



Chief Executives Board for Coordination

25 November 2014

English only

Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its twenty-eighth session

(United Nations Headquarters, New York, 10 October 2014)

I. Introduction

1. The High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its twenty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 10 October 2014. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are attached in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present report.

2. In opening the session, the Chair welcomed Ms. Jane Stewart, of the International Labour Organization (ILO), as Vice-Chair of the Committee and Ms. Kayoko Gotoh as Secretary of the Committee.

II. Agenda item 1: post-2015 development agenda

3. Recalling that the Committee held a joint session with the High-level Committee on Management on 9 October 2014, as a key step in the process of ensuring that the United Nations system was fit for purpose to support Member States in the transition to and implementation of a transformative post-2015 development agenda, the Chair noted the richness of the discussion, which demonstrated the commitment of the United Nations system to advancing bold and ambitious actions to collectively rise to the challenge and become more strategic in its response in a post-2015 world. The Secretary-General and CEB Executive Heads stood ready to seize the opportunity provided by the debate on the post-2015 development agenda to ensure the United Nations system was capable of delivering on the new universal framework. Both Committees were challenged to capture the spirit and outcome of the joint session and to provide CEB with inputs to support the Board in its deliberations on the issue of fit-for-purpose at its upcoming session.

4. Noting the Committee's discussion at its Greentree retreat in October 2012, the Chair observed that the Committee, in its role as the think tank of the United Nations system, had a critical role to play in supporting CEB in fostering coherence, cooperation and coordination on strategic issues and emerging challenges of concern to the entire system. The Committee's key asset was its ability to "think upwards" and be "forward-looking" by promoting a convergence of agendas and narratives to



reach an understanding of sustainable development that adequately reflected the realities and challenges of the twenty-first century. The joint session provided an important impetus for the Committee to refocus on its *raison d'être* and reinvigorate its work by focusing on a limited number of issues of strategic concern to the entire United Nations system.

5. In this context, the Chair observed that the Committee's work could be divided into a three-tier structure, stressing the importance of ensuring efficiency and focus in its work, which would require discipline. The first tier was occupied mainly by transactional items. He strongly encouraged that those items should be addressed through electronic consultations in advance of each session, as had been done prior to the current session. The second tier included items that were mandated by CEB and the Committee, or proposed by its members. The Committee needed to become more selective with regard to such items, including with regard to establishing working groups and task teams. The third tier was comprised of strategic and emerging issues that needed to be addressed in depth from a system-wide perspective. It was the third tier that fully utilized the Committee's strength and added the greatest value for CEB. The Committee needed to be strategic in identifying a few priority third-tier issues that maximized its contributions to CEB.

6. Building on the previous day's joint session with the High-level Committee on Management, the Chair proposed that the Committee identify two to three strategic issues on which the Committee could focus over a 12- to 15-month period. Possible topics deserving the Committee's priority attention included the post-2015 development agenda; the urban agenda; and youth employment. Regarding the urban agenda and the issue of youth employment, the Chair highlighted the opportunity for the Committee to use these issues as "prototypes" for advancing the fit-for-purpose efforts. In doing so, the Committee would apply some of the recommendations for action that had emanated from the joint session, including the development of issue-based coalitions and partnerships to promote collective impact and sustainable development results and to operationalize the five key elements of the post-2015 agenda identified by CEB, including universality and equality.

7. In opening the discussion, the Chair invited the members of the Committee to reflect on the outcome of the joint session of the previous day from a strategic and policy perspective and to give thought to the Chair's proposal for follow-up. The members of the Committee welcomed the Chair's proposal to focus its agenda on a select number of strategic issues in order to optimize its support to CEB in addressing critical issues of system-wide concern. In this context, it was noted that the United Nations system needed to be more selective in identifying areas for collective action and to better define its role within the broader development architecture. The Committee was also reminded of ongoing intergovernmental processes that needed to be taken into account as it reflected on its contribution to the fit-for-purpose debate. The ultimate goal of United Nations system coherence and coordination was to support Member States more effectively in their efforts to improve the lives and livelihoods of their people.

8. The members of the Committee widely supported the proposal to focus on the issues of the post-2015 development agenda, urbanization and youth employment as immediate priority areas for action. These issues were seen as having the potential of serving as platforms for drilling down on post-2015 issues and for showcasing fit-for-purpose efforts and for substantive mobilization of the Organization's

capacities. Regarding the post-2015 development agenda, it was suggested that the Committee needed to reflect in greater detail on the five core elements of the agenda, namely, universality; inequality, including by applying a gender and an intergenerational perspective; human rights; the data revolution, including the development of a digital agenda for the United Nations system, and accountability. Universality and inequality were highlighted, in particular, as critical issues in need of further reflection on their practical implications.

9. In addition, members proposed a number of additional topics warranting consideration by the Committee as possible issues for collective action, including forced migration and development; social protection; the linkages between normative and operational work; the integration of peace and security/humanitarian/development aspects of the work of the United Nations system; and funding, including official development assistance (ODA). The role of the United Nations system in protecting and promoting global public goods was also highlighted, as was the need for further clarification on the practical application of such efforts.

10. Recalling the CEB decision to issue, in the coming year, a joint statement as a clarion call to convey the unity of stance of the United Nations system on the fundamental elements of the post-2015 development agenda, the Committee discussed the appropriate timing for the issuance of such a joint statement. Some members preferred the clarion call to be issued shortly after the Secretary-General's synthesis report has been made public, as a means to support its key messages, while others expressed the view that CEB should review options for issuing a clarion call at its first regular session for 2015. Upon consideration, the Committee recognized that circumstances had evolved since the issuance of a clarion call was first proposed and agreed to recommend that CEB consider the issue at its first regular session of 2015.

11. In concluding the discussion on this item, the Chair proposed that the Committee apply a dual perspective in its treatment of the issues of urbanization and youth employment by combining substantive considerations of the topics with the application of the outcomes of its joint session with the High-level Committee on Management as a means of turning the fit-for-purpose agenda into practice. Addressing urbanization and youth employment would also serve as a platform to practically apply the five key elements of the post-2015 development agenda — universality, integration, equality, human rights and the need for a data revolution — and to mobilize and deploy collective capacity more deliberately and with more agility.

Conclusion

12. The Committee decided to seek the concurrence of CEB that, in its role as a United Nations system “think tank”, it would focus its work on a limited number of strategic issues as a means to assist CEB in identifying and responding to emerging programmatic issues of concern to the entire United Nations system. The issues of “Youth employment” and the “Urban agenda” were selected as two “prototype” platforms for practically applying the five key elements of the post-2015 agenda identified by CEB and supporting fit-for-purpose efforts by mobilizing the capacity of the United Nations system and operationalizing the establishment of issue-based coalitions and partnerships.

III. Agenda item 2: youth employment

13. The Chair introduced the item by recalling that, in 2012, youth was identified as one of the five generational imperatives of the Secretary-General's five-year action agenda. At the retreat of its first regular session of 2012, CEB discussed the topic of youth and sustainable development and exchanged views on the various dimensions of programmatic issues affecting youth. The Board underscored the importance of the greater coordination of the United Nations system in support of youth development.

14. The Chair further recalled that, in follow-up, the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), had developed a system-wide action plan on youth. The action plan, which was guided by the World Programme of Action for Youth, focused on joint action by the United Nations system in five areas: employment and entrepreneurship, protection of rights and civic engagement, political inclusion, education, and health. At its twenty-fifth session, in May 2013, the Committee positively reviewed the action plan, and CEB endorsed it at its first regular session of 2013.

15. Although much progress had been made since CEB first discussed youth development in 2012, the Chair stated that the item was being brought to the Committee at this juncture to determine whether the employment challenges currently facing young women and men were acute enough to warrant the increased attention of the Committee and CEB. If so, the Committee was asked to consider establishing a time-bound task team to prepare a global initiative to respond to the youth employment crisis.

16. Citing a dire forecast for economic growth, Mr. Philippe Egger, Director, Strategic Programming and Management Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO), described the proposal as an opportunity to bring the best efforts of the United Nations system to bear on an issue that is integrated, universal and inclusive. In most countries, youth faced high rates of unemployment, non-employment, working poverty and informal employment. The challenge needed to be addressed from both the supply and demand sides through a holistic agenda. The issue had been a priority both within the United Nations system and among Member States. A call for a global strategy for youth employment was included under the proposed sustainable development goal on employment and decent work that had been presented to the General Assembly by its Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

17. Against this background, ILO proposed the development of a global United Nations system effort to address youth employment. If supported, a task team of interested member organizations of the Committee would be established to shape the proposal for an initiative that would bring appropriate political and policy attention to youth employment both within the organizations of the United Nations system and Member States. It would focus on relevant, workable solutions at a scale appropriate to the problem. Areas in which the initiative could work included: building multistakeholder partnerships, supporting regional- and country-level initiatives, sharing knowledge on youth employment policies and programmes, mapping applicable United Nations system expertise, better monitoring employment trends, and mobilizing resources (for example, through a facility or multi-donor

trust fund). The representative of ILO noted that the World Bank Group had recently launched a significant initiative on youth employment (the “Solutions for Youth Employment” coalition, briefly described in the ensuing discussion on this item by the representative of the Bank), and he stressed the need to mobilize the rest of the United Nations system. He observed that there seemed to be interest among the Committee to focus on this issue and he looked forward to working with others to further develop the concept.

18. Addressing the Committee by video, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, recalled the significant normative power of the United Nations system on youth employment and acknowledged the work that had been undertaken at the country level. He observed, however, that there was no mechanism to facilitate coordinated programming on the matter. The proposal to the Committee was timely and, in particular, would respond to the call for a global strategy for youth employment that had been proposed by the Open Working Group. He stressed that there was a youth employment crisis, and that the United Nations system needed to respond accordingly. Reiterating the key elements of the proposal, the Envoy on Youth indicated that there were already good examples of joint programming that could be leveraged, and noted that the proposal could help to overcome some of the existing barriers, including funding. He urged the Committee to support the proposal to strengthen the coordination of the United Nations system on youth employment and to deliver more support at the country level. He agreed to serve as an honorary adviser to the task team, if it were to be endorsed.

19. The Committee strongly welcomed and supported the proposal, seeing the youth employment crisis as a universal challenge to which many organizations of the United Nations system could contribute. While the focus on youth was firmly endorsed, the challenge of unemployment among older persons was recalled, and in this regard members saw the generation of jobs for workers of all ages as an important consideration. Several agencies expressed their interest in serving on the task team and in sharing expertise and experience. There was a call for terms of reference to be developed to define the scope, form and timeline of the task team’s work. Practical focus on speedy implementation and impact on the ground was stressed as important since the situation warranted quick action, not prolonged study. Recognizing the significant work that has already been undertaken on the subject, it was emphasized that the initiative should build on existing platforms and mechanisms. In this vein, there was an inquiry about the impact of and lessons learned from the Youth Employment Network launched in 2001. Some members felt this proposal was a good candidate to serve as a prototype for an issue-based coalition, where private sector engagement would be crucial because of its role in creating decent and productive jobs. With regard to the title of the initiative, it was suggested that a reference to quality of employment should be incorporated so that this critical aspect would be prominent.

20. Some members questioned whether the proposed “joint United Nations mechanism” was needed to support Member States, or whether using existing mechanisms to ensure more functional coordination and action would suffice. Others stressed the need to move beyond a United Nations-only platform. While some members supported establishing a trust fund, others queried whether a resource mobilization facility was necessary. Many felt that efforts to both support States and mobilize funds should be multistakeholder in nature.

21. Support was strongly expressed for engaging at the country level as soon as possible, noting that this is where the work would have the greatest impact. The importance of including youth employment in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process was underscored. However, given the universal nature of the problem, it was acknowledged that the United Nations system would need to find a suitable alternative mechanism in locations without a United Nations country team. It was suggested that any funds raised should be used to finance innovative solutions at country level.

22. Members shared a number of further observations and suggestions about the proposal. Several felt that it was necessary to ensure that youth in all situations, including in fragile States and within displaced populations, would benefit from the coordinated effort, which would therefore require multidimensional methods of implementation. It was stressed that the initiative should be formulated with the specific needs of young women and girls in mind and that gender must be mainstreamed through tailored programming. In terms of monitoring, it was suggested that mobile technology could be used to measure the impact of interventions and as a tool for youth engagement.

23. Other factors that could be considered in defining and shaping the initiative were discussed by the Committee. The opportunity to build on and invest in the “demographic dividend” was highlighted. International labour and human rights standards must not be lowered in the process of addressing the employment problem or other youth issues, and it was crucial to uphold the existing normative frameworks. To effectively address the employment problem, a larger perspective of inclusive growth and a better understanding of how youth were excluded from growth would be needed. It was necessary to emphasize stimulating labour demand at all levels; regional and subregional labour markets would have to be targeted in addition to those at the country level. Unemployment was in part due to a structural failure of job supply and of formal education systems, and therefore needed to be linked to education policy and systems. The importance of digital literacy was stressed in this context, noting that the information and communications technology sector faces a significant skills shortfall.

24. The global United Nations system response could build on ongoing work to generate awareness of, stimulate interest in and provide education for employment in sectors with growing job demands, such as information technology and aviation. Rural jobs were also important, in particular in the context of making employment in agriculture attractive. There should be an effort to drive green growth and generate new green jobs, and to ensure that youth benefit from such efforts. More prominence needed to be given to unpaid contributions to care economies.

25. The Chair observed that the issue was of concern to all members of the Committee, but acknowledged that it may not be of equal relevance to all from an operational perspective. He asked that ILO, as the lead agency, form a core group to adjust the proposal by reflecting the comments made. Stressing the common view that the initiative must be operationalized quickly, the Chair asked the core group, led by ILO, to develop, as soon as possible, feasible terms of reference for the task team and a timeline of its work, for approval by the Committee and, upon its recommendation, CEB.

Conclusion

26. **The Committee supported the establishment of a time-bound task team on youth employment and requested that a core group, led by ILO, develop terms of reference and a timeline of its work for its consideration and the eventual endorsement by CEB.**

IV. Agenda item 3: Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

27. The Committee recalled that CEB took up the issue of disaster risk reduction at its first regular session for 2011 and committed to a coherent approach to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in programmes and operations of the United Nations system. To this end, the Committee, at its twenty-third session in March 2012, decided to create a time-bound Senior Management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, under the leadership of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, to develop a United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. Upon the recommendation of the Committee, CEB endorsed the Plan of Action at its first regular session of 2013.

28. As part of the Plan of Action, the United Nations system committed to making disaster risk reduction a priority by scaling up its capacity-building efforts, maximizing the efficiency of its development, humanitarian and recovery investments and emphasizing the importance of disaster risk across United Nations policies and programmes. The Plan of Action stipulates that, by 2015, disaster risk reduction for resilience would be integrated in institutional policies and strategies of all United Nations organizations.

29. As part of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, it was proposed that a CEB statement be presented and a CEB high-level event be organized during the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan), as an opportunity for the United Nations system to reiterate its commitment to prioritize disaster risk reduction at the strategic and operational levels and to demonstrate its readiness to support countries in the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

30. In presenting the draft CEB statement, which was prepared in consultation with the Committee's Senior Management Group, Ms. Margareta Wahlström, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, noted that the international community, including the United Nations system, had made significant progress in embracing the concept of disaster risk reduction as an integral part of sustainable development. Expectations were high for the United Nations system to build on this progress and to support preparations of and follow-up to the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, including with regard to ensuring coherence between the sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction agendas.

31. The draft statement, Ms. Wahlström noted, positioned the United Nations system as fully engaged in the three priority areas of the Organization's Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. In addition, it aimed to increase the level of ambition and underscore the system's readiness to review and update the Plan of Action in the light of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk

Reduction. The Executive Heads of the United Nations system attending the Conference in Sendai were invited to refer to and elaborate on the messages of the joint statement. The Secretary-General's statement at the high-level segment of the Conference presented another important opportunity to demonstrate the commitment of the United Nations system to making disaster risk reduction a guiding principle of its work.

32. The Committee welcomed the joint CEB statement and thanked the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for its continued leadership. Several members of the Committee offered proposals to further strengthen the joint statement, including by shortening and focusing it on high-level commitments; projecting a tone that appropriately reflected the voice of top United Nations officials; underscoring the universal relevance of disaster risk reduction as part of the emerging sustainable development agenda; ensuring a human rights-sensitive approach; addressing the linkages between disaster risk reduction and peace and security as well as humanitarian efforts; highlighting the role of information and communications technologies for disaster risk reduction; pointing to man-made risks and disasters, such as cyberthreats; and highlighting the gender dimension of disaster risk reduction.

33. The Chair requested the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction to develop a revised draft based on these recommendations, to be endorsed electronically by the Committee in time for the upcoming session of CEB. The Committee also requested the Senior Management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience to proceed with the preparations for a high-level event at the Conference, with the participation of the Secretary-General and the Executive Heads who are scheduled to be present at the conference.

Conclusion

34. **The Committee agreed that the CEB statement to the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction would be finalized by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in the light of the Committee's discussion. The text would then be submitted to CEB for its endorsement (see annex III).**

V. Agenda item 4: twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

35. The Chair invited the Committee to consider, for possible endorsement by CEB at its second regular session for 2014, a CEB statement on the occasion of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20), which will be commemorated at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held from 9 to 20 March 2015. He expressed appreciation to UN-Women for taking the lead in producing the draft CEB statement and invited the representative to introduce the briefing note.

36. Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, briefed the Committee on the status of preparation for Beijing+20, and introduced the draft CEB statement, which had been prepared in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The twentieth anniversary of the adoption

of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was taking place at a historic moment as the international community was accelerating efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the formulation of a post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. The alignment of these two processes — Beijing+20 and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda — provided a unique opportunity to position gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of women's human rights at the centre of the global agenda.

37. Reviews of the progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were ongoing at national and regional levels, with a view to recognizing achievements and identifying remaining gaps and challenges and developing strategies for accelerating implementation. The national and regional review processes would inform the global review, which would culminate in the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The organizations of the United Nations system were encouraged to actively participate in the review processes at all levels, as well as in the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

38. In addition, UN-Women was organizing, with partners, a series of global events focusing on the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and on emerging issues, including women and information and communications technology, and the role of men in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN-Women was also undertaking a major communication campaign entitled "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity — Picture It!" to raise public awareness of the issue. Beijing+20 provided an important opportunity for Member States and the entire United Nations system to express their recommitment to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

39. In introducing the draft CEB statement, Ms. Puri noted that the statement reaffirmed the Beijing Platform for Action as the global normative framework for achieving gender equality, recognized that gender equality and women's empowerment were central to sustainable development and called on the post-2015 agenda to be bold and ambitious and to foster transformations in gender relations by addressing the root causes of gender inequality. The draft joint statement expressed the commitment of CEB members to intensify action in support of the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, including through system-wide and coordinated efforts at all levels. In closing, Ms. Puri invited the members of the Committee to join the "HeForShe" campaign (<http://www.heforshe.org/>), a solidarity movement for gender equality, and reported that a global leaders summit to scale up gender equality commitments was planned for September 2015.

40. In the ensuing discussion, Committee members expressed strong support for the draft CEB statement and thanked UN-Women for its leadership in this regard. The United Nations system's role in advancing a progressive and forward-looking agenda that emphasized women's and girls' human rights was noted. Several members took the opportunity to brief the Committee on agency-specific initiatives in support of Beijing+20: the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) was holding an emergency directors' meeting on gender-based violence; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN-Women were organizing a two-day conference on women and poverty; the International

Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UN-Women have launched the Gender Equality Mainstreaming-Technology Award; the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Habitat were preparing analytical reports on women and the environment; and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) would be holding conference on 5 November 2015 on the theme of gender dimensions of weather and climate services. Some members offered proposals for incorporating additional topics in the draft, including the issue of female genital mutilation; the situation of indigenous women and women with disabilities; and the role of information and communications technology. The Committee also noted that the statement should project a tone that appropriately reflected the voice of top United Nations officials and requested UN-Women to review and, as appropriate, edit the draft text in this regard.

Conclusion

41. The Committee agreed that the CEB statement to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action would be finalized by UN-Women in the light of the Committee's discussion and based on any additional written comments received (see annex IV). The text would then be submitted to CEB for endorsement and onward transmission to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

VI. Agenda item 5: cybersecurity, cybercrime and policies on information

42. On the issue of cybersecurity and cybercrime, the Chair recalled that the Committee had endorsed the cybersecurity and cybercrime framework document at its twenty-sixth session and that CEB, at its second regular session of 2013, had called for the system to create a coherent approach to the topics of cybersecurity and cybercrime, requesting ITU, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), together with the three CEB pillars, to lead this effort. He noted that the current document builds upon the framework, with three of its five topics within the scope of the Committee's consideration. The Chair noted that while consensus appeared to have been achieved on two of the three, more work was needed on one topic. He called for the Committee to identify a practical, fast and meaningful way forward on this issue and invited the representative from ITU to begin the discussion.

43. The representative of ITU thanked the Chair and noted that recent news events of cybersecurity and cybercrime incidents have highlighted the critical nature of the issue. She recalled that this issue first came to the attention of CEB in 2010, and reiterated that in 2013 CEB had endorsed the cybersecurity and cybercrime framework, and was also presented with a compendium of over 100 pages that contained the mandates and activities of all agencies within the scope of cybersecurity and cybercrime. She noted that the instructions from CEB were to advance the agenda and to develop a system-wide comprehensive and coherent strategy for addressing the issue. The representative reported that in a recent

meeting of the principals and designated representatives of the agencies involved in the plan's development, some concerns had been raised regarding the sensitivity of the issue that could be misconstrued by some stakeholders, especially Member States, as prejudging intergovernmental decisions. It was therefore decided to reframe the document as an internal coordination plan that contained specific actions, highlighting that the plan sought to enhance inter-agency coordination, and emphasizing that its purpose is not to prejudge actions of Member States. She noted that the Committee is working towards endorsement of the items within their scope of competence, topics 1 and 5, and she recalled that topics 2 and 3, which were led by UNDP, address issues of programme coordination, with topic 2 working from a global and topic 3 from a country perspective. Topic 4, led by the United Nations Secretariat, seeks to support discussions that lead towards a better understanding of the need for cooperation in the field of cybersecurity. The representative concluded by noting that by the end of 2014 the world will reach 40 per cent penetration of the Internet and it was necessary to make sure that the peace and security that the United Nations stands for in the physical world also holds true in the virtual world. The representative of ITU looked forward to the comments of the members of the Committee and to moving this issue forward to CEB.

44. During the discussion, the Committee thanked both ITU and UNODC for bringing the issue of cybersecurity and cybercrime to its attention, noting that the critical nature of the issue and recent events provide evidence of its importance to the international community. The Committee expressed overall satisfaction with the document before it, with the exception of the section related to support for Member State consideration, as presented in topic 4. Emphasizing that cybersecurity and cybercrime remain one of the most significant issues facing the world, the Committee observed that experience has shown that with an issue this complex, there is a significant need to involve all stakeholders, and that this was not adequately reflected in the text in that section in its current form. Furthermore, there was some deep concern that CEB should not be perceived, or more accurately misperceived, as prejudging the discussion of Member States on the issue, even if that was not the intention of the document. Therefore, the scope of the document, and in particular topic 4, should focus as far as possible on activities associated with internal United Nations system coordination.

45. Reflecting on the overall nature of the document, the members of the Committee noted that support to Member States on a broad range of issues is a key function of the organizations of the United Nations system, citing, for example, the role that it plays in supporting the Internet Governance Forum and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Nevertheless, the members agreed that the text in the current version of the document could be adjusted to accommodate the views of all organizations without losing the substance of support to Member States. Members of the Committee concurred with this approach, noting that the topic has been under discussion for several years and that the current document presented a useful next-step in moving the issue forward, concluding that the small adjustments to the language could satisfy all concerns.

46. Regarding the other topics, and the general overview of the subject, organizations brought additional suggestions for improvement. While there was wide support for fully supporting the mainstreaming of cybersecurity into programme planning, as indicated in topic 2, members highlighted the value of common indicators and data collection. On topic 3, members noted that centres of

excellence already existed and a valuable objective for that topic would be to build on existing collaborations and connections. Furthermore, members suggested bringing the topic of cybersecurity for critical infrastructure more centrally to the attention of Member States, given that negligence in this area could lead to a financial or humanitarian crisis.

47. It was also suggested that the document could benefit from a stronger link to human rights by giving due attention to rights associated with enforcement and protection measures on the one hand, and fundamental freedoms, such as privacy, expression and association on the other. It was suggested that the current version took an overly cautious approach to the human rights aspect of cybersecurity and cybercrime, noting that a significant legal framework exists under the auspices of the United Nations that establishes parameters for what can be done when it comes to enforcement in ways that do not negatively impact people's rights.

48. Thanking all participants for their valuable contributions to the discussion, the Chair noted that the underlying sentiment of the Committee validated that it demonstrated prescience by raising this issue several years earlier and that there was an imperative to act on the issue.

49. During a closing intervention, the representative of ITU reiterated the view of several Committee members that there is general acceptance on all of the topics, except topic 4, and that the gap in topic 4 is not perceived to be so vast that it could be bridged with a concerted effort. Hence, it may prove useful to work towards closing the gap.

Conclusion

50. **The Chair proposed, and the Committee agreed to, a two-fold approach:**

(a) **Request ITU and UNESCO to convene, within the next 7 to 10 days, along with other members of the Committee wishing to participate, including, in particular, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank Group, a final effort to resolve any remaining issues;**

(b) **Present to CEB the outcomes of the Committee's discussions, along with the presentation by the Secretary-General of ITU, and, should the group reach agreement following the further consultations undertaken in accordance with paragraph 50 (a) above, present the document for CEB approval.**

51. The Chair concluded by stressing the need to find a way forward on the draft, and called on the CEB secretariat to assist, reiterating that ITU and UNESCO should convene the meeting and conclude it leaving enough time to circulate a revised document to the Committee for information in order to allow the members the time to brief their Executive Heads.

VII. Agenda item 6: new United Nations urban agenda

52. At its previous session, the Committee had taken up a new agenda item on the contribution of urbanization to sustainable development. It had been acknowledged that, in preparation for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in 2016, the United Nations system should develop a coherent approach to urbanization and agree on the main

characteristics and principles of a “sustainable city”. The Committee had recommended, and CEB had subsequently endorsed at its first regular session of 2014, the establishment of an ad hoc time-bound working group on a new United Nations urban agenda.

53. The working group has been tasked with: (a) developing a coherent United Nations system input to Habitat III in the form of a policy paper on “Urbanization and sustainable development: towards a new United Nations urban agenda”; (b) ensuring policy coherence through a system-wide framework for cooperation on the implementation of the sustainable urbanization dimensions of the post-2015 development agenda derived from the aforementioned policy paper; and (c) showcasing the work of the United Nations system on urban issues.

54. It had been agreed that a first draft of the policy paper was to be presented to the Committee at its twenty-eighth session, with a view to presenting the final version to the Board at its second regular session of 2015. The Chair invited the representative of UN-Habitat to introduce the first draft of the policy paper prepared by the working group.

55. The principal adviser on policy and strategic planning of the Office of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, recounted the process to form the 24-member working group and described the consultative drafting process that produced the draft presented for the Committee’s consideration. He noted that the text was still a work in progress and that an annex of United Nations system activities in the area of urbanization was also being compiled. Outlining the content of the policy paper, he drew the Committee’s attention to the eight guiding principles and nine levers of change identified by the members of the Working Group. The representative of UN-Habitat noted that an additional principle on taking advantage of the agglomeration economies of cities and addressing their negative externalities was to be incorporated. He also pointed out the complementarity between the principles contained in the paper and the five elements of sustainable development that the Committee had earlier identified in the context of the CEB discussion on fit-for-purpose. He concluded by emphasizing that the proposed agenda was not a blueprint, but rather an approach that was adaptable to different settings. He also welcomed the Chair’s earlier proposal that sustainable urbanization be a “prototype” platform for applying the five key elements of the post-2015 agenda and supporting fit-for-purpose efforts.

56. In the ensuing discussion, members of the Committee expressed appreciation for the consultative approach undertaken to produce the paper and commended the working group for a strong first draft. Urbanization was seen as an issue of system-wide importance that presented an opportunity to showcase a variety of relevant work by United Nations organizations. While acknowledging the good progress, the Committee recognized that the draft could be further developed, in particular taking into consideration the earlier discussion on making urbanization a priority area. Some questions were raised, including on the ultimate purpose and scope of the paper, with a view to ensuring that it was framed correctly and that the language was in line with the purpose, and whether there would be a report of the Secretary-General prepared for Habitat III and, if so, what its relationship would be to the policy paper being developed by the Committee.

57. There were a number of suggestions on content that could be strengthened in the next iteration of the paper. It was proposed that the challenges associated with

urbanization be amplified. A more people-centric approach, focused on the well-being and rights of current and future urban residents, would be appreciated. It was suggested that the cultural aspects of urbanization were critical and should be reflected in a new guiding principle. The urgency of mobilizing the system as a whole to protect the most vulnerable city dwellers should be better demonstrated. The paper should make a strong call for Habitat III to improve the spatial configuration of cities, recognizing the link with gender. The role of stakeholders should be expanded, including highlighting the need to involve coalitions of diverse actors early in city planning processes. The role of the United Nations system in facilitating urban civil society's contribution to sustainable development ought to be strengthened. Climate change and disaster risk reduction needed to be more prominent. The contribution of demographic, social and economic components to factors including urban inequalities, resource use, emissions and conflict should be clarified. On data, it was observed that more work was required with statistical commissions and other stakeholders who are gathering and using data about cities. In order to demonstrate its relation to and synchronicity with the deliberations of Member States, reference to relevant intergovernmental processes ought to be incorporated in the paper. The paper would also benefit from illustrative case studies, as often more innovative things were happening in cities than at the national level.

58. Additional subjects that were proposed to be introduced or strengthened in the next version of the paper included forcibly displaced persons, children, social issues (for example health, education, social protection), the rural-urban nexus and humanitarian-development linkages. As a means of illustrating some key points, it was proposed that the paper would benefit from the inclusion of examples of city-level actions. A reference to rule of law and transparent justice systems should be added to the second guiding principle. The intent to incorporate content on agglomeration economies and negative externalities of cities was welcomed, with the additional suggestion that the importance of special economic zones and of policies that promoted the clustering of productive activities with the educational sector should be highlighted.

59. On the larger question of the scope of the paper, the Chair suggested that the working group reflect upon whether it should be termed a "policy paper" or whether it was, rather, presenting a perspective through which to understand the urban agenda and anticipate its relationship to the post-2015 agenda. If the latter was the case, then the nomenclature might be reconsidered. Additionally, it may be more appropriate to refer to it as an "evolving" United Nations urban agenda, rather than as "new". He also welcomed further thought on how the work on the urban agenda might be deepened as one of the Committee's focus areas/issue-based platforms in the context of the larger discussion on the post-2015 development agenda and consideration of the United Nations system's fitness-for-purpose.

60. There was an exchange of views among members of the Committee about the timing of the submission of the paper to CEB. Some felt that it would be beneficial to finalize it at CEB's first regular session of 2015 so that it would serve as a timely input to negotiations on the outcome of the Habitat III conference as well as on the post-2015 development agenda. Others emphasized the need to wait for Member States to decide on the substance of the sustainable development goals, preferring, instead, to have the Committee review progress on the item at both its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions, with a view to submitting a final paper to CEB for

endorsement at its second regular session of 2015. As the Committee did not arrive at a conclusion on this point, the Chair asked that UN-Habitat, in consultation with others in the working group, prepare a short note to the Chair, summarizing the midpoint issues and recommending a timeline for the way forward, taking into consideration the sensitivity of the timing vis-à-vis the negotiations and decision-making processes of Member States on Habitat III and on the post-2015 development agenda.

Conclusion

61. The Committee invited the working group to propose a revised way forward for work on the urban agenda in the light of the varying views expressed by Committee members and its decision to use this as a prototype platform to showcase practical application of the fit-for-purpose efforts.

VIII. Agenda item 7: climate change

62. The Committee recalled that, at its last session, it had extended the mandate of its Working Group on Climate Change for two years and endorsed the Group's 2014-2015 work programme, which seeks to achieve the objectives of generating momentum for an ambitious climate agreement and fostering sustained climate action on the ground. The Committee also recalled that the Group was tasked with producing a joint publication in time for the Climate Summit and drafting terms of reference for the Group, for review by the Committee at its current session.

63. Presenting the progress report on the implementation of the Working Group's work programme, Elena Manaenkova, Assistant Secretary-General of WMO and Chair of the Working Group, noted that a key deliverable of the work programme was to strengthen joint communication of the United Nations system on the benefits of low carbon and resilient growth, and on the system's role in catalysing bold and meaningful climate action. In the light of that, Ms. Manaenkova informed the Committee on progress made in coordinating the participation of the United Nations system in the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima in December 2014.

64. Preparations were well advanced for the holding of 11 United Nations system side events and technical briefings at the twentieth session to highlight joint climate action and present the latest knowledge and United Nations system expertise in key aspects of the negotiations, taking into account also the outcomes of the 2014 Climate Summit. Ms. Manaenkova also expressed the readiness of the Working Group to support preparations of a high-level CEB side event at the twentieth session. In addition, she reported that the Working Group was organizing the first "One United Nations exhibit area" at the session, which would demonstrate the breadth of the United Nations system's technical, operational and normative expertise in an integrated and coherent manner, through jointly organized thematic exhibits that follow a common visual identity, rather than traditional individual agency-specific booths.

65. The United Nations system's coordinated action on climate change was further highlighted in a joint publication by the Working Group on "How the United Nations System Supports Ambitious Action on Climate Change", launched at the Climate Summit. Nearly 40 United Nations entities contributed to the joint

publication, which demonstrated how the diverse entities of the system work together in support of climate action. The publication was available on the CEB website (<http://www.unsceb.org/content/how-un-system-supports-ambitious-action-climate-change>). Ms. Manaenkova informed the Committee that this publication would be featured at the upcoming twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties.

66. Regarding the terms of reference presented to the Committee for approval, Ms. Manaenkova noted that their drafting was guided by the Committee's recommendation to maintain the flexible nature of the Working Group. The draft had been thoroughly consulted and agreed upon by the members of the Group.

67. Thanking Ms. Manaenkova for her leadership, the Committee acknowledged with appreciation the work of the Working Group and endorsed the terms of reference on the understanding that the Group's mandate, as well as its terms of reference, would be subject to its further review in the fall of 2015, also with a view to ensuring the right *modus operandi* for the United Nations system to deliver coordinated and coherent support to Member States in addressing climate change beyond the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties and in the broader context of the post-2015 development agenda. With regard to the proposed holding of a CEB high-level side event at the twentieth session, upon consideration, the Committee agreed to request the Working Group to explore alternative options for demonstrating the commitment of the United Nations system to supporting climate action beyond the holding of a CEB high-level side event.

Conclusion

68. **The Committee approved the terms of reference of its Working Group on Climate Change (see annex V).**

IX. Agenda item 8: small island developing States

69. It was recalled that the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States had been held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. A CEB statement had been presented to the Conference, as endorsed by the Board further to the Committee's proposal produced at its twenty-seventh session. In addition, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, CEB had held a high-level event entitled "The United Nations system partnering for the people of the small island developing States", as decided at the Board's second regular session of 2013. The Chair invited Mr. Nikhil Seth, the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to outline the most salient messages from the Conference for the Committee.

70. Mr. Seth briefly highlighted some of the successes and lessons learned from the Conference, notably the importance of the ownership of its outcome document by the small island developing States, which enabled the early conclusion of the negotiations. He stressed that the system must now turn its attention to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The follow-up would be more complex than usual because there was both the political outcome document to realize and over 300 new and expanded partnerships to bring to fruition. On the former, the Department was preparing an implementation matrix, mapping out the actions of the organizations of the United Nations system, both individual and collective. The

matrix would be disseminated to the system through the “Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs plus” inter-agency mechanism. On the latter, Mr. Seth urged the entities of the United Nations system to take the lead in delivering on the partnerships they are part of, including by engaging the variety of non-United Nations partners. In order to maintain momentum, political space (such as within the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Political Forum and/or the United Nations Environment Assembly) would have to be found to highlight the contribution of the partnerships. Mr. Seth also noted that work would be undertaken to energize the Inter-agency Consultative Group, which includes organizations outside the United Nations system, so that it was better equipped to contribute towards realizing the vision of the small island developing States for their sustainable development.

71. The Chair thanked Mr. Seth for his report and reiterated that the United Nations system had conveyed its strong engagement to the Conference, including through the contribution of CEB. He underscored the importance of each organization’s taking forward the actions called for in the SAMOA Pathway and looked forward to receiving the implementation matrix through the “Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs plus”. He resolved to convey to CEB the need for strong and continued engagement on the part of the United Nations system.

Conclusion

72. **The Committee took note of the oral report.**

X. Agenda item 9: summary of information items

73. The Chair recalled that the Committee had received, by e-mail, a number of information notes providing progress updates prior to the session on a non-objection basis. A few comments had been received addressed directly with the respective authors of the reports. He invited the Committee to take note of the following progress reports:

A. Drugs and organized crime

74. The information note prepared by UNODC provided an overview of preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 and the work of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

B. World Summit on the Information Society

75. The General Assembly decided to convene, in December 2015, a two-day high-level event on the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. The information note, prepared by ITU, provided details on progress in the overall review and on the status of implementation of the United Nations system-wide plan of action.

C. Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

76. The information note prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States outlined efforts made in the preparation of a set of proposals related to United Nations system-wide implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

D. UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans

77. Information notes, prepared by UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans, offered progress updates on recent activities of the three inter-agency coordination bodies.

Conclusion

78. **The Committee took note of the information notes and thanked the organizations for their updates.**

XI. Agenda item 10: other business

79. Committee members had been informed of the Chair's proposal to host its twenty-ninth session at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi on 10 and 11 March 2015.

Conclusion

80. **The Committee confirmed the dates of 10 and 11 March 2015 for the twenty-ninth session and thanked the Chair for inviting the Committee to Nairobi.**

Annex I

Agenda

Item 1: post-2015 development agenda

Item 2: youth employment

Item 3: third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Item 4: twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Item 5: Cybersecurity, cybercrime and policies on information

Item 6: New United Nations urban agenda

Item 7: Climate change

Item 8: Small island developing States

Item 9: Information items

- A. Drugs and Organized Crime
- B. World Summit on the Information Society
- C. Istanbul Plan of Action for the LDCs
- D. UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans

Item 10: Other issues

Dates and location of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee

Annex II

List of participants

Chair: Achim Steiner (United Nations Environment Programme)

Vice-Chair: Jane Stewart (International Labour Organization)

Secretary: Kayoko Gotoh

United Nations

Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Kim Won-soo, Secretary of CEB Paul Akiwumi Patrick Carey
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Thomas Gass Navid Hanif Nikhil Seth
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Gwi-Yeop Son Robert Gaylord
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Craig Mokhiber
Regional commissions	Amr Nour
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	Margaret Wahlström (via videoconference) John Harding (via videoconference) Glenn Dolcemascolo
International Labour Organization	Philippe Egger
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Sharon Brennen-Haylock
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Jean-Yves Le Saux
International Civil Aviation Organization	John V. Augustin
World Health Organization	Daniel Lopez-Acuna Werner Obermeyer Suvi Huikuri
World Bank Group	Nicholas Jones

International Monetary Fund	Axel Bertuch-Samuels
	Nritya Subramaniam
Universal Postal Union	Alassane Guiro
International Telecommunication Union	Doreen Bogdan-Martin
	Anders Norsker
World Meteorological Organization	Elena Manaenkova
	Christian Blondin
	Paul Egerton
International Maritime Organization	Jesper Loldrup
World Intellectual Property Organization	Lucinda Longcroft
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Zach Bleicher
United National Industrial Development Organization	Stefano Bologna
	Paul Maseli
World Trade Organization	Said El Achimi
World Tourism Organization	Jose Garcia Blanch
	Kazi Rahman
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Chantal-line Carpentier
	Marisa Henderson
United Nations Development Programme	Jens Wendel
	Nergis Gulasan
	Patrick Tiefenbacher
	Janil Greenaway
	Anne-Laure Jeanvoine
United Nations Environment Programme	Elliott Harris
	Corli Pretorius
	Maaikje Jansen
	Claudia ten Have
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Arafat Jamal

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Richard Wright
United Nations Children's Fund	Olav Kjørven Mandeep O'Brien Charlotte Lie-Piang
United Nations Population Fund	Mabingue Ngom Alexander Pak
World Food Programme	Arif Husain Stanlake Samkange
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes	Gillian Murray
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza Yamina Djacta Florian Lux
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)	Lakshmi Puri Moez Doraid Sharon Taylor Satu Lassila
United Nations University	James Cockayne
United Nations System Staff College	Jafar Javan
	* * *
Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Youth	Ahmad Alhendawi (via videoconference) Yan Islam (ILO) (via videoconference) Saskia Schellekens (Department of Public Information)
	* * *
Development Operations Coordination Office	Kanni Wignaraja Dena Assaf Gerard Daly Jose Dallo

CEB secretariat

Simona Petrova

Remo Lalli

Ken Herman

Xenia von Lilien

Cheryl Stafford

Catherine Zanev

Annex III

Draft statement of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

(20 November 2014)

1. We, the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), are strongly committed to assisting countries and communities in implementing the [insert name of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction] and the outcomes of the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015.
2. We recognize the opportunity offered by the convergence of international agendas in 2015 and 2016 to promote coherence across the sustainable development, peacebuilding, climate change, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian efforts. At this strategic moment in time, we reaffirm our commitments set out in the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, adopted in 2013.
3. We underscore that unless the risk of disasters is addressed in development policies, our common goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be secured. It includes ensuring disaster risk-sensitive sector investments, such as agriculture, water, education, health and ecosystems management, urban and rural development, provision of social services, as well as strengthening of early warning systems, preparedness and the application of science and technology.
4. Thus, our main contribution, as members of CEB, to the implementation of the [insert name of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction] is to ensure that disaster risk reduction for resilience is anchored as a core principle for the collective efforts of the United Nations system to achieve sustainable development.
5. In partnership with others, we will support countries in establishing strong risk governance with informed and effective leadership at the regional, national and local levels. Disaster risk management is a concern for all and therefore requires the inclusion, engagement and empowerment of all members of society.
6. Through the work of our respective organizations and our collective efforts as the United Nations system, we aspire to set a precedence for effective development cooperation that reduces the risk of disasters, in full alignment with related and already agreed principles.
7. Our engagement will be based on our track record of working at the country and community levels to support national authorities and other stakeholders to undertake practical disaster risk reduction. This work will be underpinned by our comparative advantage in assisting vulnerable, marginalized, discriminated against, conflict-affected and impoverished groups, pursued through an approach to programming that is disability- and age-sensitive, human rights-based and people-centred, and our collective commitment to fostering gender equality and women's equal participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction.
8. We will fully align our support to countries with the goals, guiding principles and priorities set out in the [insert name of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction], and ensure coherent and effective United Nations operations in all

aspects, from leadership to programming, implementation and reporting. In this regard, it is important to improve the availability of, and access to, data and statistics disaggregated by gender, disability, age and other characteristics and up-to-date risk information, as a basis for transparent decision-making.

9. Furthermore, to ensure our ability to continue to deliver our mandates when disasters occur, we have initiated an emergency management framework under the rubric of the organizational resilience management system of the United Nations.^a

10. Finally, we pledge to regularly monitor, adjust and upscale our collective efforts in delivering on the commitments made in the present statement. CEB, through its High-level Committee on Programmes, will review the progress made on the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, following the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. We will use this as our first opportunity to further strengthen United Nations system support to countries and communities in full alignment with the [insert name of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction].

^a The General Assembly approved the organizational resilience management system of the United Nations approach as the emergency management framework under 67/254 A.

Annex IV

Draft statement of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

(20 November 2014)

1. We, the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), recognize the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the opportunity it provides to make gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls central to development.
2. We reaffirm that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls remain top priorities for our organizations in the context of the continuing critical importance of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, other international human rights instruments and related intergovernmental outcomes.^a
3. Over the last 20 years, the United Nations system has done much to help translate the Beijing Platform for Action into real improvements in women's and girls' lives. It has put gender equality at the top of organizational priorities and has ensured that a gender perspective is integrated across policies and programmes. To more systematically advance gender equality and women's empowerment, UN-Women was created with a universal mandate to assist Member States through its normative support, coordination and operational activities.
4. Since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the global political and socioeconomic landscape has changed dramatically. Persistent and new conflicts, the world financial and economic crises, the global jobs crisis, a growing digital divide, volatile food and energy prices, food insecurity, environmental degradation, disasters and climate change have intensified inequalities and vulnerabilities, often affecting women and girls disproportionately. Globalization, information and communications technologies, along with demographic changes, including ageing, migration, displacement and rapid urbanization, pose both challenges and opportunities. Fully realizing the human rights of women and girls and the importance of the achievement of gender equality calls for mobilizing new actions within an overall environment that upholds sustained progress.
5. Some progress has been made in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, but stark gaps remain. On average, gender parity in primary school enrolment has been achieved globally, but wide gender disparities persist in school completion and learning outcomes, especially in secondary and tertiary education in many regions. While women have more employment opportunities today, they are more likely than men to have low-paid and vulnerable jobs, with limited or no social

^a Norms and standards contained and developed under the core international human rights treaties as well as relevant instruments of specialized agencies.

protection. Violence against women and girls is a global scourge, leaving countless women and girls living in fear for their lives. Child marriage violates the rights of many girls, denying them a childhood and leaving them highly vulnerable to violence and abuse, among other consequences. Impunity for all forms of gender-based violence continues at unacceptable levels.

6. Millions of women and girls around the world do not enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights, for example, maternal mortality remains high despite resulting mostly from preventable causes, and still today many are deprived access to sexual and reproductive health services and information in practice. In the context of the current outbreak of the Ebola virus, women and girls are at a heightened risk of infection in the light of their roles as caregivers and frontline health workers.

7. Limited access to and control over productive assets and resources worsens poverty among women, including in rural and indigenous peoples' communities. Too few women are heard in the corridors of power and decision-making, while discriminatory laws, policy measures, social norms, harmful practices, stereotypes and exclusion perpetuate inequality.

8. We recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment are objectives in their own right. They are also pivotal to sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social, and environmental, as emphasized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want".^b Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls are fundamental for eradicating poverty and hunger, attaining peace and security, upholding human rights and placing development on a sustainable path. Investing in gender equality offers substantial returns to women and girls and to societies more broadly.

9. As leaders of the United Nations system, we therefore urge all Governments to reaffirm their political commitment to advance equality, development and peace for all women and girls everywhere and to guarantee their human rights. Specifically, we also urge Governments to implement, with adequate resources, the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. It is time to build on achievements, best practices and lessons learned over the past 20 years. Gender-responsive institutions, strong governance and robust accountability, along with policies and measures that promote gender equality, are all required. Women need to play equal and effective roles in decision-making to influence policies and hold policymakers accountable.

10. Looking ahead to post-2015, we underscore the importance of defining a new development and humanitarian agenda firmly grounded in the principles of human rights — universality, indivisibility, equality, non-discrimination, participation, inclusion and accountability. The agenda must be bold and ambitious and foster the transformation of gender relations by tackling the root causes of gender inequality.

11. We are determined to step up efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls under all respective mandates, including through pursuing systematic gender mainstreaming; substantially increasing resources to

^b General Assembly resolution 66/288 adopted in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20).

deliver results, especially under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks; monitoring progress with better gender-, ethnicity-, disability- and age-disaggregated statistics and data; and instituting robust accountability systems, including through the full implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan. We aim to accelerate progress towards equal representation of women at all levels in its diverse bodies, including through special measures.

12. We pledge to jointly support Member States to fulfil the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, together with the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. Every woman and every girl should enjoy all her human rights. She should be empowered and free from poverty, hunger, exclusion, discrimination and violence, and possess an equal voice in decision-making.

13. As we aspire to a just world with equality between women and men, boys and girls, the United Nations system will do its utmost to make this a reality.

Annex V

Working Group on Climate Change of the High-level Committee on Programmes

Terms of reference

(20 November 2014)

A. Scope and objectives

1. The Working Group on Climate Change is an inter-agency mechanism under the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). The Working Group was established, in support of the Committee's coordination role, and to enhance the cooperation and coherence of the actions of the United Nations system related to climate change, a cross-cutting issue of system-wide concern.
2. The Working Group aims to complement and add value to the programmes and projects of individual entities of the United Nations system by facilitating synergies and joint efforts in order to maximize effectiveness of the support provided to Member States in their efforts to address climate change.
3. To that end, the Working Group shall:
 - (a) Serve as a forum for inter-agency dialogue and coordination on climate-related programme initiatives and activities;
 - (b) Serve as an incubator for new climate-related programmatic initiatives that would benefit from the collaboration of two or more United Nations agencies;
 - (c) Provide participating entities with a collective point of entry to the activities and knowledge of the United Nations system on climate change;
 - (d) Advise the Committee on emerging strategic issues and priorities for system-wide action on climate change;
 - (e) Develop and articulate system-wide positions on climate change and key issues in the climate negotiations, including through joint messaging, communication and advocacy material;
 - (f) Coordinate the engagement of the United Nations system in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant climate-related processes and forums;
 - (g) Collaborate and coordinate with other inter-agency mechanisms on issues of common concern.
4. The mandate, strategic priorities and functions of the Working Group are subject to periodic review by the Committee.

B. Modalities of work

Participation

5. Participation in the Working Group is open to all entities of the United Nations system working in the area of climate change. The members of the Working Group shall be senior representatives and/or technical experts appointed by the member organizations of the Committee. Other relevant organizations and United Nations inter-agency mechanisms may be invited to participate and contribute to its work.

Work programme

6. The Working Group will prepare and agree on biennial work programmes, for the subsequent approval of the Committee, which will include specific deliverables to be implemented collectively.

7. In support of the implementation of its work programme, the Working Group may set up time-bound ad hoc task teams under the leadership of one or more members of the Working Group to facilitate coordination on specific deliverables.

Decision-making

8. The Working Group shall work on the basis of consensus.

Chair and Vice-Chair

9. The Working Group is being led by a Chair, who is supported by a Vice-Chair. The Chair and the Vice-Chair shall be appointed by the Committee to serve two-year terms and may be reappointed for a further period.

10. The Chair shall:

(a) Provide strategic vision and guidance to the Working Group by overseeing and directing the development and implementation of its biennial work programme;

(b) Convene the meetings of the Working Group;

(c) Represent the Working Group at meetings of the High-level Committee on Programmes and other relevant meetings, as appropriate.

Secretariat

11. The CEB secretariat shall provide support to the Working Group. Under the guidance of the Chair, it shall:

(a) Draft the biennial work programme of the Working Group and support its implementation;

(b) Organize and facilitate regular meetings of the Working Group and their follow-up;

(c) Coordinate the engagement of the United Nations system in the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(d) Facilitate communication among the members of the Working Group to advance collaboration on the implementation of the work programme;

(e) Gather and consolidate information about the activities of the Working Group to facilitate the knowledge and information exchange among its members;

(f) Monitor intergovernmental processes related to climate change to inform the work of the Working Group, as appropriate;

(g) Monitor and engage with other inter-agency mechanisms, including the United Nations Development Group, UN-Energy, UN-Oceans, UN-Water, the Environment Management Group, the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and other relevant bodies, including the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team, on issues of common concern;

(h) Maintain and promote the climate change section of the website of CEB.

Meetings

12. The Working Group shall hold regular meetings at least twice a year, normally by video and teleconference, and periodically in person.

Reporting

13. The Chairperson of the Working Group shall regularly report to the High-level Committee on Programmes on the implementation of the Working Group's work programme and the Group's concrete deliverables in support of enhanced climate action.
