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

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Note

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. The past year¹ has been one of deep and interlocking crises that are growing in scale and severity. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic persists and, with less than 20 per cent of people in low-income countries vaccinated, recovery is uneven. The war in Ukraine has caused distress for millions of people in and far beyond the country and has amplified the effects of the climate crisis and long-standing inequalities around the world. All these challenges transcend borders and can be solved only with forceful collective action.

2. Through my report on Our Common Agenda (A/75/982), we launched and carried forward long-term recommendations, proposing solutions at the national, regional and global levels, to build a more equal, resilient and sustainable world, based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and underpinned by human rights. It contains proposals on ways to strengthen social cohesion and solidarity, prevent and manage crises and tackle ongoing and new threats to security. In response, Member States have endorsed the proposals that can move forward immediately, and they are fully engaged on those where further work and dialogue are needed to deliver on Our Common Agenda.

3. Throughout the year, the United Nations, as a platform for international cooperation and solidarity, convened stakeholders and drove global advocacy and cooperation to reduce poverty, tackle climate change and propel energy and digital transformation, reform food systems, reduce inequality and mobilize resources and action coalitions for the acceleration and expansion of sustainable development investments at scale to get countries back on track. Collectively across the United Nations system, we offered policy options and solutions, helped to shape strategies and amplified the voices of those on the front lines and those marginalized.

4. From efforts to bridge the finance and investment gap for developing countries and targeted partnerships for stronger climate action, to the United Nations Food Systems Summit, held in September 2021, and the new Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, we focused on helping countries to recover from the pandemic, prioritize crucial transitions in energy and digital connectivity and accelerate progress on sustainable development. The United Nations development system provided timely and coherent support to Member States, which welcomed the reforms that enable country teams to come together and leverage expertise and experience across the United Nations system to address interconnected challenges.

5. At the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Member States committed to recasting efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to reach net zero emissions targets and phase out inefficient fuel subsidies. We are now pushing for Governments and the private sector to live up to those pledges and secure a rapid and just transition to renewables.

¹ In line with the regular budget of the United Nations Secretariat, the reporting period is from 1 January to 31 December 2021. Given the peacekeeping budget period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, and the presentation of the report to the General Assembly in September, a few key highlights from the first months of 2022 are also included.

6. The peace and security architecture is under enormous strain, as exemplified most recently by the war in Ukraine. Converging threats, geostrategic competition and systemic inequalities are having devastating consequences, not only for people caught up in violence. The United Nations deployed a range of tools to prevent, mitigate, manage and resolve conflicts, protect civilians, confront the particular threats facing women and children and build pathways out of conflict and crisis to sustainable development and peace. In Yemen, we facilitated a renewable two-month truce that has reduced violence around the country. In Libya and the Sudan, we supported political dialogue and consultations to help navigate through periods of raised tensions. At the same time, we supported livelihoods and helped to strengthen the resilience of households.

7. Our humanitarian efforts aimed to support the many millions of people thrown into need by new and protracted conflicts, devastating natural disasters, the fallout of climate change and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, response plans coordinated by the United Nations required \$37.7 billion to provide life-saving assistance and protection to 174 million people across 60 countries. With the generous support of donors, and together with our partners, we mobilized a record \$20.25 billion and reached some 107 million people with assistance.

8. Our efforts to end discrimination against women and girls included the Generation Equality Forum, which catalysed pledges on policy, programming and advocacy and \$40 billion in financial commitments. As part of our work to mobilize action on the prevention of and response to survivors of gender-based violence, the Spotlight Initiative allocated \$48 million to civil society and women's grass-roots organizations and strengthened national action plans to eliminate violence against women and girls in more than 30 countries across the globe.

9. Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy gained momentum across the United Nations system. Young people's voices were at the forefront of our climate efforts. At the country level, United Nations country teams became better equipped to expand programming involving and benefiting young people.

10. Through my call to action for human rights, we have extended support to help Member States repeal discriminatory laws and use temporary special measures to strengthen women's participation. Principals across the United Nations system have included the voices of young people to advance climate action and climate justice. United Nations country teams are working more strategically and collectively on human rights issues on the ground.

11. Within the Secretariat, we successfully launched the strategic action plan on addressing racism and promoting dignity for all. Across the United Nations family, we finalized guidance on a survivor-centred approach to sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment.

12. Disarmament remains central to our work. As military spending rose to \$2.1 trillion, the highest level since the end of the cold war, we supported intergovernmental processes aimed at ensuring a safe, secure and peaceful cyber domain, assisted expert discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems and helped to establish a new intergovernmental process to reduce military threats in outer space.

13. Across the Secretariat, peace missions and the United Nations development system, we continued to confront the challenges associated with the global pandemic by streamlining processes, improving human resource mechanisms and communications and strengthening supply chains.

14. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we reinforced testing and therapeutics, medical evacuation mechanisms and vaccinations for personnel and facilitated a safe return to the office and hybrid ways of working, according to local conditions around

the world. Our communications positioned the United Nations as a leading voice in the pandemic response: the Verified initiative delivered reliable, science-based information, built confidence in health messaging and took on the parallel pandemic of disinformation.

15. Across all efforts, we remained guided by the Charter of the United Nations, human rights frameworks, the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed commitments aimed at securing a sustainable, peaceful and inclusive future and prosperity for all, in harmony with nature, and ensuring no one is left behind.

16. In these turbulent times, the work of the United Nations is more necessary than ever. We are acutely aware that a reactive approach to crisis is failing the world's people. In the next year, we will continue to help build resilience and reduce suffering, while pursuing the long-term strategies set out in my report on Our Common Agenda to prevent crises, manage risks and build a sustainable future for all.

Chapter II

The work of the Organization

A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development

Context

17. The COVID-19 pandemic has had catastrophic effects on people's lives and on efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, with 77 million more people in extreme poverty in 2021 than in 2019. The climate emergency threatens the lives and livelihoods of many more people and future generations, and global instability is on the rise. Only international cooperation will enable the world to respond to these interlinked crises.

Key objectives

18. The Organization fosters international cooperation on transformative global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Resident coordinators serving in 162 countries and territories lead United Nations country teams, mobilizing the United Nations development system to deliver on cooperation frameworks agreed with host Governments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

Key outcomes

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

19. The focus of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021* was on resilience and recovery in the context of COVID-19. The report underscored the need to strengthen public finance and debt sustainability, mobilize private investment, revitalize trade, combat inequality, expand social protection, promote climate action and bridge digital divides, all of which will require a strong and more effective multilateral system that can complement national efforts to firmly put the world on the trajectory of sustainable development.

20. To inform and bring urgency to the pandemic response and monitor progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, we supported an exercise showing that global excess mortality associated with COVID-19 was at nearly 15 million deaths in 2020–2021, almost three times the number of deaths officially reported.

21. The 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development was focused on COVID-19 recovery, highlighting deepening inequality and urging strong multilateralism and solidarity. The Economic and Social Council youth forum proved its value as a platform for young people to engage with Member States on development challenges and attracted over 19,000 participants.

22. Barbados hosted the fifteenth quadrennial session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which resulted in the adoption of the Bridgetown Covenant to address debt burdens; make economies more diverse, sustainable and resilient; improve development financing; and reimagine multilateralism to cope with shared global challenges.

23. To maximize the impact of voluntary national reviews on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, we organized three global and five regional workshops for the 42 countries presenting their reviews in 2021.

24. We answered Member States' call for stronger country-level data on innovation in the COVID-19 context. Over 50 developing countries participated in the 2021–2022 Development Cooperation Forum survey, helping us to align development cooperation resources with pandemic response and recovery.

Highlight: “Space2030” Agenda

The “‘Space2030’ Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development” was launched in a dedicated General Assembly resolution to harness the potential of space for development and to align space policies with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Highlight: Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The active engagement of the United Nations in outreach and proactive diplomacy has supported countries in becoming members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia became the newest States members of the Committee, bringing the total membership of this intergovernmental platform to 100 and making it one of the fastest-growing committees in the United Nations system.

Scaling up financing for development

25. The *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021* highlighted the risk of a sharply diverging post-pandemic world recovery and sent the message that immediate action is needed to avoid another lost decade for development. It emphasized the need to finance investments in sustainability and resilience.

26. Under the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, I issued a policy brief on possible liquidity and debt solutions and, with the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica, jointly convened a meeting of Heads of State and Government on the international debt architecture and liquidity to advance thinking and action around these options. Cognizant of the fact that 4.2 billion people do not have any form of social protection and of the potential of the

Highlight: Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund

Since its inception, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund has channelled \$236 million to United Nations entities covering 117 countries and territories. The funding goes to joint programmes that incorporate innovative ways to support the most vulnerable and develop financial instruments for the Goals. In 2021, the Fund launched a dedicated window for 42 small island developing States worth \$30 million.

digital, care and green economies to deliver a job-rich recovery, I issued a policy brief on the topic and, at a meeting with Heads of State and Government, launched the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition, an initiative supported by the International Labour Organization.

Highlight: Global Investors for Sustainable Development

Convened by the United Nations, the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance, comprising leaders of major financial institutions and corporations around the world, works to scale up long-term finance and investment in sustainable development and better align the finance and investment ecosystem with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Alliance's achievements include guidance to asset owners on integrating sustainability considerations and the Goals into their mandates; Goal-aligned metrics for eight sectors; and ongoing collaboration to create a blended finance fund for mobilizing capital for sustainable infrastructure projects.

27. At the Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair, eight countries presented over \$10 billion in investment opportunities to financial institutions and companies in sustainable infrastructure, health care, green energy and agribusiness. The Investment Fair is growing as a platform for showcasing ready investment pipelines to help channel resources to investments aligned with the Goals.

Leaving no one behind

28. The pandemic, coupled with high levels of poverty and inequalities, threatens to stall development progress. In March 2022, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group issued a good practice note for United Nations country teams to support Member States in fulfilling their pledge to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first. The *World Social Report 2021* set out strategies to build resilience to shocks, preserve natural resources and reduce inequality of opportunity in rural areas. The fifth volume of the *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* highlighted the inequalities faced by indigenous peoples in ensuring their rights to lands, territories and resources.

29. The report on Our Common Agenda, released in September 2021, was also designed to help accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It provides specific recommendations on how to strengthen our common efforts to ensure no one is left behind, including through a last-mile alliance to reach those furthest behind and boost investments.

30. A new Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031 was adopted in March 2022, with renewed commitments to tackle the pandemic, reverse its socioeconomic impacts, address climate change and help countries to graduate from the least developed country category.

31. In support of landlocked developing countries, we ramped up implementation of the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including megaprojects on renewable energy and transport infrastructure.

32. Support to small island developing States was strengthened through the implementation of a road map on multi-country offices, including the establishment in 2021 of the multi-country office in the Federated States of Micronesia, and further work on a multidimensional vulnerability index.

Climate action

33. At the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow, Member States committed to recasting efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to reach net zero emissions by mid-century. They also committed to the phasing down of unabated coal power and phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. We are now pushing for Governments and the private sector to live up to those pledges and secure a credible, rapid and just transition to renewables.

Ahead of the twenty-sixth session, in support of these efforts, we coordinated five regional round tables to discuss challenges and opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Member States also urged developed countries to at least double the provision to developing countries of climate finance for adaptation from 2019 levels by 2025. Noting the urgent need to close the gaps in implementation towards the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Conference of the Parties invited the Secretary-General to convene world leaders in 2023 to review ambitions until 2030.

34. Young people play a key role in tackling the climate crisis. They were specifically addressed in the sixth edition of the *Global Environment Outlook*, with tools and information for bringing about a more sustainable future.

35. The Statistical Commission adopted a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, as well as the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting, a key framework for measuring the contribution of nature to the economy and supporting nature-based solutions.

36. With 37 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions generated through food production, I called for the holding of the first Food Systems Summit in September 2021, which set the stage for transforming global food systems to drive COVID-19 recovery and help us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

37. To advance disaster risk reduction, the systemic nature of drought and its impacts on people and ecosystems were explored in the *Global Assessment Report: Special Report on Drought 2021*. The report contributed to risk assessments, including in the Arab States and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

38. The high-level dialogue on energy, which we convened in September 2021, resulted in over 150 energy compacts from Governments, businesses and other organizations, and new commitments of more than \$400 billion. I also issued a global road map for clean energy for all by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal 7), which set out the key milestones needed.

39. The second Global Sustainable Transport Conference was convened in a hybrid format in October 2021, positioning sustainable transport as an essential means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Gender equality

40. The pandemic exposed deep structural inequalities, reversed decades of progress on women's labour force participation, raised the numbers of women living in extreme poverty and multiplied women's and girls' vulnerability to violence.

41. We mobilized action on the prevention of and response to survivors of gender-based violence by enhancing investments in social protection systems and delivering comprehensive and transformative programming through our partnership with the European Union on the Spotlight Initiative, a flagship initiative under the United Nations development system reforms. In Spotlight Initiative countries, we doubled the number of gender-based violence-related convictions, educated 1.3 million men and boys on positive masculinity, allocated \$48 million to civil society and women's grass-roots organizations and strengthened national action plans to eliminate violence against women and girls in more than 30 countries across the globe. In addition, the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women supported projects worth nearly \$74 million and reaching over 41 million people.

42. Through our nationally representative survey on COVID-19 and violence against women, we let older women be heard and highlighted the pandemic's toll on their welfare. The COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker and 78 rapid gender assessments resulted in over 20 countries enacting gender-sensitive policies.

43. We launched a plan to implement the recommendations of the High-level Task Force on Financing for Gender Equality. The aims of the plan are to strengthen gender mainstreaming in pooled funds, integrate gender equality in strategic plans and budgetary frameworks, harmonize reporting on finances for gender equality and expand the use of the gender equality marker.

44. We improved the integration of gender considerations into our development work. Over 60 per cent of United Nations country teams use the gender equality marker to track progress in this area, and 113 out of 130 country teams reported one or more joint programmes with a gender equality focus.

45. The Generation Equality Forum marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, catalysing ambitious policy, programme and advocacy commitments and \$40 billion in financial commitments.

46. Through the Women Count programme, we supported nine surveys and strengthened national data systems to increase the availability of gender-sensitive Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

47. To ensure a safe workplace for our own personnel, we finalized guidance on a survivor-centred approach to sexual harassment within United Nations system organizations.

Regional support

48. Regional collaborative platforms are now fully established in all regions, providing a robust foundation for improved regional support to countries, based on country demand. In addition, progress has been made in mobilizing in a timely manner experts and expertise through regional knowledge management hubs; strengthening the coherence of the Sustainable Development Goal data architecture; and finalizing regional business operations strategies to support efficiency initiatives. Results achieved are captured in the platforms' results reports.

49. Progress will continue in the years ahead, with the overall objective to deploy our regional assets optimally to meet country teams' demand in real time, in support of Sustainable Development Goal implementation.

50. The annual regional forums on sustainable development organized by the five regional commissions enabled discussions on recovering better from COVID-19 while advancing the 2030 Agenda and prepared the regional inputs to the high-level political forum.

United Nations development system

51. As global challenges grow in complexity, a new generation of United Nations country teams has emerged, under revitalized, independent and impartial leadership from the resident coordinator system, to ensure the optimal deployment of United Nations assets to support countries in their efforts to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and realize the 2030 Agenda.

52. With a stronger development coordination system, country teams are taking results to scale. Our responses have become more integrated and effective, going beyond sectoral approaches and better drawing on expertise from across the system. Host Governments benefit when the United Nations collaborates better, providing integrated solutions in line with countries' priorities.

53. Resident coordinators and their teams are delivering improved leadership, coordination and convening. Nearly 90 per cent of host Governments say that resident coordinators lead country teams effectively in support of their countries' needs, and 92 per cent indicate that resident coordinators ensured a coherent health, humanitarian and socioeconomic response to the pandemic. The success of the

resident coordinator system was validated in 2021 by a General Assembly review of the system's functioning and funding. Adequate and predictable financing of the United Nations development system will be critical to sustained efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Maintenance of international peace and security

Context

54. The peace and security environment in which the United Nations operates is shaped by converging threats: the evolving nature of conflict, the climate emergency, unregulated cyberspace and increased geostrategic competition. The effects of the pandemic continue to be felt, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and conflict drivers and hindering the effectiveness of the global collective security architecture. This challenges the ability of the United Nations to respond to threats, prevent, manage and mitigate conflicts and succeed as peacemaker. While these trends have been present for some time, the war in Ukraine has made them more pronounced. A renewed commitment to multilateralism and the Charter, as called for in my report on Our Common Agenda and my call to action for human rights, remains vital to addressing these challenges.

Key objectives

55. The United Nations supports Member States through a range of international peace and security activities, grounded in the principles of the Charter and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Through our political, peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts, we work in support of conflict prevention, and we respond to conflicts and political crises when they arise. The Organization also works to advance women's and youth participation in political and peace processes, prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence, violations of children's rights in the context of armed conflict, and sexual exploitation and abuse, and prevent genocide and atrocity crimes more broadly.

Key outcomes

Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

56. As the global peace and security environment continued to deteriorate, the United Nations stepped up efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and promote sustainable peace, including through the work of our 38 special political missions and offices and 12 peacekeeping operations. Special representatives and envoys engaged with conflict parties to achieve ceasefires and lasting political settlements. In Yemen, my Special Envoy helped to negotiate a two-month nationwide truce, which resulted in significantly reduced violence and opened channels for dialogue. Good offices continued to be instrumental in facilitating a Libyan-owned and Libyan-led resolution to the conflict in the country by supporting efforts to organize national elections, while in Haiti they contributed to creating space for dialogue following the assassination of the President, Jovenel Moïse. In Afghanistan, we advocated for inclusive governance institutions, human rights, in particular women's rights and girls' right to education, and counter-terrorism, while coordinating efforts on the banking and liquidity crises.

57. In Ukraine, the United Nations continued its support for the diplomatic efforts under the Normandy Four format and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe-led Trilateral Contact Group, in line with Security Council resolution [2202 \(2015\)](#). As tensions increased, the Organization urged de-escalation and the use of diplomatic channels to address legitimate concerns and outstanding issues, in accordance with the Charter. Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, we consistently spoke out in support of the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in line with the Charter and on the need for compliance with

international law and for accountability. We supported the people of Ukraine with humanitarian assistance, including through diplomatic efforts to ensure unfettered humanitarian access, urgent protection of civilians, and safe evacuation of civilians trapped in areas of fighting, including a joint operation by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to evacuate people from Mariupol. We also actively engaged in negotiations to facilitate unimpeded exports of grains, other foodstuffs and fertilizers to help tackle the global food crisis, which resulted in the Black Sea Grain Initiative, signed by Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Türkiye under the auspices of the United Nations on 22 July 2022. To resolve the conflict, we maintained close engagement with leaders. In accordance with the Charter, the Organization continued to support diplomatic efforts for the parties to engage in good-faith negotiations and dialogue. We also established the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance to address the impact of the war on the global food and energy supply, supply chains and financial markets, in an environment of already high levels of socioeconomic stress due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency.

58. Our close partnership with regional organizations remained essential. In the Sudan, we worked with the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development towards peacefully resolving the crisis following the coup d'état in October 2021, supporting a return to constitutional order. In the Central African Republic and South Sudan, we partnered with the African Union and regional bodies on peace agreements, political transitions and reconciliation processes. In the Great Lakes region, my Special Envoy helped to organize the tenth summit of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework.

59. The Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its Action for Peacekeeping Plus implementation strategy have moved forward. We have reconfigured our peacekeeping capabilities to become more flexible and responsive. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we worked to defuse tensions over changes in the governing coalition and supported preparations for the elections and women's political participation.

60. We worked with Member States to promote the political participation of groups traditionally excluded from decision-making, including by supporting women leaders in Central Asia and contributing to community trust-building through media featuring young change-makers in Kosovo.²

61. Our work in non-mission settings continued. Since the Myanmar military takeover in February 2021, my successive Special Envoys have worked with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to address the crisis. In the Pacific, we supported the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

62. In West Africa and the Sahel, the Special Representative supported efforts towards conflict prevention and sustaining peace, including by advocating for inclusive political transitions, in collaboration with regional organizations and other partners. A new Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel was appointed to improve coordination and scale up the availability of resources to implement the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, resulting in a pledge of \$1.6 billion for the subregion to be channelled through the Thriving Sahel Fund. The strategy was recalibrated to better respond to the changing needs and priorities of the populations and Governments of the countries in the Sahel and to bring greater coherence, coordination and efficiency to the collective response to crises through three broad areas of support: governance, resilience and security.

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

Protection of civilians

63. The Organization continued to contribute to the protection of civilians by engaging in efforts to prevent and resolve conflict, advancing human rights and the rule of law and enabling humanitarian operations. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, South Sudan and Abyei, we undertook efforts to improve early warning and rapid response systems to protect civilians. Violence against civilians in South Sudan declined in 2021 as the United Nations mission established 116 temporary operating bases and enabled increased patrolling and engagement in local political consultations. A review of civilian harm mitigation measures in United Nations peacekeeping provided recommendations for avoiding potential harm from our operations.

Women and peace and security

64. Strengthening women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making remains a core priority. In the Sudan, the United Nations mission adopted a multipronged strategy for more gender-responsive peace and political processes, which contributed to women making up 30 per cent of participants in the peace consultations in early 2022. Concerted efforts by our missions in the Central African Republic, Colombia, Mali and South Sudan also contributed to increased women's participation in local peace committees, peace agreement monitoring, and transitional decision-making bodies. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations mission supported women in mapping protection threats and risks, which enhanced our gender-responsive protection efforts. The systematic engagement of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process with peacebuilders contributed to a joint statement signed by 200 Palestinian and Israeli women on 21 May 2021 calling for an immediate end to the conflict, the first such initiative in over a decade.

65. In 2021, the United Nations sought to enable the meaningful participation of women, with women's representation in party delegations, regular consultations with women's civil society organizations, and support from gender experts in peace processes in Bougainville and Cyprus, as well as the Geneva International Discussions, the Libyan dialogue process and the Syrian Constitutional Committee.

66. With support from the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, over 7,000 women civil society representatives from Burundi, Iraq, Uganda and the State of Palestine actively participated in decision-making and/or conflict prevention processes and response, resulting in more than 14,900 community conflicts being averted, mediated or referred. In addition, 104 women from women's rights organizations in Afghanistan, Liberia, Mali and South Sudan actively participated in either formal peace processes or the implementation of peace agreements, including monitoring of the implementation of gender provisions.

67. By March 2022, women held 48 per cent of heads and deputy heads of mission positions. The 2021 targets of the uniformed gender parity strategy 2018–2028 were exceeded in all categories except military contingents, where we need stronger efforts, including from troop-contributing countries, to make more progress.

Peacebuilding support

68. The Peacebuilding Commission brought the United Nations and partners together to support peacebuilding in 13 countries and regions, including the Central African Republic, Colombia, Sierra Leone and the Great Lakes.

69. At a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in April 2022, peacebuilding was confirmed as a core United Nations responsibility and adequate financing was identified as a critical enabler for sustained peace.

70. In 2021, the Peacebuilding Fund approved a record \$195 million in programming, which supported system-wide responses in 31 countries, contributing

directly to the Sustainable Development Goals. Over one third of investments went to countries with United Nations missions in transition, to enable United Nations country teams to scale up operations.

71. Nearly half of Peacebuilding Fund investments were directed to gender equality and the empowerment of women in 2021. The share of women peacebuilders participating in meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission increased from 68 per cent in 2020 to 74 per cent in 2021.

Electoral assistance

72. Member States navigated numerous challenges encountered in elections, including the COVID-19 pandemic, disinformation and violence against women in politics. Through technical electoral assistance and preventive diplomacy, the United Nations continued to boost countries' ability to deliver credible and peaceful elections. We also solidified partnerships with regional organizations, including assisting the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States on electoral databases; helping the African Union to develop electoral assistance guidelines; and co-organizing electoral training sessions with the East African Community.

73. In Iraq, we supported women's political participation and measures to combat violence targeting women candidates. Women won 29 per cent of the parliamentary seats, exceeding the 25 per cent quota.

Rule of law and security institutions

74. Almost 10,000 United Nations police officers working in 15 missions and other settings provided operational, capacity-building and development support to boost national policing capacities. We supported justice and corrections institutions, including on criminal accountability, which resulted in over 500 people being tried for serious crimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan. In the Central African Republic, the Special Criminal Court started its trial phase. We also improved prison security for high-risk prisoners and detention conditions in conflict settings.

75. Assistance to security sector governance and reforms helped countries to better protect their citizens. Our new security sector reform standing capacity provided rapid support to Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia.

76. Over 12 million people in 34 countries and territories benefited from mine action activities coordinated by the United Nations.

77. To prevent the recruitment and rerecruitment of individuals, including youth, into armed groups, we worked to reduce community violence and manage weapons and ammunition. To contribute to efforts to implement the sustaining peace agenda, we supported the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

Security Council affairs

78. In 2021, the Secretariat supported the return of the Security Council to pre-pandemic patterns of activity, facilitating 164 public and private meetings, 67 informal consultations and 147 videoconferences. It also supported the Council's adoption of 57 resolutions and 24 presidential statements and continued to provide support to the Council's subsidiary bodies, including sanctions committees and working groups.

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

79. An increasing number of children experienced violence. The year 2021 saw 23,982 verified violations against children by government forces and non-State armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council. Sexual violence

remains vastly underreported, and children with disabilities and displaced children are particularly vulnerable. In Mali and Yemen, the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations signed action plans with armed groups to end and prevent grave violations against children. In the Niger, the Special Representative on Violence against Children engaged with stakeholders to protect children and promote equitable access to appropriate services. Over 12,200 children were released from armed forces and armed groups and received assistance to reintegrate into their communities.

80. Deepening intersecting political, security and humanitarian crises exacerbated conflict-related sexual violence. Over 3,200 cases of such violence were verified by the United Nations in 2021, about 800 more than in 2020, but chronic underreporting continues owing to stigma, insecurity, fear of reprisals and lack of services. The Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict launched the Model Legislative Provisions and Guidance on the Investigation and Prosecution of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and signed a framework of cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promote the design and implementation of national laws that enhance the protections of all individuals affected by or at risk of this crime.

81. As part of our efforts to prevent genocide and other atrocity crimes, we convened an interministerial conference on addressing hate speech through education, engaged with religious leaders on COVID-19-related hate speech and supported the implementation of the system-wide United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. We also supported the African Scholar Studies' Forum and Asian initiative in developing curricula for genocide studies in African and Asian universities.

C. Development in Africa

Context

82. Currently home to some 1.4 billion people, Africa is expected to account for close to a quarter of the world's population by 2050. The continent's success is crucial to global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. As the continent emerges from the pandemic, it is critical that the recovery be approached as an opportunity to accelerate development progress, focusing on areas with a multiplying impact to deliver transformative change.

Key objectives

83. The United Nations promotes sustainable development and peace in Africa by contributing to accelerating the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. We do so by addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and the interlinkages between peace, security, human rights and development. We also help to foster intraregional integration and international cooperation on the continent.

Key outcomes

84. In support of Africa's recovery from COVID-19, we highlighted domestic resource mobilization as a game changer for implementing the 2030 Agenda. We put forward specific recommendations to turn the extractive sector into an engine for sustainable development, to curb illicit financial flows and to leverage them as sources for development financing. We also raised awareness about the need to adopt objective international standards for credit rating agencies, given their impact on African countries' ability to service their debt.

85. In the context of the high-level dialogue on energy, we facilitated a coordinated approach to adopt energy investments as drivers for Sustainable Development Goal acceleration. Stakeholders agreed to identify energy-focused initiatives that can trigger progress and increase African countries' resilience through improved social

services and social protection, job creation and opportunities that reach Africa's youth and women and girls, industrialization, climate adaptation and digitalization.

86. We generated new knowledge on how deficiencies in public service delivery might become root causes of violence and identified hindrances that undermined public service delivery. In cooperation with the African Peer Review Mechanism, we worked to develop African-focused solutions to strengthen governance as an enabler for public service delivery and development.

87. We also continued to create spaces for African voices in the United Nations. The African Knowledge Network and the Africa Think Tank Network were launched with the objective of increasing the participation of African experts in intergovernmental discussions. We held the first academic conference on Africa at the United Nations.

Highlight: accelerators of Africa's sustainable development

Accelerating sustainable development in Africa requires leveraging intangible assets, which fall into three categories. "Enablers" are the preconditions for leapfrogging towards Africa's fourth industrial revolution, such as education and skill development geared towards relevant sectors and effective institutions and policy frameworks. "Drivers" refer to triggers with a multiplying impact to stimulate holistic development, for example investments in energy. Finally, "game changers" represent factors that can determine the success or failure of development efforts, including effective domestic resource mobilization.

D. Promotion and protection of human rights

Context

88. The COVID-19 pandemic, political and economic instability, and deep structural inequalities are affecting human rights and protection around the globe. Placing people's rights and dignity at the heart of our responses to these challenges offers an opportunity to build a more equal, inclusive, safer and healthier world and to realize the full promise of the Charter.

Key objectives

89. The work to advance human rights spans the three pillars of United Nations engagement, encompassing support for international human rights mechanisms; mainstreaming of human rights within development and peace operations; and advancing the principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability. Our efforts extend from overcoming immediate challenges, such as the pandemic, to intergenerational challenges, such as climate change.

Key outcomes

Support for international human rights mechanisms

90. In the context of COVID-19, the Human Rights Council and other international human rights mechanisms continued their work. The Council held special sessions on Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Ukraine and the Occupied Palestinian Territory; adopted the landmark recognition of the human right to a sustainable environment; and established the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.

91. Treaty bodies also resumed in-country missions. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment travelled

to Brazil, and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances visited Mexico. Treaty bodies also issued guidance concerning migrants' right to liberty and freedom from arbitrary detention and children's rights in relation to the digital environment.

Human rights within development efforts

92. We continued to place human rights at the heart of our development work, with human rights analysis informing 19 of 21 common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks concluded in 2021 and another 43 that will be concluded in 2022. Through our surge initiative, we advised 15 countries on fiscal policy and budgets to reverse decades of underspending on public services. Partnering with multilateral development banks, we contributed to four operational policy reviews, provided advice on the African Development Bank independent accountability mechanism, and released the report *Remedy in Development Finance*.

Peace and security

93. Maintaining a strong focus on human rights in our peace operations, we trained over 500 mission managers and trainers, contributed to education materials for over 75,000 uniformed staff and led the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy across our field presences. We also supported efforts to establish a framework for compliance of African Union peace operations with international human rights and humanitarian laws. Prioritizing prevention, we deployed three additional emergency response teams and helped to integrate human rights into the African Union early warning system.

Non-discrimination

94. We helped to develop investigation protocols for gender-related killings in Chile and Honduras and a gender equality law and strategy in North Macedonia. Our engagement on migrants' rights saw us strengthen capacities across several regions, contribute to the new protocol of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen on migrants and advance the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In the context of racial discrimination, we also supported the establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.

Participation

95. We continued our work to expand civic space, including by bolstering national mechanisms protecting media freedoms and journalists and deepening our cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. We also strengthened networks of women's rights and human rights defenders in the Pacific and East Africa and in several countries facing elections. We intensified our advocacy for online content governance based on human rights standards.

Accountability

96. We supported investigative and accountability mandates established by the Human Rights Council in more than 11 countries and territories. We also provided technical assistance in the design and implementation of inclusive, context-specific and victim-centred transitional justice processes in over 13 countries.

Highlight: a new agenda for racial justice and equality

In 2021, we delivered a landmark agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality. We advocated for Member States to translate the agenda into action plans and established an independent international expert mechanism to advance racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement.

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance

Context

97. The humanitarian situation around the world is dire, owing to protracted and new armed conflicts, the climate crisis and weather-related disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and rising hunger and the risk of famine. Violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, including attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers and health-care and education services, continue with impunity. Disasters are increasingly frequent and devastating. By mid-2022, displacement due to conflict and violence had reached historic levels with over 100 million people, or more than 1 per cent of the global population, having been forcibly displaced.

Key objectives

98. The United Nations works to ensure coordinated, coherent, effective and timely humanitarian responses to save lives and alleviate suffering in disasters, conflicts and other emergencies. We advocate for humanitarian principles, promote respect for international humanitarian law and mobilize resources to prepare for and respond to crises with partners. Facilitating early action and rapid responses, including through anticipatory approaches, remains crucial to effective coordination. In addition, the United Nations advocates for disaster risk reduction through prevention and early warning systems to prevent disasters from happening and to mitigate their negative impacts when they do.

Key outcomes

99. In 2021, the humanitarian response plans coordinated by the United Nations required a total of \$37.7 billion to provide life-saving assistance and protection to 174 million people across 60 countries. With the generous support of donors, the United Nations and partner organizations mobilized a record \$20.25 billion for these plans, equalling 54 per cent of the requirements. Of the 153 million people targeted by country-level plans, 107 million, or 70 per cent, were reached with assistance. Notably, the United Nations and partner non-governmental organizations scaled up the system-wide humanitarian response in view of drastically increasing needs in Afghanistan, northern Ethiopia and, in early 2022, Ukraine.

100. Hunger and food insecurity reached unprecedented levels in 2021, with some 193 million people in 53 countries and territories in need of urgent food and nutrition assistance, an increase of nearly 40 million, or more than 25 per cent, compared with 2020. Humanitarian partners stepped up in response. For example, in South Sudan, life-saving assistance brought 500,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity (phase 5 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) back from the brink of famine. In Afghanistan, some 4 million people received food assistance.

101. Humanitarian pooled funds remained indispensable in reaching the most vulnerable people struck by crises, preventing further suffering and responding to gender-based violence. In 2021, country-based pooled funds allocated \$1 billion to 777 partners supporting over 1,500 projects in 20 different crises. This helped to alleviate the suffering of close to 43 million people, in particular women, children and persons with disabilities. The funds were also the leading source of support for front-line national non-governmental organizations in the countries and territories where they operate. Some \$268 million was allocated directly to local partners, capitalizing on their proximity to affected people and harnessing local knowledge and networks. Finally, country-based pooled funds allocated \$55.5 million to projects dedicated to addressing gender-based violence, assisting 3.4 million people.

102. The Central Emergency Response Fund remained a critical tool for coordinated humanitarian action, disbursing \$548 million for rapid response and underfunded emergencies in 2021. This funding translated into life-saving aid to an estimated 51.5 million people, including 3 million persons with disabilities. The scale of allocations remained one of the key strengths of the Fund. For example, in April 2022, as the spillover effects of the war in Ukraine threatened to drive millions closer to famine, the Fund allocated an additional \$100 million to fight hunger in Africa and the Middle East. It also provided urgently needed funding for organizations tackling the rapidly increasing needs in northern Ethiopia and, together with the country-based pooled fund, allowed humanitarian partners in Afghanistan to stay and deliver life-saving assistance when other international funding was scarce.

Highlight: greater investment in anticipatory action

People living in fragile and conflict-affected settings face an ever more complex web of risks, including increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters. In response, the United Nations is investing in anticipatory action. A new multilateral financing instrument, the Complex Risk Analytics Fund, was created to support a stronger data ecosystem and expand system-wide capabilities for using data to anticipate, prevent and respond to crises.

103. To help Member States come together to tackle risks related to disasters, we organized four regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, which resulted in concrete action plans and increased political commitment on this issue. The Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative gained momentum, strengthening the contribution of local governments to reducing disaster risk. To improve the ability of civil society actors to anticipate the impact of climatic hazards, we collaborated with partners on customized indicators to measure the effectiveness of early warning systems.

F. Promotion of justice and international law

Context

104. In an increasingly interconnected world, international law is the foundation for countries' interaction and cooperation to achieve common goals. Since its inception, the United Nations has been at the centre of international law-making, providing unique contributions to its development, codification and implementation.

Key objectives

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

Key outcomes

106. To promote the implementation and development of international law on pressing global issues, we supported the work of the General Assembly on its decision to establish a working group for negotiations on a treaty on the protection of persons in the event of disasters. The General Assembly also encouraged all States to observe and promote in good faith the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes.

107. The amended General Assembly regulations giving effect to Article 102 of the Charter have applied since February 2022, modernizing the regime for treaty registration and publication, aligning it with the latest developments in information technology and strengthening multilingualism.

108. We continued our work on the legal framework for the United Nations resident coordinator system globally, dealing with a significant and growing portfolio of legal support provided to resident coordinators and their offices, including matters related to privileges and immunities, contribution agreements and partnership arrangements.

109. International treaties attracted new States parties, including the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention), now with 170 parties, and the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (Singapore Convention on Mediation), now with 55 signatories and 10 parties. The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods also attracted new parties.

110. The International Court of Justice continued to consider many high-profile cases, including the two proceedings between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the case of *Ukraine v. Russian Federation*. The Court indicated provisional measures in all three proceedings.

111. Other United Nations or United Nations-assisted tribunals continued their work. In December 2021, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia terminated two cases. With only one case remaining, it is expected to complete its work in 2022. In March 2022, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon reversed the acquittal by the Trial Chamber of Hassan Habib Merhi and Hussein Hassan Oneissi and convicted them in relation to the 2005 attack in Beirut that killed the former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri and 25 others. With that decision, the Tribunal has convicted three people in relation to the attack.

G. Disarmament

Context

112. Military expenditure increased to \$2.1 trillion in 2021, the highest level in the past 30 years. Conflict and violence are on the rise in several parts of the world, and the emergence of new technologies, including in the digital space, poses new challenges. In this context, reinforcing the global norms against the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and working to regulate and limit conventional weapons, is a core priority for the United Nations.

Key objectives

113. The United Nations supports multilateral negotiations and efforts aimed at achieving general and complete disarmament, focusing on the elimination of nuclear weapons, upholding the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction, regulating conventional weapons, responding to the challenges of emerging weapons technologies and promoting regional disarmament efforts and public awareness.

Key outcomes

114. While some milestone meetings had to be postponed owing to the pandemic, we continued to support Member States in the area of disarmament, including in preparations for the tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

115. We supported two intergovernmental processes aimed at ensuring a safe, secure and peaceful cyber domain. These discussions yielded important gains, including an agreed normative framework for responsible State behaviour in cyberspace alongside common understanding on international cooperation, capacity-building and the applicability of international law. We subsequently provided substantive support to a new open-ended working group that will continue to build on this work through a five-year mandate. We also assisted expert discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems and helped to establish a new intergovernmental process to reduce military threats to outer space systems.

Highlight: Silencing the Guns

In partnership with the Silencing the Guns initiative of the African Union, the United Nations collaborated with 10 countries in raising awareness on the negative impacts of the illicit proliferation of small arms. As a result, more than 2,000 illicit weapons were collected and destroyed.

116. We strengthened the operational readiness of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons through tabletop exercises and by expanding the global roster of experts and laboratories. We also continued to enhance preparedness for a deliberate biological event and to foster a gender-balanced network of young scientists from the global South working on biosafety and biosecurity.

117. To advance disarmament in conflict-affected areas, we worked across departments to link weapons and ammunition management activities with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, as well as our community violence reduction programmes. We also continued to engage, educate and empower young people through our Youth for Disarmament (#Youth4Disarmament) initiative.

118. At the regional level, we supported the implementation of the Road Map for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030 and worked with national authorities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America on small arms control and gender-based violence prevention.

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism

Context

119. Growing economic uncertainty and the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated global problems related to drugs, organized crime and terrorism. As a result, we are seeing an increase in illicit trafficking in firearms, violence against women and girls, and trafficking in persons, and a deteriorating situation for persons in prisons. Societies also continue to struggle with drug problems, including opioids and new psychoactive substances. Responses to these crises have been hampered by corruption and economic crime. In conflict-affected and fragile regions, terrorists exploit the political and socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic. The global threat posed by Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their regional affiliates is compounded by growing concerns over terrorism grounded in racism and intolerance, or terrorist crimes targeting victims on the basis of religion or belief.

Key objectives

120. The United Nations supports Member States in tackling issues related to drugs, crime and terrorism by assisting in setting and implementing international standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice and helping to ensure compliance

with obligations in multilateral instruments on corruption, transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Key outcomes

Crime prevention and countering transnational organized crime

121. At the global level, the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice culminated in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which countries were called upon to incorporate the needs of women, youth, children and marginalized groups into criminal justice and crime prevention policies.

122. In 2021, we engaged over 2,200 people from some 500 civil society organizations in crime prevention activities related to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We also trained over 4,000 law enforcement professionals on tackling illicit financial flows in three Asian countries.

123. In South America, we coordinated a joint operation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to track illicit firearms and identify links with organized crime and enhanced the capacity of prosecutors and law enforcement to combat the spread of illicit firearms.

124. Working across 10 African countries, the United Nations strengthened the capacity of national authorities to handle wildlife crime by training over 2,000 criminal justice practitioners and supporting more than 100 investigations. We also developed the African Women in Cyber Professional Networking Group, the first regional network of women working in cybercrime and cybersecurity.

Highlight: a global network against corruption

In 2021, the United Nations launched the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities. The Network aims to build a global community of anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to combat cross-border corruption offences, strengthen communication exchange and expand peer learning between law enforcement authorities. By the end of 2021, 84 anti-corruption law enforcement authorities from 50 countries had joined the Network.

Countering the world drug problem

125. In 2021, the United Nations launched the Synthetic Drug Strategy to deal with the high level of synthetic opioid overdoses and the increasing traffic in and use and manufacture of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances. The aim of the Strategy is to support Member States in their international efforts to disrupt trafficking in synthetic drugs.

126. We also trained over 2,700 caregivers regarding psychoactive substance use and enhanced the capacity of over 1,900 policymakers on family-focused treatment. These efforts benefited more than 34,000 people with drug use disorders and their communities.

Terrorism prevention

127. We convened the second Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2021, with over 2,000 participants and concluding with the resolution on the seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The United Nations assisted 49 Member States with the use of passenger data to counter terrorist travel and launched the United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security. We also continued to improve Member State responses to the challenges and

opportunities of new technologies in countering terrorism through increased awareness and capacity-building support.

128. To promote multilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism, we continued to strengthen the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, which connects 45 entities and 134 Member States.

129. We launched a new global framework, co-chaired with the United Nations Children's Fund, that provides a whole-of-United Nations approach to supporting Member States in the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign nationals returning from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, with alleged or actual links to designated terrorist groups. Activities were undertaken in Iraq, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

130. We also paid tribute to the victims of terrorism, including through a ceremony with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York bringing together 300 individuals from over 120 Member States and on the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

Chapter III

Effective functioning of the Organization

Key work streams

131. With over 35,000 staff in 465 duty stations, the work of the United Nations Secretariat is underpinned by the effective management of finance, human resources, information and communications technology, supply chains, facilities, health care, capacity development, conference services, and security and safety operations and by communicating the work of the Organization.

Key outcomes

132. Despite the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we streamlined Secretariat-wide processes, improving human resource mechanisms, rolling out an e-tendering tool and improving goods and services solutions for client entities, and enhancing the management of uniformed capabilities.

133. We fostered operational support partnerships, including the flagship triangular partnership project, and strengthened our service delivery architecture with the agencies, funds and programmes. For operational continuity, we reinforced testing and therapeutics, our mechanisms for medical evacuation and vaccinations for personnel and facilitated a safe return to the office and hybrid ways of working.

134. Through operational security support and inclusive security management, we enabled the United Nations family to implement programmes assisting over 264 million people, including in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Niger, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen.

135. Our COVID-19 communications sought to position the Organization as the leading voice in the pandemic response. For example, our Verified initiative delivered reliable, science-based information, built confidence in health messaging and offered ways to detect and stop the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

136. Our environmental performance continued to improve as we mitigated wastewater risk, lowered energy consumption and explored opportunities to transition to renewable energy.

137. To facilitate the work of Member States and other stakeholders, we launched a “Conferences away from Headquarters” section in the multilingual *Journal of the United Nations*, providing an online gateway to conference materials. We enhanced the e-deleGATE platform and expanded and accelerated access to General Assembly resolutions, including with interactive dashboards.

138. The uniformed capabilities support portal gave Member States direct access to information about police and troop contributions to peace operations, while the Umoja Analytics Digital Boardroom provided real-time enterprise data, with complex analytic and visualization capabilities.

139. To promote a culture of accountability, we promulgated the Secretariat’s evaluation policy and issued an accountability handbook. We also rolled out an adaptable toolkit to prevent misconduct across the Secretariat.

140. The Victims' Rights Advocate continued to advocate for a victim-centred and rights-based approach to sexual exploitation and abuse. We deployed dedicated Senior Victims' Rights Officers to the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and South Sudan.

141. Unite Academy training and the Kamino advanced data science and visualization programme allowed us to increase our personnel's data literacy and to better demonstrate the impact of our work. Initiatives to promote data technologies and innovations remained key drivers of my Data Strategy.

142. From 2017 to 2021, there was steady progress towards meeting our gender parity targets. Gender parity was achieved among the senior leadership and resident coordinators in 2020. Further progress was made in hard-to-shift mid-management levels: at the D-1 level, where the number of women increased from 32 per cent to 43 per cent, and at the P-5 level, from 36 per cent to 42 per cent. The Geographical Diversity Strategy continues to guide efforts towards equitable geographical representation.

143. Two years since its launch, the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy has established a baseline for disability inclusion across 130 United Nations country teams, which is improving reporting on implementation and facilitating lessons learned in the context of COVID-19. The Young UN network continues to bring together the voices of young United Nations staff, helping the Organization's thinking on future ways of working and reforms for greater transparency, equity and sustainability.

Highlight: engage for change

In the 2021 staff engagement survey, over 17,800 Secretariat staff members shared their views on progress made towards greater engagement in a variety of critical areas that affect their work, including reform. Results show that we are making progress on clarity of direction, staff pride in their work, and encouragement of new ideas. Discrimination and concerns about career satisfaction emerged as areas where challenges persist.

Highlight: United Nations 2.0

In a second wave of reform, the Secretary-General is advancing strategies to build next-generation capacities that the United Nations family will need in the twenty-first century. Rooted in Our Common Agenda, the Secretary-General's vision of a United Nations 2.0 includes a "quintet of change" – agendas for stronger capabilities in data, innovation and digital transformation, behavioural science, strategic foresight, and performance and results orientation. In 2021, this vision already translated into new strategies, financing instruments, programmes, job profiles and training that engaged all organizations in the United Nations family, tens of thousands of staff and partner countries across the globe. In the years ahead, the United Nations 2.0 agendas will reshape our work and our support to people and planet.

144. The annual budget has increased the engagement of managers in the budget process and yielded more accurate planning assumptions and resource estimates. Regular budget liquidity improved in 2021, but unless Member States act on my proposals, soon we will again face a deepening liquidity crisis. The first annual statement of internal control marked an important milestone in building a more results-driven and transparent Organization.

145. Some 99.9 per cent of designated staff members complied with the filing requirements of the 2021 financial disclosure programme. Implementing my policy on protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and cooperating with audits and investigations, the Ethics Office completed 34 preliminary reviews in 2021 and referred three cases for further investigation.

Highlight: a new strategy to tackle racism

We launched a strategic action plan on addressing racism and promoting dignity for all in the United Nations Secretariat, which outlines measures to tackle all forms of discrimination across four areas: organizational culture; operations and management practices; systems, including structures and policies; and internal accountability mechanisms. The plan is complemented by an internal communications strategy to raise awareness of racism and racial discrimination in the Organization.

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