.

²² The concept of “Inclusive Growth” focuses on both the pace and the pattern of economic growth. It adopts a long-term perspective—growth is to be sustained over time, requiring that it be broad-based across sectors (and implying the need for diversification through structural transformation); and it should be inclusive of a large part of the country’s labor force (focused on productive employment and productivity growth, rather than on employment growth alone or income redistribution). The concept of inclusiveness refers to equality of opportunity in terms of access to markets, resources and unbiased regulatory environment for businesses and individuals. See World Bank, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTDEBTDEPT/Resources/468980-1218567884549/WhatIsInclusiveGrowth20081230.pdf>.

²³ Elements of such an enabling environment include: macroeconomic stability; a well-regulated and supervised financial sector; rational fiscal policies, including public investment in the economic infrastructure; an effective framework for private investment; an industrial policy that supports and encourages the development of productive capacity and economic diversification; access to appropriate technology; and a manageable regulatory and legal framework, including with respect to the fight against corruption.

²⁴ The links between food security and employment are explored in ILO (2011).

“prescribed” policies applicable to all countries. There are, however, certain common principles and objectives that should guide governments in the search for the “right” policy mix.

31. **An inclusive growth process should be geared toward the creation of sufficient decent work,** its most important contribution to improving social justice. The policies that foster employment and decent work,²⁵ and effective social dialogue on a more balanced distribution of the gains from growth, also facilitate structural shifts toward employment in more productive sectors and strengthen growth and incomes. Social protection policies provide an additional buffer against shocks and help to speed the recovery from them.²⁶ Inclusive and fairer growth of this kind can thus offer a platform for the achievement of the other objectives, making the outcomes of globalization fairer and more sustainable.

Social policies for fairness and equity

32. **It will often prove necessary to influence and correct market outcomes** to promote fairness and equity, build social cohesion, and reduce vulnerability. Comprehensive and effective social protection systems, education and health policies are central to that effort. These should be seen as a productive investment—in social cohesion, human capital, and individual resilience—rather than as an unavoidable cost.²⁷ This role is even more important in poor countries, where social protection floors can provide some protection at an affordable cost, and can serve as the foundation of more elaborate systems in the future.²⁸

33. **Fiscal policy has a key role to play in shaping more equitable outcomes,** including through an appropriately progressive tax system, effective social programmes, and rational subsidy policies. Public policy is important in other areas—adequate housing policies and effective urban planning, water and sanitation infrastructure, domestic security, and most importantly, investing in human capital through education and health policies. Education is the most critical enabling factor for the achievement of all the objectives of policy, although its impact is usually fully realized only over time. Effective health sector policies and delivery systems contribute to economic performance by assuring or enhancing the capabilities of individuals and enhancing their ability to work productively, and are core elements of a coherent overall social policy.

Recasting national policies to achieve “greener” outcomes

34. **Growth can only be sustained over the long term if it respects the constraints of the natural environment.** Market processes cannot achieve this on their own. They must be effectively harnessed to achieve effective environmental protection and sustainability through reforms of tax and subsidy policies, complemented by environmental regulation and legislation, that change the incentives affecting production and consumption decisions.²⁹ The fiscal space created by such policies can be used to fund green public procurement and investment, address distributional impact of some environmental policies; or to compensate the “losers” of the transition, strengthening the social acceptability of the entire process.³⁰

35. **Other public policies for “greening” outcomes include:** the introduction of payments for ecosystem services;³¹ the public provision of environment-related services (like the collection of recyclable

²⁵ These include the respect for core labour standards; efficient labour market institutions and improved mechanisms for wage determination; as well as policies to foster more inclusive labour markets, together with quality education and training programmes.

²⁶ See ILO (2010).

²⁷ The design of social policies should exploit the linkages to other policies and priorities. For example, conditional cash transfers can be directed at achieving specific objectives in health and education; child support grants can help prevent child labour; public works programmes support employment in economic downturns when overall demand for labour is low, but also contribute to creating local assets especially in infrastructure that enhance overall capacity (see ILO/UNDP (2011)).

²⁸ See ILO (2011c).

²⁹ In this context, see UN-DESA (2011).

³⁰ See UNEP/ILO/IEO/ITUC (2008), page 309.

³¹ The helps to secure the livelihoods that are based on these services and encourage a more sustainable use of eco-systems See TEEB (2009), page 27.

materials, public transportation) and raising awareness of and concern for environmental issues, to expand private substitution possibilities and motivate changes in private demand and behavior.³² However, the green economy will face the same pitfalls as the conventional economy if it is not designed to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development from the outset. Ensuring that the “social” is a part of the “green” and that both are part of the “economy” will also help reduce the resistance to change and thus facilitate the transition process.

Recasting global policies for a fairer, greener, more sustainable globalization

36. **Achieving a fairer, greener, and more sustainable globalization also requires addressing international aspects of policy in a coherent manner.** In a globalised economy, there are limits to the policy space available to national governments. Moreover, many elements of domestic policy and most of the emerging challenges identified in the preceding section cannot be dealt with effectively by individual states.

A coherent global economic framework

37. **The weaknesses of the global economic policy framework and governance system will have to be resolved in order to achieve policy coherence** at both the national and the global level. This is most important in the two central aspects of economic globalization—liberalized trade and finance.

38. **Trade is the area of global policy that has the most developed and effective governance framework.** This rules-based multilateral system has made possible the orderly liberalization of trade, and it effectively prevented a relapse into protectionism during the recent global economic crisis. This effective multilateral trading system must be strengthened, including by completing the Doha Round and by ensuring the consistence of bilateral and regional trade agreements with its rules and disciplines. The multilateral approach should also be extended into other areas, such as the provision of reliable and affordable trade finance; the establishment of an effective framework for international labor mobility; and the regulation of foreign direct investment, based on principles of transparency and accountability.

39. **By contrast, the globalization of finance has occurred largely through national deregulation in the absence of any global framework.** An internationally coordinated framework of prudential regulation and supervision must be put in place to better assess risk, reduce excessive risk-taking and speculation in financial transactions. Progress in these reforms will help to reduce the volatility of capital flows and allow finance to return to its primary role of financing productive activity, even on the global scale.

40. **More effective international coordination of macroeconomic policies is needed to reduce global imbalances** and guard against their resurgence, and enable an effective, timely and coordinated response to systemic risks or major shocks. Other elements of a well-governed international economic policy framework include: a stable international monetary and exchange system, with robust rules of the game, possibly including for coping with volatile capital flows; an effective system of crisis prevention and resolution, including a global financial safety net; and a robust and efficient global reserve system;³³ and stepped-up efforts to fight against harmful tax practices. There is also scope for more global coordination in strengthening productive capacities in low-income and least-developed countries through policies to encourage productive investment and foster private sector development.

Global policies for greater equity and fairness

³² See OECD (2011).

³³ See Mateos y Lago, Duttagupta and Goyal (2009) for an overview of the issues and potential reform options, as well as IMF (2011) and Ocampo (2011). See also, “Global Economic Governance and Development”, Report of the Secretary-General, UN, November 1, 2011, http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/documents/GEGD_SGR_Final_AUV_01.11.11.pdf

41. **Social cohesion has attributes of a global public good**, as the contagion of recent social upheavals across borders has shown. It is crucial to boost international efforts to develop rights-based approaches to policy formulation, including the respect for core labour standards. This, along with efforts to create a social protection floor, can encourage and accelerate progress in all these areas at the national level.

42. **Global cooperation is equally important in the other areas of policy, particularly in health and education.** In many cases, the close link between national and global interest has made health policy an area where global governance arrangements do in fact, work effectively. Successful vertical programmes and global funds in the area of health offer lessons that may be applicable in meeting complex challenges in other areas.³⁴ International support can enable developing countries to overcome their deficits in education, and equip their populations to take advantage of the benefits of globalization, particularly in exploiting the immense potential of information and communication technologies.

43. **Recent surges in food prices and the recurrence of famine in the Horn of Africa demonstrate the need for a concerted and coordinated global response to ensuring food and nutrition security.** Stepped-up international cooperation is needed to reverse the decline in agricultural investment and rural development, enhance agricultural productivity, improve global distribution chains, rationalize the management of food reserves, create effective safety nets, and manage the policy response to the present and future crises.³⁵

Global contributions to “greening” globalization.

44. **Nowhere is the need for international cooperation more pressing than in the protection of the environment.** Damage to the environment respects no borders, nor can national environmental policies be fully effective in isolation. Global coordination will enhance the effectiveness of national public policies for environmental protection, greening the economy, and addressing climate change. It can also reduce the fear of a competitive disadvantage to those countries that move first or furthest to change their environmental policies, or the likelihood of “green” protectionism imposed against countries that have not yet done so. A global framework would also facilitate the transfer of the necessary “green” technologies on appropriate terms, while respecting intellectual property rights. Progress toward a global standard for the accounting of natural capital will also help in assigning a societal and economic value to the use of ecosystem services.

Section 3: The Way Forward: Considerations for Governance and Institutions

45. **The approach to enhancing policy coherence at the national and global levels set out in Section 2 does not aim to produce a new “steady state”**, where further change is unnecessary. Flexible policies and institutions are needed to maintain an appropriate balance among economic, social and environmental objectives. **However, there is a scope for greater global policy coherence** and this section examines options for achieving this such as through international coordination of national policies or specific rules-based multilateral frameworks.

46. A rights-based approach to policy coherence is critical. **This is deemed in this paper to include the concept of Sustainable Development which emphasizes that development should be more people-centred** (focusing on achievement of human well-being, inclusive economic and social development processes, social justice including more equity within and among countries, as well as across generations) **as well as more planet-centred** (respecting planetary boundaries, becoming resource-

³⁴ By contrast, policy coherence in , trade, public health, research and development, and intellectual property is much more difficult to achieve, unless through a well-managed negotiation process among the different interest groups, with collaborative support from international institutions. The UN has played an important role in facilitating agreement on such difficult issues.

³⁵ See HLTf (2011). Food security was also an important pillar of the Seoul G-20 Multi-Year Action Plan on Development <http://un-foodsecurity.org/node/1113>.

efficient, and reducing humanity's ecological footprint through sustainable consumption and production patterns).

Need to examine the coherence of functions, forms and norms

47. **An effective governance system should fulfill certain basic functions:** (i) enable a shared analysis of issues and challenges, and facilitate agreement among social partners and other stakeholders on objectives and possible approaches to achieve them; (ii) identify and build consensus around a range of policies and institutional arrangements that materialize these agreed objectives; (iii) effectively support and encourage the implementation of these policies and approaches; and (iv) monitor implementation, adjust the approaches to changing circumstances, and encourage or enforce compliance among the stakeholders.

48. **Governance systems should give effect to the accumulated normative framework,** and make globalization a potent instrument toward the realisation of the objectives of sustainable development and the attainment of the abovementioned rights for all peoples. The measures of success must be focused on human well being, social justice, environmental sustainability, and participatory governance. The UN system's contribution to this process must be optimized with this objective in mind.

49. **The record of achievement with respect to sustainable development is disappointing,** reflecting a disconnect between the globally agreed goals and aspirations and the national self-interest which guides policies at the national level. The institutional framework and the existing governance arrangements have been largely unable to bridge this gap, in large part because they have been brought into alignment with the ongoing changes in the geopolitical, economic and social landscapes. This may be due to "structural gaps", where the required institutional framework and the operational entities either do not exist or are ineffective. In this case, the governance system cannot fulfill the first two functions set out above, and may require new or modified governance forms. Alternatively, the problem may be one of "implementation gaps", where the framework and operational entities do exist but fail to fulfill the latter two functions of implementation, monitoring and compliance, in which the functioning of the entities may require re-examination.

50. **But even where there are neither structural nor implementation gaps, there may be a deficit of policy coherence,** as decisions are taken without due regard for their consistency with other areas of policy. The effectiveness of the governance systems needed to achieve the necessary coherence depends in large part on the degree of legitimacy such systems enjoy among the various stakeholders. This legitimacy can be deepened through participatory governance systems.

Strengthening governance systems at the national level

51. **Many national governments have under-invested in establishing mechanisms for the meaningful participation of stakeholders** and for enabling their awareness and understanding of public policies and tradeoffs involved. Addressing these shortcomings is an important first step toward developing effective national governance systems capable of achieving the necessary policy coherence for fairer, greener and more sustainable globalization.

Enhancing the social policy framework

52. **In many countries, there is a need to create or reinforce a social policy framework that reflects more comprehensively the right to development.**³⁶ Such a framework would enable a more comprehensive articulation of the objectives of social and environmental policy and their integration in a more balanced way into the overall objectives of government policy. Governance and institutional arrangements that could contribute to ensuring an appropriate balance among the different policy

³⁶ This includes human rights, ILO international labour standards, peace and security including environmental security, equity considerations, including better attention to marginalized groups, and social protection

objectives include: (i) an inter-ministerial committee bringing together the ministries responsible for economic, environmental and social policies for a coherent prioritization of objectives and programming of policies, as well as effective mechanisms for ensuring the involvement of local authorities in policy formulation and implementation; (ii) effective mechanisms for social dialogue among government and all relevant national stakeholders; (iii) a mechanism, such as an ombudsman, to monitor the impact of globalization on distribution and equity and make recommendations for corrective action where necessary, as part of the social policy framework; and (iv) peer review processes, and/or national or sub-regional advisory bodies that oversee implementation of a country's national and global commitments and to measure its progress toward sustainable development.

Strengthening governance systems at the regional level

53. **Regional intergovernmental organizations have the potential to bridge the gap between the national and global levels**, to facilitate the integration of core global objectives into regional and sub-regional approaches, and through them into national policy formulation; and to transmit national concerns to the global level, and vice versa. They can thus be effective fora within which integrated approaches to sustainable development are built. Moreover, regional integration, often motivated by issues rather than driven by institutions, has become a major motor of globalization. Given the high degree of legitimacy enjoyed by regional intergovernmental organizations and the active participation of their member states in their work, these organizations could play an important role in assessing policy implementation, encouraging compliance, fostering accountability among their members, and tracing and monitoring the effects of globalization on national outcomes. Greater policy coherence would also enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.³⁷ The United Nations Regional Commissions could play a particularly important part in this effort.

*Strengthening governance systems at the global level*³⁸

54. There are many inter-governmental frameworks and international organizations within which global issues are debated and policies formulated and implemented. In many respects, however, these institutions tend to operate in “policy silos”, and there exists no effective mechanism for ensuring the integration of their work across institutional mandates—a major “structural gap”. Moreover, many lack effective mechanisms to encourage or enforce compliance—an “implementation gap”.

55. **The United Nations entities, acting collectively or individually, discharge of a range of functions** that can influence the outcomes of the process of globalization—as the source of the human rights-based principles, norms and standards around which national policy should be articulated; as a source of research, technical assistance and policy advice; and as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences. However, globalization has also affected the perception of the UN—there seems to be increasing skepticism about whether the UN as a multilateral framework can facilitate the urgent, cohesive and effective responses that today's challenges demand. This doubt persists despite compelling evidence to the contrary,³⁹ as well as evidence of the system's capacity to reconfigure its operating organizations to elevate certain core objectives and enhance efficiency, as through the creation of UN–Women. The United Nations entities need to further assess whether improved effectiveness of individual

³⁷ Such reflections could be informed by the results of the Regional Commissions' study of regional development institutions.

³⁸ The focus here is on the role of the United Nations system, with particular reference to its facilitative role in global consensus-building and its support to national implementation of that global consensus. This is separate from its role in supporting the efforts of developing countries through in-country operations, the coordination and coherence of which, in the developing countries concerned, is assured through the UNDAF and Delivering as One framework led by the UNDG.

³⁹ Such as the intergovernmental agreement that has effectively dealt with the ozone hole of the planet. The UN system's value-added in other critical areas is reflected in the results of various global processes and the work within its specialized agencies: for example, the Declaration on Human Rights, Convention on the Right of the Child, promulgation of ILO Conventions, formulation of the Millennium Development Goals, and the establishment of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change. These are but a few examples of the UN's role in enabling progress on issues that are central to achieving better outcomes from the globalization process.

parts and collective support to Member States can be achieved through incremental modification of their existing structures, or would require fundamental changes.⁴⁰

56. **There is also a perception that the UN entities are primarily relevant to providing development support to developing countries**, in part because these aspects of their work are the most visible and urgent. However, the United Nations entities possess skills, experience and normative frameworks that are relevant to all Member States, developed or developing, which they should draw on as they cope with the challenges of sustainable development.⁴¹ For the UN system to perform the role in global governance intended by its Charter, the UN system entities must make available their convening, normative, oversight and technical support functions to any country in need of them.

57. **The way in which UN entities build operational and programmatic partnerships among themselves is critical to the effectiveness of their support for Member States, including their contribution to upstream policy-making.** Among developing countries, the One UN approach and the country UNDAFs coordinated by the UNDG allow for this, and make an important contribution to enhanced policy coherence at the country level. It will be important to find ways to promote this kind of coordination in countries and among agencies that are not part of the UNDAF process, and to maximize the contributions from agencies with a specialized remit which are not country-based.

58. **There is need for more trans-sectoral programmes by UN entities and International Financial Institutions in order to make the linkages within complex phenomena.** The UN might emphasise and prioritise the work of cross-agency UN bodies (e.g. UN Energy, UN Oceans, UN Water) in the context of a priority agenda agreed within the HLCP, and deepen and extend inter-agency collaboration.⁴² One critical issue that cuts across sectors is gender equality, without which the achievement of the desired results from globalization will not be possible. Such approaches would also enable the HLCP to take on a more strategic “foresight” function, anticipating and identifying emerging issues from globalization processes and assessing their likely impact on the programmatic agenda of the UN system, as well as providing a “bridge” between the normative functions and the operational/regulatory activities of the UN system.

59. **More fundamental reforms of the UN system may be needed** to ensure that its apex structures contribute to integrating the various dimensions of sustainable development and to better coordination with the international monetary and financial system. Ideas currently in the public domain include: reforming ECOSOC; creating a Sustainable Development Council along the lines of the Human Rights Council; or creating a Global Economic Coordination Council.^{43,44} Challenges facing such an apex structure include ensuring its legitimacy, authority, and efficiency; giving it “teeth”; and defining its relationship to other UN bodies and to International Financial Institutions.

60. **Monitoring the social and economic impacts of globalization is essential.** A special rapporteur (as practiced in the Human Rights Council), reporting independently to any eventual apex organization might be considered; or a commission made up of representatives of governments, stakeholders, the UN system and International Financial Institutions, which could make recommendations for national or global follow-up as necessary.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ An important issue in this context is the sustainability of the UN’s present funding model.

⁴¹ This will be an important determinant of how effectively the UN system can contribute to elaborating a post-2015 development agenda, and the eventual formulation of a framework of sustainable development goals.

⁴² Examples of this are the joint preparation by 40 agencies of a report on making the transition to a Green Economy; the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis; the inter-agency Social Protection Floor Initiative; the Secretary-General’s Global Strategy on Women and Children; and UNAIDS; and the joint work of the ILO and the IMF on employment and labour market issues and their relation to macroeconomic policy, social protection floors, and promoting social dialogue

⁴³ See Stiglitz (2009b).

⁴⁴ Some of these ideas, including how global environmental governance might be strengthened, are being considered by Member States within the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

⁴⁵ However, the legislative, political, operational and resource implications of these proposals would need careful consideration.

Measuring Success

61. **How “success” is defined will critically shape the policies pursued.** Tracking progress would require appropriate and comprehensive measures that better reflect whether the goals are being achieved and that measure performance in terms of inclusive wealth, levels of human well-being, and environmental sustainability. Such measures would need to be integrated into national accounting frameworks. If the focus remains on growth in the Gross Domestic Product rather than on improved human well-being and social equity, there is little hope for achieving sustainable development.⁴⁶

62. **Fortunately many building blocks towards such measures already exist.** These include: indicators of sustainable development, developed through the Commission for Sustainable Development; the UN System of Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), a statistical system that helps identify and monetize, where possible, the environmental impacts of economic activities; the Human Development Index (HDI) which integrates economic and social dimensions, but not yet environmental ones; the ILO project on Decent Work indicators; the OECD’s initiative on Measuring the Progress of Societies; and measures associated with the Millennium Development Goals.

63. **The United Nations system, International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks all have a key role to play** in supporting countries in developing these building blocks into an appropriate set of measures for sustainable development, and embedding them into national systems of accounting. However, ensuring coherence among their respective activities will be crucial, and cooperation among agencies will make the best use of their expertise.

⁴⁶ This is examined in detail in Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi (2009).

References:

Berg, Andrew, and Jonathan Ostry (2011), “Inequality and Unsustainable Growth: Two Sides of the Same Coin?”, IMF Staff Discussion Note SDN/11/08, available at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2011/sdn1108.pdf>.

Bourguignon, François, Diane Coyle, Raquel Fernández, Francesco Giavazzi, Dali Marin, Kevin O’Rourke, Richard Portes, Paul Seabright, Anthony Venables, Thierry Verdier, and L. Alan Winters, (2002). “Making Sense of Globalization: a Guide to the Economic Issues”. *CEPR Policy Paper Series*, Vol. 8. London.

Dreher A., M. Gassebner and L-H. Siemers. (2010). “Globalization, Economic Freedom and Human Rights”. *CEGE Discussion Paper No. 115*, Centre for European Governance and Economic Development Research (CEGE), Göttingen.

Fischer, Stanley. 2003. “Globalization and Its Challenges.” *American Economic Review*, 93(2): 1-30.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2011), “The State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2011”.

Hickman, D.C., and W.W. Olney. 2011. “Globalization and Investment in Human Capital”. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*. 64(4).

ILO (2004), World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization: A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All.

—— (2008), “World of Work Report”, 2008.

—— (2010): “Building an employment-oriented framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth” in IMF/ILO (2010): “The Challenges of Growth, Employment and Social Cohesion”, Discussion Document for the Joint ILO/IMF Conference in cooperation with the office of the Prime Minister of Norway.

—— (2011a), Report from the ILO Director-General to the June 2011 session of the International Labour Conference, “A new era of social justice”.

—— (2011b), “World of Work Report, 2011”.

—— (2011c), “Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization”, Report of the Advisory Group Chaired by Michelle Bachelet.

ILO and UNDP (2011) – “Inclusive and Resilient Development: The Role of Social Protection”. A paper prepared by ILO and UNDP for the G20 Development Working Group, 2010-2011, June 2011

IMF (2007), “World Economic Outlook: Spillovers and Cycles in the Global Economy”, April 2007, Chapter 5—The Globalization of Labour.

—— (2010), “Modernizing the Surveillance Mandate and Modalities”, IMF, March 26, 2010, available at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2010/032610.pdf>.

—— (2011), “Enhancing International Monetary Stability—A Role for the SDR?”, IMF, January 7, 2011, available at <http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4523>.

Lee, E., and M. Vivarelli. 2006. "The social impact of globalization in the developing countries", *CSRG Working Paper No. 199/06*, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR), Warwick.

Mateos y Lago, Isabelle, Rupa Duttagupta, and Rishi Goyal (2009), "The Debate on the International Monetary System", IMF Staff Position Note SPN/09/26; November 11, 2009, available at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/spn/2009/spn0926.pdf>. (2009)

Mishkin, F.S. 2009. "Globalization and Financial Development". *Journal of Development Economics*. 89: 164-169.

Ocampo, José Antonio (2011), "Reforming the International Monetary System", WIDER Annual Lecture No. 14, UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, 2011: http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/annual-lectures/en_GB/AL14/_files/85615487616679947/default/WAL2011-14.pdf

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (2008), "Growing Unequal", OECD Publishing, Paris.

— (2011), "Greening Household Behavior: The Role of Public Policy", OECD Publishing.

— (2011b), "Divided We Stand: Why Inequality Keeps Rising", OECD Publishing.

Ortiz, Isabel, and Matthew Cummins (2011), "Global Inequality: Beyond the Bottom Billion – A Rapid Review of Income Distribution in 141 Countries", UNICEF. http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_58230.html

Pissarides, C., and Rachel Ngai, (2008), "Employment Outcomes in the Welfare State" *Revue Economique*, 59 (May 2008).

Portugal, Murilo (2010), Opening Remarks by Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director, IMF, Delivered at a Seminar on Financial Sector Taxation, Paris, September 16, 2010, available at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/speeches/2010/091610a.htm>.

Rajan, R., and L. Zingales. 2003. "The great reversals: the politics of financial development in the 20th century." *Journal of Financial Economics*. 69 (1): 5–50.

Spence, Michael, and Sandile Hlatshwayo (2011), Jobs and Structure in the Global Economy, Project Syndicate, 2011, <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/spence21/English>.

Stiglitz, Joseph (2009a), "The global crisis, social protection and jobs", *International Labour Review*, Vol. 148, 2009.

—(2009b), "Report of the Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System", September 21, 2009.

Stiglitz, Joseph, A. Sen, and J.P. Fitoussi (2009), "Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social progress", at www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr.

Strauss-Kahn, Dominique A (2011), "Global Challenges, Global Solutions" – an Address at George Washington University, April 4, 2011, <http://www.imf.org/external/np/speeches/2011/040411.htm>.

TEEB (2009), "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Mainstreaming the Economics of Nature: TEEB For National and International Policy Makers - Summary: Responding to the Value of Nature", page 27.

—(2010), "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Mainstreaming the Economics of Nature: A synthesis of the approach, conclusions and recommendations of TEEB."

UNCTAD (2011), “Trade and Development Report”.

UN-DESA (2011), “Report on the World Social Situation, 2011: The Global Social Crisis”.

——(2011), “World Economic and Social Survey, 2011: The Great Green Technological Transformation”.

UNDP (2010), Human Development Report 2010: The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development.

UNEP/ILO/IOE/ITUC (2008), “Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World” September 2008.

UNEP (2011), “Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication”, <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport/tabid/29846/Default.aspx>.

UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF) (2011), “Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action”, http://un-foodsecurity.org/sites/default/files/UCFA_English.pdf

World Bank (2005), World Development Report: “Equity and Development”.

WTO (2008), “World Trade Report, 2008”.

WTO and ILO (2011), “Making Globalization Socially Sustainable”.

**Note by the Secretary-General
on the Report of the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability**

“Resilient people, resilient planet: a future worth choosing” (A/66/700)

Annex I - List of recommendations

Recommendations for empowering people to make sustainable choices

1. Governments and international donors should scale up their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals to eradicate poverty and to reduce inequalities as top priorities for attaining sustainable development.
2. Governments should respect, protect and provide for human rights, including the right to take part in government directly or through freely chosen representatives, as recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
3. Governments should accelerate the implementation of commitments to advance gender equality and women’s rights, including through the repeal of discriminatory laws and removal of formal barriers, the reform of institutions and the development and adoption of innovative measures to address informal and cultural practices that act as barriers. Particular emphasis should be given to:
 - (a) Ensuring that women have full and equal access to and control over productive resources through the equal right to own property and the right to inherit, and equal access to credit, financial and extension services along the entire value chain;
 - (b) Ensuring women’s equal rights and opportunities in political decision-making processes that are participatory, responsive, equitable and inclusive;
 - (c) Ensuring universal access to quality and affordable family-planning and other sexual and reproductive rights and health services.
4. Governments should consider establishing a global fund for education. This fund should be designed to attract support from Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, evolve out of the current World Bank Global Partnership for Education, and be tasked with closing the primary school education gap by 2015 so that there can be real hope for realizing Millennium Development Goal 2.
5. Governments should scale up their efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goal 2 on universal primary education by 2015, and establish a goal of providing universal access to quality post-primary and secondary education no later than 2030, emphasizing the skills and knowledge needed for sustainable growth and jobs.
6. Governments, the private sector, civil society and relevant international development partners should work together to provide vocational training, retraining and professional development within the context of lifelong learning geared to filling skills shortages in sectors essential to sustainable development. They should prioritize women, young people and vulnerable groups in these efforts.
7. Governments should adopt and advance “green jobs” and decent work policies as a priority in their budgets and sustainable development strategies while creating conditions for new jobs in the private sector.

8. Governments and business should build partnerships and provide start-up services for young entrepreneurs.
9. Employers, Governments and trade unions should take a comprehensive approach to advancing equality in the workplace, including by adopting principles of non-discrimination; measures to advance women into leadership roles; gender-sensitive work-life and health policies; education, training and professional development targeting women and minorities; and commitments to measure and publicly report on progress.
10. Governments and business should recognize the economic benefits of enabling the full participation of women in the economy by putting in place economic policies that explicitly address the unique challenges that limit women, in particular:
 - (a) Allowing access for women farmers to land and resources;
 - (b) Improving women's access to capital and financial services;
 - (c) Improving access to markets through trade and technical assistance programmes and microfinance;
 - (d) Supporting the rise of women leaders in the public and private sectors.
11. Governments and other public authorities should promote open, transparent, balanced and science-based processes for developing labelling schemes and other mechanisms that fully reflect the impact of production and consumption, and work with the private sector to ensure that labelling, corporate reporting and advocacy are accurate, cost-effective and trustworthy so as to enable consumers to make informed choices, particularly in areas of high impact on human and natural systems, without creating barriers to trade.
12. Governments should make sustainable choices more easily available, affordable and attractive to consumers by setting, together with the private sector, sustainable product standards, in accordance with the best available technology and without creating trade barriers, and by applying price incentives and disincentives.
13. Government and non-governmental entities should promote the concept of sustainable development and sustainable consumption, and these should be integrated into curricula of primary and secondary education.
14. The Panel welcomes discourse on the ethical dimensions of sustainable development at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012 among all stakeholders, based on relevant experience and instruments, including the Earth Charter, to inform Governments in their efforts to shift to sustainable development.
15. Governments and international organizations should work to create a new green revolution — an “ever-green revolution” — for the twenty-first century that aims to at least double productivity while drastically reducing resource use and avoiding further loss of biodiversity, topsoil loss and water depletion and contamination, including through the scaling-up of investment in agricultural research and development, to ensure that cutting-edge research is rapidly moved from laboratory to field. Governments should task FAO with working with key partners and stakeholders to initiate and coordinate this task, as that organization has a unique mandate to reduce the world food deficit.
16. Governments should work towards agreement on global principles for sustainable and responsible land and water investment deals, including ongoing efforts to promote responsible agricultural investment (RAI), with particular emphasis on protecting the rights and livelihoods of poor people who depend on these basic resources, while ensuring environmental sustainability.
17. Governments should establish and scale up integrated water resource management schemes, bearing fully in mind that water plays multifaceted roles, including for drinking, sanitation, agriculture, industry and energy.
18. Governments should commit to the establishment of regional oceans and coastal management frameworks in major marine ecosystems, including through:
 - (a) Enhanced cooperation in oceans and coastal management involving relevant stakeholders;

(b) Marine and coastal planning by countries in regional areas, taking into account the specific needs, ecosystems and users in their area and supported by solid funding mechanisms to develop and implement these plans;

(c) Building the capacity of marine managers, policymakers and scientists in developing countries, especially small island developing countries and other coastal States;

(d) Enhanced monitoring and surveillance systems.

19. Where regional fisheries management organizations are operating they should seek to make their policies and practices consistent with and support coordinated regional oceans management. Regional fisheries management organizations, Governments and marine managers should focus on an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management in order to deliver improved economic and environmental benefits.

20. Governments should work in concert with appropriate stakeholders to ensure universal access to affordable sustainable energy by 2030, as well as seek to double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Governments and international organizations should promote energy-saving technologies and renewable energy through the incentivization of research and development and investment in them.

21. Governments should work with appropriate stakeholders to provide citizens, especially those in remote areas, with access to technologies, including universal telecommunications and broadband networks, by 2025.

22. Governments, international financial institutions and major companies should be encouraged to engage in international cooperation on innovation- and technology-oriented sustainable development on an enlarged scale, enhancing the technological capability of developing countries and taking full advantage of the potential roles played by climate-friendly technologies in dealing with global climate change and in developing a green economy. The agreements reached under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancun and Durban are a good step in this direction.

23. Countries should work to ensure that all citizens are provided with access to basic safety nets through appropriate national efforts and the provision of appropriate capacity, finance and technology.

24. Governments should develop and implement policies to manage the economic and social impacts of transition and enhance resilience — in particular through targeted social protection programmes and policies and by scaling up humanitarian capacities to deal with increasing environmental stress and potential shocks, where appropriate.

25. Governments and international organizations should accelerate efforts to produce regional exposure and vulnerability assessments and appropriate precautionary strategies to prevent adverse impacts on social and natural systems that are fully focused on people's needs, with priority accorded to the special needs of Africa, small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

26. Governments and international organizations should increase the resources allocated to adaptation and disaster risk reduction and integrate resilience planning into their development budgets and strategies.

Recommendations for a sustainable economy

27. Governments should establish price signals that value sustainability to guide the consumption and investment decisions of households, businesses and the public sector. In particular, Governments could:

(a) Establish natural resource and externality pricing instruments, including carbon pricing, through mechanisms such as taxation, regulation or emissions trading systems, by 2020;

(b) Ensure that policy development reflects the positive benefits of the inclusion of women, youth and the poor through their full participation in and contribution to the economy, and also account for the economic, environmental and social costs;

(c) Reform national fiscal and credit systems to provide long-term incentives for sustainable practices, as well as disincentives for unsustainable behaviour;

(d) Develop and expand national and international schemes for payments for ecosystem services in such areas as water use, farming, fisheries and forestry systems;

(e) Address price signals that distort the consumption and investment decisions of households, businesses and the public sector and undermine sustainability values. Governments should move towards the transparent disclosure of all subsidies, and should identify and remove those subsidies which cause the greatest detriment to natural, environmental and social resources;

(f) Phase out fossil fuel subsidies and reduce other perverse or trade-distorting subsidies by 2020. The reduction of subsidies must be accomplished in a manner that protects the poor and eases the transition for affected groups when the products or services concerned are essential.

28. Governments, other public institutions such as universities, and international organizations should develop sustainable development criteria for their procurement, with the aim of achieving a shift towards cost-effective sustainable procurement over the next 10 years, and should issue annual public reports on their progress as from 2015.

29. Governments should develop standards for production and resource extraction to support the transition to a sustainable global economy. They should further encourage widespread adoption and uptake by business of voluntary sustainability principles derived from international agreements and conventions.

30. Governments should promote and incentivize the inclusion of long-term sustainable development criteria in investment and transactions conducted by companies, including financial transactions. Business groups should work with Governments and international agencies to develop a framework for sustainable development reporting, and should consider mandatory reporting by corporations with market capitalizations larger than \$100 million.

31. Businesses should seek to align their business practices with universally accepted principles concerning human rights, labour, environmental sustainability and the fight against corruption, such as those set forth in the Global Compact.

32. Given the importance of large pools of private and sovereign capital to enable the transition to sustainable development, we call on the following entities to explore a range of measures to apply sustainable development criteria, including:

(a) The boards of sovereign wealth funds and of national and international public pension funds, as well as other major financial institutions, in their investment decisions;

(b) Governments or stock market regulators, to adopt or revise regulations in order to encourage their use;

(c) Stock exchanges, to facilitate their application in the analysis of companies and their reports on compliance;

(d) Governments, to develop incentives and create an enabling environment by making boards of directors attentive to them (fiduciary duty);

(e) Governments and credit rating agencies, to integrate them into their respective risk assessments.

33. Governments, international institutions and international development banks should step up their efforts to promote sustainable development and to assess and monitor adequately the consequences of their policies in the social and environmental spheres. Multilateral and regional development banks and export credit agencies should apply sustainable development criteria, while considering country risks.

34. Governments and business should build strategic partnerships between themselves and local communities for the implementation of sustainable development investments.

35. Governments, international financial institutions and major companies should work together to create incentives for increased investments in sustainable technologies, innovations and

infrastructures, including through the adoption of policies and targets that reduce investor uncertainty; the promotion of public-private networks to support research and development; the development of risk guarantee schemes and the provision of risk capital; and seed financing.

36. Governments should use public investment to create enabling frameworks that catalyse very substantial additional financing from the private sector, for example, through the provision of infrastructure, risk-sharing, viability gap funding or advance purchase commitments.

37. Governments should seek to incentivize investment in sustainable development by shaping investor calculations about the future through, in particular, the greater use of risk-sharing mechanisms and the enhancement of certainty about the long-term regulatory and policy environment. Measures could include targets for renewable energy or conservation, waste reduction, water conservation, access to carbon markets through the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol or sustained prospects for public financing.

38. Governments and the financial sector should develop innovative partnerships to provide capacity-building and increased access to capital, as a means of incentivizing small and medium-sized enterprises and enabling them to take part in the new sustainable economy.

39. To measure progress on sustainable development, a Sustainable Development Index or set of indicators should be developed by 2014. To this end, the Secretary-General should appoint a technical task force, including relevant stakeholders.

Recommendations for strengthening institutional governance

40. As a basis for sustainable development, Governments should ensure the rule of law, good governance and citizens' rights of access to official information, public participation in decision-making and equal access to justice.

41. Governments should enable young people's participation in and influence on decision-making processes at the local, national and international levels. In addition, consultation processes and dialogue should be encouraged to incorporate voices from non-conventional networks and youth communities, such as Internet forums and opinion-making blogs.

42. Governments should adopt whole-of-Government approaches to sustainable development issues, under the leadership of the Head of State or Government and involving all relevant ministries for addressing such issues across sectors.

43. Governments and parliaments should incorporate the sustainable development perspective into their strategies, their legislation and, in particular, their budget processes. To this end, they should take into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of such issues as poverty eradication, job creation, inequality reduction, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, energy, climate change, biodiversity and green growth. They should explore ways to incorporate specific sustainability considerations into budget oversight, report publicly on relevant activities and make budgets accessible to their citizens.

44. Measures should be taken to strengthen the interface between policymaking and science in order to facilitate informed political decision-making on sustainable development issues. Representatives of the scientific community could be included as members or advisers in relevant national or local bodies dealing with sustainable development issues.

45. The Panel recognizes the universal aspiration to sustainable development. It also recognizes the diversity of national circumstances and of social, economic and environmental challenges. The Panel calls for a process to explore the concept and application of the critical issue of equity in relation to sustainable development, with a view to feeding the outcome into the Rio+20 process and its follow-up.

46. Bilateral donors, international institutions and development banks should step up their efforts to promote sustainable development in a comprehensive way and should monitor and report on the impact of their sustainable development policies on a regular basis.

47. As international sustainable development policy is fragmented and, in particular, the environmental pillar is weak, UNEP should be strengthened.

48. Governments should agree to develop a set of key universal sustainable development goals, covering all three dimensions of sustainable development as well as their interconnections. Such goals should galvanize individual and collective action and complement the Millennium Development Goals, while allowing for a post-2015 framework. An expert mechanism should be established by the Secretary-General to elaborate and refine the goals before their adoption by United Nations Member States.
49. The Panel endorses the Secretary-General's "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative, which should be implemented without delay.
50. The Secretary-General should lead a joint effort with the heads of relevant international organizations, including relevant United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to prepare a regular global sustainable development outlook report that brings together information and assessments currently dispersed across institutions, and analyses them in an integrated way.
51. Governments and the scientific community should take practical steps, including through the launching of a major global scientific initiative, to strengthen the interface between policy and science. This should include the preparation of regular assessments and digests of the science around such concepts as "planetary boundaries", "tipping points" and "environmental thresholds" in the context of sustainable development. This would complement other scientific work on the sustainable development agenda, including its economic and social aspects, to improve data and knowledge concerning socio-economic factors such as inequality. In addition, the Secretary-General should consider naming a chief scientific adviser or establishing a scientific advisory board with diverse knowledge and experience to advise him or her and other organs of the United Nations.
52. Governments should consider creating a global sustainable development council to improve the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, address emerging issues and review sustainability progress, with meetings held on a regular basis throughout the year. This body could be a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and would replace the Commission on Sustainable Development. It would need to have a broad geographical and political membership and to fully engage relevant international institutions — including United Nations agencies and the international financial institutions — and non-State actors from civil society, the private sector and science.
53. Such a council would develop a peer review mechanism that would encourage States, in a constructive spirit, to explain their policies, to share experiences and lessons learned, and to fulfil their commitments.
54. Governments should also use existing institutions in a much more dynamic way, including by using the period between the holding in 2012 of Rio+20 and 2015 for deliberate review and experimentation, in order to incorporate tested solutions into any post-2015 development framework and institutional reform.
55. The Secretary-General should expedite the development of a sustainable development strategy for the United Nations system in order to contribute to coherence, better define responsibilities among United Nations bodies, reduce overlap and duplication and improve accountability for implementation. The strategy should be reviewed by all relevant United Nations bodies and governing boards, with a special effort being made to forge a unified view among countries common to all boards and processes.
56. The Secretary-General should make full use of the United Nations as the world's meeting place, convening periodic high-level exchanges on sustainable development when leaders meet at the opening of the new session of the General Assembly. Such gatherings should be used to set the agenda and address emerging issues by bringing together Heads of State or Government, heads of international institutions and representatives of civil society and the private sector.

Final Draft – UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

1. Introduction

“Every journalist killed or neutralized by terror is an observer less of the human condition. Every attack distorts reality by creating a climate of fear and self-censorship”⁴⁷

- 1.1. In recent years, there has been disquieting evidence of the scale and number of attacks against the physical safety of journalists and media workers as well as of incidents affecting their ability to exercise freedom of expression by threats of prosecution, arrest, imprisonment, denial of journalistic access, and failures to investigate and prosecute crimes against them. This evidence has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community by inter-governmental organizations, professional associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders.
- 1.2. Statistics gathered by UNESCO, as well as by other organizations such as the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), the International News Safety Institute (INSI), the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) and the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) all testify to the staggering number of journalists and media workers killed while performing their professional duties.
- 1.3. Furthermore, according to IFEX, in nine out of ten cases, the perpetrators of these crimes are never prosecuted. Impunity, which may be understood as the failure to bring perpetrators of human rights violations to justice, perpetuates the cycle of violence against journalists and must be addressed.
- 1.4. The safety of journalists and the struggle against impunity for their killers are essential to preserve the fundamental right to freedom of expression, guaranteed by Article 19 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Freedom of expression is an individual right, for which no one should be killed, but it is also a collective right, which empowers populations through facilitating dialogue, participation and democracy, and thereby makes autonomous and sustainable development possible.
- 1.5. Without freedom of expression, and particularly freedom of the press, an informed, active and engaged citizenry is impossible. In a climate where journalists are safe, citizens find it easier to access quality information and many objectives become possible as a result: democratic governance and poverty reduction; conservation of the environment; gender equality and the empowerment of women; justice and a culture of human rights, to name a few. Hence, while the problem of impunity is not restricted to the failure to investigate the murders of journalists and media workers, the curtailment of their expression deprives society as a whole of their journalistic contribution and results in a wider impact on press freedom where a climate of intimidation and violence leads to self censorship. In such a climate societies suffer because they lack the information needed to fully realize their potential. Efforts to end impunity with respect to crimes against journalists must be associated with the defence and protection of human rights defenders, more generally. In addition, the protection of journalists should not be limited to those formally recognised as journalists, but should cover others, including community media workers and

⁴⁷ Barry James in *Press Freedom: Safety of Journalists and Impunity*. UNESCO Publications: 2002

citizen journalists and others who may be using new media as a means of reaching their audiences.

- 1.6. Promoting the safety of journalists and fighting impunity must not be constrained to after-the fact action. Instead, it requires prevention mechanisms and actions to address some of the root causes of violence against journalists and of impunity. This implies the need to deal with issues such as corruption, organized crime and an effective framework for the rule of law in order to respond to negative elements. In addition, the existence of laws that curtail freedom of expression (e.g. overly restrictive defamation laws), must be addressed. The media industry also must deal with low wages and improving journalistic skills. To whatever extent possible, the public must be made aware of these challenges in the public and private spheres and the consequences from a failure to act. The protection of journalists should adapt to the local realities affecting journalists. Journalists reporting on corruption and organized crime, for example, are increasingly targeted by organized crime groups and parallel powers. Approaches that are tailored to local needs should be encouraged.
- 1.7. In light of the above, a number of measures have been adopted by the United Nations (UN) to strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms designed to ensure the safety of journalists in both conflict and non-conflict areas. The UN's strengths and opportunities lie in the areas of building free, independent and pluralistic media as well as the legal frameworks and democratic institutions to support it.
- 1.8. At the international level, the UN Security Council adopted *Resolution S/RES/1738* in 2006, which established a coherent, action-oriented approach to the safety of journalists in armed conflicts. Since then, the UN Secretary-General has presented an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this Resolution.
- 1.9. Additionally, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) plays an important role in raising awareness regarding the issue, including through its reports to the Human Rights Council (HRC). It works in close cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Expression and Opinion and is mandated to: gather information relating to violations of freedom of expression; seek, receive and respond to relevant information from governments, NGOs and other parties; and make recommendations on how best to promote freedom of expression. A number of other Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on Extra-judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Execution; the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women; the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Working Groups on Forced Disappearances and Arbitrary Detentions are also all relevant in this regard.
- 1.10. As the United Nations specialized agency with a mandate to 'promote the free flow of ideas by word and image'⁴⁸, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been an important player in the defence of freedom of expression through the promotion of the safety of journalists and the fight against impunity. Often in collaboration with other organizations, UNESCO has taken a number of decisive actions in this field. For example, it has been working together with Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) to publish a regularly updated practical guide for journalists working in conflict zones, now available in ten languages. In 2008, UNESCO co-authored a UN Charter for the Safety of Journalists Working in War Zones or Dangerous Areas, which includes a commitment by the media, public authorities and journalists to systematically seek ways to reduce the risks involved. It has also supported a number of organizations to provide safety and risk awareness training for journalists and media workers.

⁴⁸ UNESCO Constitution 1945, Article 1

- 1.11. In addition to these practical steps, UNESCO has undertaken a number of activities designed to raise awareness about journalists' safety and the issue of impunity. Among UNESCO's flagship activities in this area are *World Press Freedom Day*, celebrated every year on May 3rd, and the *Guillermo Cano/UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize*, intended to honour the work of an individual or an organization defending or promoting freedom of expression anywhere in the world, especially in dangerous conditions. The importance of this issue was further highlighted by the *Medellin Declaration*⁴⁹ of 2007, which specifically focuses on securing the safety of journalists and combating impunity in both conflict and non-conflict situations, and the *Belgrade Declaration* of 2004, which focused on supporting media in violent conflict-zones and countries in transition. In line with Resolution 29, of the 29th session of UNESCO's General Conference, the Director General has, since 1997, publicly condemned the killing of individual journalists and media workers, as well as massive and repetitive violations of press freedom and urged the competent authorities to discharge their duty of preventing, investigating and punishing such crimes. Finally, the *International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)* plays a crucial role in promoting the safety of journalists and combating impunity. As well as developing projects to address this issue in the field, IPDC has, since 2008, encouraged Member States to submit information, on a voluntary basis, on the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned by UNESCO, for inclusion in a public report submitted every two years to the IPDC Council by the Director-General.
- 1.12. International legal instruments represent one of the key tools that the international community, including the United Nations (UN), has at its disposal in the struggle for the safety of journalists and against impunity. These are internationally recognized and often legally binding. Relevant conventions, declarations and resolutions include the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*; the *Geneva Conventions*; the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*; *UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2005/81*; the *UN Security Council Resolution 1738 (2006)*.
- 1.13. Regional systems in the human rights context are also essential, instituted within the framework of regional and sub-regional organisations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR); the African Union (AU); the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Whilst there are many international legal instruments addressing human rights in general, only a small number are specifically concerned with the situation of journalists and their safety.
- 1.14. Some of the regional systems are also reinforced by monitoring bodies which observe the level of state compliance with their commitments, and call attention to violations when necessary. These include the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression within the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR), the Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Expression and Access to Information within the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa, and the Special Representative on Freedom of the Media in the OSCE.
- 1.15. At the national level, many agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system are also working toward an approach which promotes the safety of journalists and addresses the issue of impunity. This is relevant to the UN strategic discussions and joint programming within the Delivering as One framework.
- 1.16. While recognizing that investigating crimes against journalists remains the responsibility of Member States, the acts of violence and intimidation (including murder, abduction, hostage taking, harassment, intimidation and illegal arrest and detention) are becoming ever more frequent in a variety of contexts. Notably, the threat posed by non-state actors such as terrorist

⁴⁹ Read Medellin Declaration at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/world-pressfreedom-day/previous-celebrations/worldpressfreedomday2009000/medellin-declaration/>

organizations and criminal enterprises is growing. This merits a careful, context sensitive consideration of the differing needs of journalists in conflict and non-conflict zones, as well as of the different legal instruments available to ensure their protection. It also necessitates an investigation into how the dangers faced by journalists in situations that do not qualify as armed conflicts in the strictest sense (such as sustained confrontation between organized crime groups) may be dealt with.

- 1.17. Female journalists also face increasing dangers, highlighting the need for a gender-sensitive approach. In carrying out their professional duties, they often risk sexual assault, whether in the form of a targeted sexual violation, often in reprisal for their work; mob-related sexual violence aimed against journalists covering public events; or the sexual abuse of journalists in detention or captivity. Furthermore, many of these crimes are not reported as a result of powerful cultural and professional stigmas.⁵⁰
- 1.18. There is a pressing need for the various UN agencies, funds and programmes to develop a single, strategic and harmonized approach to the issue of the safety of journalists and the impunity of perpetrators of crimes against them. In light of this, in March 2010, the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC⁵¹ called on the Director-General of UNESCO “to consult with Member States on the feasibility of convening an inter-agency meeting of all relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes in order to design a joint UN strategy on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue to Impunity.” On the basis of the responses received following this consultation, the UNESCO Director-General decided to organize a *UN Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity* in September 2011. The conclusions drawn from this meeting will be articulated in a Plan of Action, which will formulate a **comprehensive, coherent, and action-oriented UN-wide approach to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.**

2. Justification

- 2.1. This Plan of Action is needed to uphold the fundamental right of freedom of expression and, in so doing, to ensure that citizens are well informed and actively participate in society at large. The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are collectively well-placed to address this issue. They possess long-established platforms through which to voice concerns and propose solutions and a vital network of partner organizations and UN offices in the field. In addition, as intergovernmental organizations they can encourage Member State cooperation and sharing of best practices, as well as exercise “quiet diplomacy” with Member States when necessary.

3. Principles

The proposed Action plan is based on the following principles:

- 3.1. Joint action in the spirit of enhancing system-wide efficiency and coherence;
- 3.2. Building on the strengths of different agencies to foster synergies and to avoid duplication;
- 3.3. A results-based approach, prioritizing actions and interventions for maximum impact;
- 3.4. A human rights-based approach;
- 3.5. A gender-sensitive approach;
- 3.6. A disability-sensitive approach;
- 3.7. Incorporation of the safety of journalists and the struggle against impunity into the United Nation’s broader developmental objectives;

⁵⁰ Lauren James, ‘The Silencing Crime: Sexual Violence Against Journalists’. Committee to Protect Journalists: 2011

⁵¹ IPDC Decision on the Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity, Available at http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/ipdc2010_safety_decision_final.pdf

- 3.8. Implementation of the principles of the February 2005 *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* (ownership, alignment, harmonisation, results and mutual accountability);
- 3.9. Strategic partnerships beyond the UN system, harnessing the initiatives of various international, regional and local organizations dedicated to the safety of journalists and media workers;
- 3.10. A context-sensitive, multi-disciplinary approach to the root causes of threats to Journalists and impunity;
- 3.11. Robust mechanisms (indicators) for monitoring and evaluating the impact of interventions and strategies reflecting the UN's core values.

4. Objective

- 4.1. Working toward the creation of a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide.

5. Proposed Actions

Strengthening UN Mechanisms

- 5.1. Identify the role of UN agencies, funds and programmes in combating impunity surrounding attacks against journalists and its wider causes with a view toward establishing focal points in order to strengthen the specific contribution of each relevant UN actor by creating effective forms of intervention to achieve the goals set out in the Plan of Action beginning with regular inter-agency meetings, for example;
- 5.2. In order to enhance UN system-wide coherence, establish a coordinated inter-agency mechanism for follow-up and evaluating matters of concern on the issue of the safety of journalists and impunity, including regular reviews of progress at the national and international level and continuing to address the issue by supporting a joint message on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on the situation of media freedom around the world, for example;
- 5.3. Incorporate the issues of the safety of journalists and of the impunity of attacks against them into UN strategies at country level. This would mean, for example, encouraging the inclusion of an indicator on the safety of journalists based on the UNESCO Media Development Indicators in country analysis and taking the findings into consideration in programming;
- 5.4. More generally, promote the inclusion of freedom of expression and media development goals, in particular the safety of journalists and impunity, within the wider UN development agenda;
- 5.5. Work toward strengthening the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the mandate and resources of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, and of the Special Rapporteurs on Extra-judicial Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Violence against Women and Torture.

Cooperating with Member States

- 5.6. Assist Member States to develop legislation and mechanisms guaranteeing freedom of expression and information, including, for example, requirements that States effectively investigate and prosecute crimes against freedom of expression;
- 5.7. Assist Member States to fully implement existing international rules and principles, as well as to improve, where needed, national legislation on safeguarding journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in conflict and non-conflict situations;

- 5.8. Encourage Member States to take an active role in the prevention of attacks against journalists, and take prompt action in response to attacks by establishing national emergency mechanisms, which different stakeholders can adopt, for example;
- 5.9. Encourage Member States to comply fully with UNESCO General Conference *Resolution 29*⁵², entitled ‘Condemnation of Violence against Journalists,’ which calls upon Member States to adopt the principle that there should be no statute of limitations on persons guilty of crimes against freedom of expression; to refine and promote legislation in this field and to ensure that defamation becomes a civil, not a criminal action;
- 5.10. Encourage Member States to comply with the IPDC’s Decisions on *the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*, and submit information on the actions taken to prevent impunity for killings of journalists, and on the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned by UNESCO;
- 5.11. Encourage Member States to explore ways of broadening the scope of Security Council Resolution 1738, to include the promotion of the safety of journalists and the fight against impunity in non-conflict situations as well.

Partnering with Other Organizations and Institutions

- 5.12. Reinforce collaboration between UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, at both international and regional levels, and encourage the incorporation of media development programmes, in particular on the safety of journalists, into their strategies;
- 5.13. Strengthen partnerships between the UN and civil society organizations and professional associations dedicated to monitoring the safety of journalists and media workers at national, regional and international levels. This could include sharing up-to-date information and best practices with partner organizations and field offices and conducting joint missions and investigations into particular cases;
- 5.14. Whereas corruption can affect all sectors of society, in line with the principles of the UN Convention against Corruption, work with journalist organisations to develop good practices on reporting on corruption and jointly participate at the International Anti-Corruption Day (9 December).

Raising Awareness

- 5.15. Sensitize Member States on the importance of freedom of expression and the dangers that impunity for crimes against media professionals represents for freedom and democracy;
- 5.16. Sensitize journalists, media owners and policy-makers on existing international instruments and conventions, as well as various existing practical guides on the safety of journalists;
- 5.17. Sensitize news organizations, media owners, editors and journalists on the dangers confronting their staff, particularly those faced by local journalists;
- 5.18. Sensitize all the above parties to the growing dangers posed by all actors and work against hostage-taking, sexual violence, kidnapping, wrongful arrest and other forms of punishment and other emerging threats to media professionals, including non-state actors;

⁵² Adopted by the UNESCO’s General Conference on 12 November 1997

- 5.19. Sensitize the general public on the importance of the safety of journalists and the fight against impunity, through promoting global awareness campaigns, such as UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day;
- 5.20. Encourage journalism education institutions in developing curricula, which include material relevant to the safety of journalists and impunity;
- 5.21. Disseminate best practices on the safety of journalists and counteracting impunity.

Fostering Safety Initiatives

- 5.22. Urge all stakeholders, and in particular the media industry and its professional associations, to establish general safety provisions for journalists, including but not limited to safety training courses, health care and life insurance, access to social protection and adequate remuneration for free-lance and full-time employees;
- 5.23. Develop accessible, real-time emergency response mechanisms for groups and media organizations, including contacting and engaging available UN resources and missions and other groups working in the field;
- 5.24. Strengthen provisions for the safety of journalists in conflict zones, for example by encouraging the creation of so-called 'media corridors' in close cooperation with UN staff on the ground.

6. Follow-up Mechanisms

- 6.1. Establishment of a network of focal points on issues about the safety of journalists in all relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes in order to develop effective measures to promote the safety of journalists and combat impunity, coordinate actions and exchange information and whenever possible also to publicize it;
- 6.2. Scheduling meetings of relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes on a regular basis, at international level and also at national level in cooperation with the UN Country Teams (UNCT), with participation of relevant professional associations, NGOs and other stakeholders;
- 6.3. Entrust overall coordination of UN efforts on the safety of journalists to UNESCO, in cooperation with other UN agencies, in particular with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Secretariat in New York;
- 6.4. Present a finalised UN Plan of Action to the IPDC Council at its next session in March 2012, as well as the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the Chief Executive Board (CEB) at their next meetings.

**Plan of Action for the Overall Review of the Implementation
of the Outcomes of the World Summit in Information
Society (WSIS +10)**

Proposed Expected Final Outcomes of the Overall Review Process (WSIS+10)

1. Evaluation and Assessment Reports (adaptations possible in the lead-up to 2015)
 - WSIS+10 Progress Report (Quantitative Focus)
(Initial Coordination by Partnership on the Measuring ICT for Development during the WSIS Forum 2012)
 - Review Reports by Action Line Facilitators (11 Action Lines)
(Template to be prepared by WSIS Action Line Facilitators' Meeting during the WSIS Forum 2012)
 - Self-evaluation National Review Reports
(Draft template to be prepared during WSIS Action Line Facilitators' Meeting of the WSIS Forum 2012)
 - WSIS+10 Stocktaking Report
(International Telecommunication Union)
 - IGF Secretariat Report
 - UNGIS Review Report
 - Contributions to the MDG Process
2. Possible forward looking outcome setting an agenda beyond 2015

**Proposed Preparatory Process and Meetings within
the Framework of the Overall Review up to 2015**

The preparatory process will include virtual working methods as an integral part of the overall review.

2012:

- **May: Start of Preparations for the WSIS+10 Review during the WSIS Forum 2012, Geneva (2 days) to define**
 - preliminary indications for the scope of the possible forward looking outcome, setting agenda beyond 2015
 - templates for the reports of the lead facilitators on the Action Lines
 - templates for the national self-evaluation reporting on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes
- **May: Report on the outcomes of the UNGIS Consultations on the WSIS+10 Review** to the 15th Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
- **October/December: UN General Assembly**

2013:

- **February/March: Multi-stakeholder Event for the WSIS+10 Review (title to be decided)** (3-day event, hosted by UNESCO in Paris, with a high-level component)
 - Review of emerging trends in the Information Society
 - Development of recommendations of relevance to the forward looking outcome.
- **May: Preparations for the WSIS+10 during WSIS Forum 2013** (Geneva, 2-3 days)
 - Agreement on outline of the forward looking outcome
 - Discussion on text

2014:

- **May: Preparations for the WSIS+10 during WSIS Forum 2014** (Geneva, 2-3 days)
 - Finalization of the forward looking outcome
- **June/July: High-Level Meeting on the Overall Review (WSIS+10)** (Location to be determined based on hosting proposals)
 - Presentation of all review reports
 - Adoption of the forward looking outcome

2015:

- Report on the outcomes of the Overall Review Process to the 18th Session of CSTD
- UN General Assembly to endorse the forward looking outcome.
- Contribution to MDG Review Process

- - -