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**Coordination, programme and other questions: reports
of coordination bodies**

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2024

Summary

The present report provides an overview of inter-agency cooperation within the framework of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2024. The report includes highlights of key CEB activities that foster a coherent approach to policy and management matters and enhance United Nations system-wide coordination in support of intergovernmental mandates.

Board members reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the efforts of Member States to strengthen the multilateral system and advance progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Placing people at the core of its work, the United Nations system programmatic work included efforts aimed at strengthening policy coherence and coordination in critical areas, such as international data governance, artificial intelligence, climate change and promoting integrated system-wide responses to water and sanitation needs, internally displaced persons and transnational organized crime.

The Board expanded its efforts towards the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence across the United Nations system and enhanced data management and analytics. It also supported progress in the organizational culture of the United Nations system in the areas of occupational health and safety, expanding opportunities for people with disabilities, preventing and addressing sexual harassment and digital transformation.

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I. Introduction

1.   Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the present report provides an overview of the annual work of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). It has been prepared in response to the request by the General Assembly, in paragraph 4 (b) of its resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, to include appropriate information on the work of the Board in its annual overview report to the Council, which is also studied by the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

2.   The report includes highlights of the major activities carried out in 2024 under the auspices of CEB. As a coordinating body, CEB and its subsidiary mechanisms, the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes, foster management and policy coherence to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations system activities. The Board's work supports intergovernmental mandates and the priorities of Member States.

II. Strengthening policy coherence and coordination in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3.   In 2024, the Board and its subsidiary mechanisms reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the efforts of Member States to strengthen the multilateral system and accelerate progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by supporting the vision set out in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda".

4.   The High-level Committee on Programmes continued its efforts to strengthen policy coherence and coordination in support of advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by contributing to the Summit of the Future outcomes, leveraging whole-of-system responses to crises, supporting system-wide solutions for people and planet and advancing the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. In pursuing this work, the Committee continued to address gender equality and women's empowerment in a cross-cutting manner.

A. Accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and contributing to the Summit of the Future outcomes

5.   In 2021, the High-level Committee on Programmes agreed to produce a strategic narrative to guide its work grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with strong connections to key themes contained in the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda report. The Committee has since pursued enhanced system-wide policy coherence and coordination in several thematic areas, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure added value and the complementarity of its work with the efforts undertaken by Member States in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future.

6.   As reported to the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2022 and 2023,[1] the Committee produced several United Nations system-wide documents aimed at enhancing policy coherence and coordination on duties to the future,

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[1] See E/2023/51 and E/2024/11.

international data governance, artificial intelligence and measures of progress to complement and go beyond gross domestic product and also supported Member State deliberations ahead of the Summit of the Future.

7.   Following the adoption of the Pact for the Future in September 2024, the High-level Committee on Programmes, at its forty-eighth session, in October 2024, reflected on how its work informed the Summit's outcome and how it could contribute to efforts in support of Pact implementation going forward. Concurrently, CEB provided overall vision on strengthening the multilateral system to accelerate progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The various efforts in support of Member States' priorities related to the implementation of the Goals and the outcome of the Summit of the Future are detailed below.

Multilateralism: solutions for a better tomorrow

8.   Against the background of ongoing intergovernmental processes, CEB devoted considerable attention to efforts to strengthen multilateralism. At its first regular session of 2024, the Board discussed the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future and recognized the opportunities that the Summit presented at a time when multilateralism faced many challenges. Board members looked forward to the outcome of the Summit articulating a clear and ambitious vision for the future which contributed to the strengthening of the multilateral system. Throughout the intergovernmental process, members recognized that it would be imperative for the United Nations system to work together coherently to support Member States in their efforts towards a positive outcome.

9.   At its second regular session of 2024, following the conclusion of the Summit, the Board acknowledged that Member States had clearly expressed their priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a strengthened multilateral system, through the Pact for the Future. Members reflected on how the United Nations system could most effectively act collectively in an integrated, cross-pillar manner to support Member States in implementing the Pact and its annexes, with a view to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing inequalities, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and turbocharging efforts to deliver for people and planet. While the Summit of the Future had demonstrated convergence among Member States and reaffirmed the value of multilateralism, the geopolitical context nonetheless posed challenges to multilateral priorities. In that context, Board members stressed the need to restore trust in multilateral solutions, uphold United Nations norms and values and support ambitious outcomes of upcoming intergovernmental processes. To ensure the effectiveness and continued relevance of the United Nations system, entities would need to strengthen their ability to efficiently leverage their expertise and be strategic, agile and adaptable to meet new challenges and respond to countries' evolving needs. Members also observed that it would be necessary to improve operations across the United Nations system organizations, including by investing in human resources, strengthening programme delivery and accountability, realizing efficiencies and sharing innovations.

Duties to the future

10.   In 2024, in line with the long-standing commitment of the United Nations to future generations,[2] and building on work begun at its forty-first session, the Core Group on Duties to the Future of the High-level Committee on Programmes published a set of frequently asked questions on duties to the future through an intergenerational

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[2] General Assembly resolutions 75/1 and 76/300.

equity lens [3] to facilitate a common understanding of foundational concepts and principles associated with duties to the future. The frequently asked questions were developed to support the operationalization of the United Nations System Common Principles on Future Generations, [4] which CEB had endorsed in 2023 as a set of common values for use by United Nations system entities in various contexts, including strategic planning, policy advice and programming. The Common Principles and the frequently asked questions were provided to Member States during their deliberations on the Declaration on Future Generations. At its forty-eighth session, the High-level Committee on Programmes noted the Core Group's closure further to the completion of its tasks. The Committee's workstream on duties to the future, coupled with the parallel intergovernmental process, had brought to the fore the concept of intergenerational equity and contributed to identifying and embedding the needs and interests of present and future generations in the work of the United Nations system.

International data governance

11.   Data are critical for informing decision-making and addressing major global challenges. Rapid changes in the data and digital environment have brought about both opportunities and challenges requiring cooperation at all levels. Building on its earlier efforts to address global data governance, as outlined in its 2023 paper on international data governance: pathways to progress, [5] the High-level Committee on Programmes had requested its working group on international data governance to explore the normative foundations of an international data governance framework, with a view towards developing international data governance principles grounded in human rights and sustainable development that promoted accountability, agility and fairness. The group subsequently developed a set of principles for global data governance centred around the goals of value, trust and equity. The work was aimed at supporting a multi-stakeholder approach to effective data governance, promoting fairness and protecting individuals' and communities' rights.

12.   At its forty-eighth session, the Committee approved the proposed normative foundations for international data governance: goals and principles [6] and noted the closure of the working group on data governance, further to the completion of its tasks. The CEB-endorsed principles were offered as a contribution to ongoing deliberations concerning global data governance, including processes in follow-up to the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, in particular the Global Digital Compact.

Use and governance of artificial intelligence and related frontier technologies

13.   The evolution of artificial intelligence technologies continues apace, offering opportunities for sustainable development but also raising increasingly complex challenges to the United Nations system and the international community as to their ethical use and governance. Throughout 2024, the High-level Committee on Programmes continued to address the issue of artificial intelligence and related frontier technologies, building on previous efforts to advance dialogue across the United Nations system on this matter. The Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence produced the United Nations system white paper on artificial intelligence governance, [7] providing an analysis of current institutional models and related

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[3] See https://unsceb.org/united-nations-system-common-principles-future-generations.

[4] CEB/2023/1/Add.1.

[5] CEB/2023/1/Add.2.

[6] CEB/2024/2/Add.1.

[7] CEB/2024/1/Add.1.

functions and existing international normative frameworks within the United Nations system that are applicable to the global governance of artificial intelligence.

14. Findings from the white paper were presented to the Committee during its forty-seventh session in March 2024, and informed a dialogue between the Committee and a member of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. Intended as an input to ongoing discussions on artificial intelligence governance, including those related to the Global Digital Compact, the CEB-endorsed white paper was submitted to the High-level Advisory Body as a United Nations system contribution to the Body's work.

B. Leveraging whole-of-system responses to growing crises

15. The proliferation of conflicts, climate disasters and crises has impacted an unprecedented number of people around the world, posing mounting challenges for national authorities, local communities and the United Nations system in coping with the compounding effects of violence, instability, poverty, inequality and displacement.

The future of humanitarian action

16. The devastating impacts of ongoing conflicts and climate change have heightened the urgency of humanitarian action and its critical role in the work of the United Nations. During its second regular session of 2024, CEB deliberated on how, in an increasingly complex operational environment, the United Nations system could support more effective and efficient humanitarian action, considering four interrelated dimensions: political, development, preparedness and funding. The Board noted increasing challenges faced by the United Nations system in providing lifesaving assistance, in particular in view of acute funding shortages for humanitarian work.

17. More concretely, Board members discussed how the tools of humanitarian diplomacy and mediation could be leveraged to uphold accountability under international humanitarian and human rights law, and how the United Nations system could make better use of data-sharing and technology to anticipate and respond to crises. Efforts to enhance financial efficiency and increase engagement with non-traditional donors, such as multilateral development banks, were also addressed. The Board emphasized the need to bring the system together to address political, financial and operational issues in a coordinated manner and encouraged the enhanced use of existing coordination structures and tools to help the United Nations system strengthen interlinkages among humanitarian, sustainable development, climate and peace efforts more effectively.

Internally displaced persons

18. Internal displacement has reached unprecedented levels, with millions of individuals forced to relocate within their countries owing to conflict, violence and disasters. Without durable solutions to displacement, the numbers are likely to continue to climb. Further to a decision of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its forty-sixth session,[8] and in line with General Assembly resolution 78/205,[9] the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement successfully concluded a two-phase consultative process in 2024 aimed at promoting United Nations system-wide coherence on internal displacement.

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[8] CEB/2023/6, para. 63.
[9] General Assembly resolution 78/205, para. 12.

19.   Under the umbrella of the High-level Committee on Programmes, a working group comprising 28 entities collaborated to establish a shared understanding of the growing challenges of internal displacement within the wider context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and developed a set of recommendations to increase the visibility, predictability and agility of the United Nations system's response. The efforts of the working group culminated in a United Nations system-wide approach to internal displacement,[10] which was supported by the Committee at its forty-eighth session and noted by CEB in November 2024. The system-wide approach provides a comprehensive framework designed to promote coherence and cross-pillar integration in the United Nations efforts to address internal displacement and to unify actions at the global and country levels.

Transnational organized crime

20.   In line with the statement by the President of the Security Council calling for strengthened coordination of United Nations actions in support of international efforts on transnational organized crime,[11] CEB, at its first regular session of 2024, deliberated on the growing threat posed by transnational organized crime to sustainable development, noting that the phenomenon affected every country and the work of the entire United Nations system.[12] The Board asked the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to lead a consultative process outlining how the United Nations system could work together more coherently to tackle the multiple dimensions of organized crime that undermined the capacity of Governments and institutions to protect societies and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Subsequently, at its forty-eighth session, the High-level Committee on Programmes agreed to develop a United Nations system common approach to prevent and address transnational organized crime and established a time-bound task team on transnational organized crime, under the leadership of UNODC.

21.   The overarching goal of the common approach is to enhance the capacity of the United Nations system to achieve greater impact in responding to the challenges posed by transnational organized crime by promoting policy coherence and facilitating inter-agency coordination, improving information-sharing and data-sharing and providing integrated evidence-based policy advice in line with Member States' national and regional needs and priorities.[13]

C.   Supporting solutions for people and planet

22.   The adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation are felt worldwide, in particular by the most vulnerable. In 2024, the United Nations system, through CEB and the High-level Committee on Programmes, continued to pursue its strong commitment to sustainable development and took concrete joint actions to support Member States in their efforts to protect people and planet.

United Nations system common messages for the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

23.   In response to the Board's request at its second regular session of 2023 for the preparation of coherent and strategic contributions to the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

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[10] CEB/2024/6/Add.1.
[11] S/PRST/2023/6.
[12] See CEB/2024/1.
[13] See CEB/2024/6, annex III.

Convention on Climate Change, the High-level Committee on Programmes took up the issue at its forty-seventh session and expressed strong support for the timely development of common high-level strategic messages, under the leadership of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Secretary-General's Climate Action Team.[14]

24.   In July 2024, the Committee approved a set of United Nations system common messages,[15] following a consultative inter-agency process involving 35 entities. The CEB-endorsed common messages inform United Nations system advocacy in seven key areas for action, amplifying climate action priorities and ensuring that the goals of the Paris Agreement remain the focus of all efforts. At its forty-eighth session, the Committee agreed to review and update the common messages, as needed, ahead of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November 2025.

United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation

25.   In response to the request by the General Assembly[16] to present a United Nations system-wide water and sanitation strategy by the end of the seventy-eighth session, the Secretary-General delegated the development of such a strategy to UN-Water, the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism for water and sanitation.

26.   Developed under the leadership of the Chair of UN-Water, and in consultation with Member States, the first United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation[17] represents a significant milestone in the decades-long work of the United Nations system on water and sanitation, responding to the outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference[18] and the Water Action Agenda,[19] which elevated water as a central United Nations priority.

27.   The United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation unites the United Nations system's work towards a world with accessible, available and sustainably managed water and sanitation for all people and the planet. It provides a system-wide approach for United Nations entities to work collaboratively on water and sanitation and to address the interrelated cross-sectoral aspects of water and sanitation.

28.   The goal of the strategy is to enhance United Nations system-wide coordination and delivery of water and sanitation objectives in support of countries' national plans and priorities, internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, the realization of human rights and transformative solutions to current and future challenges for the benefit of all people and the planet. Its aim is to fully operationalize inter-agency coordination, capitalize on reforms of the United Nations development system and leverage upscaled water and sanitation action of United Nations entities to provide more strategic, effective, coherent and efficient support to Member States.

29.   The Strategy was approved by the High-level Committee on Programmes at its forty-seventh session and subsequently endorsed by CEB.

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[14] In support of General Assembly resolution 79/206 on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind.

[15] Available at https://unsceb.org/united-nations-system-common-messages-cop29-and-cop30.

[16] General Assembly resolution 77/334, para. 5.

[17] CEB/2024/1/Add.2.

[18] Ibid.

[19] https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water.

D. Implementing the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031

30.   Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/258 on the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,[20] CEB and the High-level Committee on Programmes continued to support the system-wide coordination and follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the decade 2022–2031. At the forty-eighth session of the Committee, members took note of a progress report prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States that contained a summary of actions in support of the outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. It included updates on the five key deliverables of the Doha Programme of Action: closing pervasive gaps in education, addressing food security, attracting foreign direct investment for sustainable development, building crisis mitigation and resilience mechanisms and supporting countries' graduation. The progress report also contained a series of recommendations directed at entities of the United Nations system to further the implementation of the Programme of Action, scale up substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries and provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies.

III. Advancing responsible usage of artificial intelligence in the United Nations

Framework for a model policy designed to guide the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence across United Nations organizations

31.   Building on previous developments on the risks and opportunities associated with artificial intelligence,[21] the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management decided to establish a task force on the use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system under the High-level Committee on Management. It was tasked with developing a system-wide normative and operational framework on the use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations System, to establish appropriate knowledge-sharing mechanisms for ideas and experiences, as well as to pool the necessary technical capacity, so that the United Nations system moves in an integrated and coherent manner in the dynamic and evolving field of artificial intelligence. The task force worked throughout 2024 and wound down after delivering two products that were adopted by the Committee at its forty-seventh session in October 2024.

32.   First, the framework for a model policy on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in United Nations system organizations[22] is designed to guide the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence across the United Nations system organizations. In the framework, there is an emphasis on the importance of managing risks, safeguarding human rights and ensuring transparency and accountability in artificial intelligence-related applications. While providing minimum standards, such as mandatory risk assessments, the Framework allows flexibility for each organization to tailor its artificial intelligence policies according to specific operational needs.

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[20] General Assembly resolution 76/258, para. 301.
[21] E/2024/11, section III.
[22] https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Framework for a Model Policy on the Responsible Use of AI in UN System.pdf.

33.   Second, the report on the operational use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system[23] in catalogues more than 700 artificial intelligence initiatives already under way across the system. These initiatives, many of which directly support the Sustainable Development Goals, illustrate the growing importance of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system operations and highlight the need for coordinated efforts to pool resources and expertise, ensuring that the adoption of artificial intelligence is both effective and responsible.

34.   The High-level Committee on Management will continue to work towards strategically facilitating and advancing impactful work on artificial intelligence in the United Nations system, within existing inter-agency or multidisciplinary mechanisms, including the Digital and Technology Network generative AI community of practice.

IV. Innovating working methods of the United Nations system

35.   Building on the lessons learned during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the acceleration of the application of modern tools, techniques and skills throughout the United Nations system continued to reinforce the system's thinking and collaboration towards integrated responses in which risks are anticipated and addressed while strengthening the capacity of staff to address complex challenges and improving working methods.

A. Ensuring the reliability and timely availability of United Nations system data

Value-based data management and analytics in the United Nations system: United Nations system financial statistics

36.   Throughout 2024, the CEB secretariat collected and published United Nations system-wide statistics for increased transparency and accountability to all stakeholders, in full alignment with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, in which the General Assembly called for the publication of timely, reliable, verifiable and comparable system-wide and entity-level data, definitions and classifications.[24]

37.   The activities of the High-level Committee on Management in this area, in particular the availability of a larger volume of data on the CEB website and improved functionality for interactive data analysis, are aimed at enhancing data analytics to better support Member States and deliver on intergovernmental mandates, including those provided in the Pact for the Future.[25]

Human resources statistics and data

38.   The CEB secretariat continued to provide extensive support to the Human Resources Network and its community of practice on human resources data and analytics, facilitating professional exchanges among human resources analytics functions and increasing the collective understanding of human resources metrics for system-wide reporting and benchmarking purposes. This work is aimed at equipping decision makers with better and more comprehensive data, as evidenced by the increased availability of human resources data on the CEB website. The CEB

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[23] https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Report on the Operational Use of AI in the UN System.pdf.

[24] General Assembly resolution 75/233, paras. 50 and 117.

[25] General Assembly resolution 79/1.

secretariat has also been engaging intensely with the secretariat of the International Civil Service Commission and relevant stakeholders in streamlining and utilizing system-wide human resources data for both qualitative and quantitative analysis, enhancing data-driven policymaking during the ongoing comprehensive review of the compensation and allowances systems.

39. This work is aligned with two key strategies: the System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics,[26] developed by the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System through the High-level Committee on Programmes and endorsed by CEB in 2020, and the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere: With Insight, Impact and Integrity.[27]

B. Strategic foresight

Managing risks strategically: working group on data and cyberrisk

40. The High-level Committee on Management continued its engagement to foster risk management and strategic foresight practices within the United Nations system through its Risk Management Forum, a multidisciplinary, system-wide advisory body that produces guidance for the United Nations system and acts as a common platform on which entities can share documentation and best practices. The Forum met periodically throughout 2024.

41. The Digital and Technology Network ICT Security Community undertook a range of initiatives to mitigate risks and strengthen defences against evolving cyberthreats. Central to these efforts was the roll-out of the updated ICT security guidance, designed to standardize security practices across the United Nations system, supported by mandatory annual self-assessments to ensure compliance. The updated version addresses risk by establishing maturity levels that offer standardized metrics to guide and enhance ICT security practices and investments across the United Nations system. The framework fosters a proactive security approach, setting minimum security standards designed to safeguard the United Nations system's reputation while encouraging less mature entities to strengthen their ICT security posture. In addition, discussions were conducted on shared services ICT security, to address systemic risks.

C. Driving behavioural change in the organizational culture of the system

42. Driving behavioural change in the organizational culture of the United Nations system is at the core of the work of the High-level Committee on Management to support the realization of the vision of the Secretary-General for a United Nations 2.0. In this area of work, the Human Resources Network conducted further exchanges in 2024 on suitable approaches for skills enhancements in the various United Nations 2.0 domains to better embed those into emerging strategic workforce planning approaches.

Addressing sexual harassment

43. In 2024, CEB maintained its focus on prioritizing the prevention of and response to sexual harassment within the United Nations system. To promote a unified approach to the matter across the United Nations system, the High-level Committee

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[26] CEB/2020/1/Add.1.
[27] www.un.org/en/content/datastrategy/index.shtml.

on Management, at its forty-fifth session, had approved the establishment of the United Nations Executive Group to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Harassment in the United Nations system as the successor to the CEB Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organizations of the United Nations system. This decision, subsequently endorsed by the Board, was followed by the Committee's approval of the Executive Group's terms of reference at its forty-sixth session in the fourth quarter of 2023. The Group commenced its functions at the start of 2024.

44.   A workplan for 2024 and 2025 was developed by the Executive Group structured around six focal areas: knowledge-sharing and collaboration; policy improvement and system strengthening; victim/survivor support; capacity-building, training and skills enhancement; monitoring progress and impact evaluation; and stakeholder communication and engagement. The workplan was approved by the High-level Committee on Management at its forty-seventh session in the second quarter of 2024.

45.   Under this workplan, the Executive Group has advanced efforts to foster coherent system-wide policy implementation and facilitated the systematic exchange of experiences, challenges and best practices, through its meetings. The Group continued to nurture the public United Nations System-wide Knowledge Hub on Addressing Sexual Harassment, [28] containing material to prevent and respond to sexual harassment from entities across the United Nations system. The accessibility of the Hub was enhanced for persons with disabilities. In an effort to strengthen systems in place, the Group identified the improvement of background checks as a priority, including the consistent and improved use of the ClearCheck screening database, which enables the sharing of information among United Nations system organizations on individuals with established allegations related to sexual misconduct. The annual system-wide survey on improved reporting on sexual harassment in the United Nations system was administered for United Nations system entities and its narrative results were published on the CEB website, [29] supporting further transparency.

Occupational health and safety: United Nations System Workplace Mental Health and Well-being Strategy for 2024 and beyond

46.   In 2024, the Occupational Health and Safety Forum continued its efforts to integrate occupational health and safety into organizations' responsibilities towards their personnel. It focused on advancing the tools developed by the former Cross-Functional Inter-Agency Task Force on Duty of Care for personnel in high-risk environments and promoting the comprehensive incorporation of occupational health and safety risk management, in particular at the country level.

47.   Following its decision to establish an inter-agency mechanism, at its forty-seventh session, the High-level Committee on Management endorsed the United Nations Organizational Health and Safety Coordination Mechanism structure, and the accompanying indicative budget and cost-sharing, and identified the World Health Organization as hosting agency for the Mechanism for the first three years of operations. The Occupational Health and Safety Forum has been guiding the establishment of the Mechanism, including its secretariat, the Inter-agency Occupational Health and Safety Committee and the Committee's sub-group with specific expertise, for the mechanism to be operational at the beginning of 2025.

48.   The biennial Occupational Health and Safety Forum survey was issued in 2023, and responses were received from 28 organizations. The aim of the survey is to assess

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[28] https://shknowledgehub.unwomen.org/en/home.
[29] https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/Survey on reporting of Sexual Harassment 2022 - Narrative Report.pdf.

progress in implementing recommendations from the Duty of Care Task Force, which span areas such as predeployment guidance, managerial training, medical insurance, United Nations minimum living standards, workplace mental health strategy and health, safety and security measures. The High-level Committee on Management, at its forty-seventh session, received a detailed report and analysis of the results, with more than half of the organizations indicating full execution or progress in implementing recommendations.

49. Following the Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy in place from 2018 to 2023,[30] the High-level Committee on Management, at its forty-sixth session, endorsed the United Nations System Mental Health and Well-being Strategy for 2024 and beyond,[31] prepared by the Implementation Board of the United Nations System Mental Health and Well-being Strategy. In 2024, a Mental Health Hub with three personnel was set up. Work has been undertaken in three priority areas: (a) psychosocial risk assessment/management; (b) learning resources for leaders and managers; and (c) performance indicators for leaders.

United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy

50. The organizations of the United Nations system work to uphold the values of the Charter of the United Nations, and, among other things, "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small", with the goal that every person should enjoy equal dignity, respect and equality of opportunity.[32]

51. During the reporting period, the High-level Committee on Management maintained its focus on the mainstreaming of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. In particular, during the joint session with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group in April 2024 on the theme "Delivering efficiency through innovation and consolidation of United Nations system business operations", lessons learned from ongoing common back office implementations were shared, including concerning considerations for people with disabilities.

52. In 2024, particular emphasis was also put on advancing efforts to identify systemic barriers to the employment of people with disabilities, including in the context of the ongoing International Civil Service Commission comprehensive compensation review.

D. Innovation and digital transformation of United Nations system organizations

United Nations Digital ID

53. In 2024, the Committee made considerable progress with its flagship United Nations Digital ID programme. This digital transformation initiative, providing the United Nations workforce with a universal, system-wide digital identity solution, went live at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund with the first use case, which allows staff members to share verified personal information with the Pension Fund for the calculation of their pension benefits, while the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Secretariat are expected to go live within the first quarter of 2025. The six

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[30] https://www.un.org/en/healthy-workforce/files/Strategy Summary.pdf.
[31] https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_system_mental_health_and_well_being_strategy_for_2024.pdf.
[32] See https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CTC/uncharter.pdf.

sponsoring organizations agreed to roll out United Nations Digital ID to two new use cases and to expand it to other organizations across the United Nations system, seeking to make its impact more tangible and widespread.

Leveraging digital technology

54. The High-level Committee on Management and its networks collaborated to leverage digital technologies to transform operations across the United Nations system. Digital transformation was prioritized as a central focus of many discussions, with strategic efforts targeting the adoption of generative artificial intelligence, low-code/no-code platforms, enhanced data management and governance and strengthened ICT security. Key initiatives included advancing communities of practice on generative artificial intelligence, digital transformation, digital accessibility, open-source solutions and customer relationship management, as well as two special interest groups on United Nations information security and enterprise resource planning. The Digital and Technology Network committed to advancing digital dexterity in the United Nations workforce and to maintaining it as a standing item on its agenda. The Network explored the financial implications of digital transformation and promoting digital payment systems.

V. Multilingualism: a core value of the United Nations

55. The CEB secretariat, in its role as facilitator, continued to support the personal commitment of the Secretary-General and his Coordinator for Multilingualism, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, in promoting multilingualism across the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 54/64, 69/250, 70/9, 71/262, 72/19, 73/270, 74/252, 75/244, 76/237, 77/255, 78/245 and 79/248.

56. The CEB secretariat promoted a coordinated approach to multilingualism across CEB member organizations. To enhance accessibility for United Nations staff and all interested audiences, the Knowledge Hub on Addressing Sexual Harassment in the United Nations System[33] was translated into all six official United Nations languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish – ensuring that all navigation pages were available in these languages.

57. The Human Resources Network continued to support the development of a United Nations system-wide language framework for language teaching, learning, assessment and certification in the six official United Nations languages. To facilitate discussions on these topics, the Network also established a dedicated community of practice focused on learning and development.

VI. Coordination between the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and other jointly financed bodies

58. The Human Resources Network continued its long-established participation in the sessions and working groups of the International Civil Service Commission. In addition to its collaborative efforts towards implementing the new round of place-to-place surveys and the revision of the United Nations standards of conduct, the Network, through its Field Group, collaborated on all matters related to conditions of service in field locations. The Network collaborated closely with the Commission on

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[33] https://shknowledgehub.unwomen.org/en.

a range of emergency situations. The Human Resources Network also actively engaged in the ongoing comprehensive compensation review, including through dedicated efforts to enhance the availability of data to underpin evidence-based decision-making.

59. The secretariats of CEB and the Joint Inspection Unit continue to engage in dialogue that ensures a smooth report preparation process as the Unit maintains its focus on issues of a system-wide nature. In 2024, the CEB secretariat, often in consultation with members of the Human Resources Network and the Finance and Budget Network, provided comments on some draft reports being prepared by the Unit and responded to informal requests for information from Inspectors, as well as the Unit's secretariat staff on issues pertaining to ongoing and future reports.

VII. Sustaining compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards

60. In its resolution 60/283, the General Assembly approved the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for presentation of the financial statements of the United Nations system.

61. The High-level Committee on Management established the Task Force on Accounting Standards, under the auspices of the Finance and Budget Network, to initially implement and then maintain compliance with IPSAS. The Task Force has continued its work to ensure ongoing compliance with new and existing Standards, and to promote greater comparability of financial reporting policies and practices across the United Nations system. The work of the Task Force bears testimony to the commitment of the United Nations system to sustaining compliance with evolving Standards for improved quality of financial reporting, enhanced transparency and accountability. The Task Force comprises 26 member organizations and 10 observers.

62. The Task Force on Accounting Standards has two observer seats on the IPSAS Board, and representatives of the Task Force attended meetings of the IPSAS Board throughout the year, keeping up to date on new pronouncements and upcoming projects and providing feedback to the Board on behalf of the United Nations system. The Task Force attended the regular quarterly meetings of the Board, as well as an IPSAS Board round table in late 2024 on sustainability reporting.

63. The Task Force on Accounting Standards held its 2024 interim meeting virtually in April, at which updates were provided on IPSAS developments, followed by the sharing of experiences in relation to the financial statements. The Task Force held its annual in-person meeting in October. Participants at the meeting discussed United Nations system-wide IPSAS policy guidance for IPSAS 45, IPSAS 46 and IPSAS 48, as well as supplemental guidance for IPSAS 47. The meeting also provided an opportunity for information and experience-sharing among United Nations system organizations to ensure the consistent interpretation, application and sustainability of the Standards across the system. Representatives of the IPSAS Board participated in the meetings, and the interaction with the IPSAS Board included a spotlight on specific Standards, as well as discussions on the development of new standards for sustainability reporting.

64. The Task Force on Accounting Standards also met with the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Technical Group of the Panel of External Auditors on key audit observations, outcomes and emerging audit issues. The Task Force continues to share with the Board of Auditors and the Panel of External Auditors the system-wide IPSAS policy guidance, with a view towards a common understanding and

interpretation of the Standards between the United Nations organizations and their external auditors.

VIII. Conclusion

65.   In 2024, CEB played a key role in fostering integration and coherence within the United Nations system, addressing a broad spectrum of programmatic and management issues in support of intergovernmental mandates and priorities.

66.   The Board remained steadfast in its commitment to enhancing policy coherence and coordination to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other intergovernmental agreements across all pillars of the work of the United Nations. It continued to prioritize the improvement and innovation of administrative and management functions, upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and consistently applying a people-centred approach.

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