**Chief Executives Board
for Coordination**

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Manhasset, New York, 9 and 10 November 2023

Summary of deliberations

I.   Introduction

1.   The second regular session of 2023 of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), chaired by the Secretary-General, was held at the Greentree Foundation Estate in Manhasset, New York, on 9 and 10 November 2023.

2.   The Secretary-General welcomed the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, Amy Pope, who was attending a CEB session for the first time.

3.   The session consisted of three segments on the following themes: (a) the state of the world; (b) governance and use of artificial intelligence (AI) for the common good; and (c) climate change: rallying for the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and beyond. The session also included a presentation on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment in the United Nations system.

4.   In the present summary, the highlights of the deliberations during the session are provided.

II.   Segment 1: state of the world

5.   The Secretary-General presented an overview of the state of the world, reflecting on the gravity of current crises and escalating geopolitical tensions, increasing ideological and economic divides, and the impact of the resulting polarization and fragmentation on the multilateral system. He underscored the critical role of the United Nations system in upholding universal values and principles and helping to bridge the growing divides, address inequities and support the most vulnerable by finding new cooperation mechanisms and focusing on areas where it could have impact and add the most value.

6.   In the ensuing discussion, the Board considered global economic and financial trends and human rights challenges and highlighted rising inequality at all levels, including in the realm of global governance. With over half of low-income developing countries in or at high risk of debt distress, there was a need to support vulnerable

countries. Principals shared views on the need to reform the international development cooperation architecture and the troubling situation of humanitarian funding, particularly at a time of greater need. They reflected on the impact of geopolitical divides on climate change negotiations and the need to connect the climate change and development narrative with the call for the reform of the global financial architecture. They also touched upon the opportunities and challenges stemming from the use of artificial intelligence and the impact of misinformation and disinformation on societies. The Board was also presented with an overview of the status of nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

7.   In closing the segment, the Secretary-General appealed to Board members to uphold the United Nations principles, universal values and international and humanitarian law. Faced with a fractured world, there was a need to strengthen collective resilience, restore trust in multilateral institutions and revive rules-based platforms for international cooperation, leveraging the United Nations' convening power.

III. Segment 2: governance and use of artificial intelligence for the common good

8.   In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General invited the Board to reflect on the role of the United Nations system in supporting the development of global AI governance that minimized risks and maximized opportunities generated by the technology and was aligned with the Charter of the United Nations, and in ensuring that AI governance was integrated into the global digital compact; and to consider how the United Nations system itself could harness AI to support countries. He noted that the capacity and expertise of governments in the area of AI technology and governance was weak compared to the private sector, owing to an underinvestment in public administration. The High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, launched on 26 October 2023 under the leadership of its Co-Chairs Carme Artigas and James Manyika, had been established with a view to closing the gaps in AI governance, building scientific consensus on risks and helping to foster an understanding of how AI could contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretary-General noted that a global response commensurate with the scope of the challenge was urgently needed, and explained that the Advisory Body was expected to make recommendations in three areas: (a) key opportunities and enablers, to ensure that AI accelerated the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals; (b) a shared understanding of risks and challenges, based on scientific consensus; and (c) international governance of AI, including alignment with human rights, interoperability of existing initiatives and options for AI governance institutions. He expressed his hope that the recommendations of the Advisory Body would inform Member States' negotiations on the global digital compact, which was to be adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future.

9.   The discussion of the Board, moderated by the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology, Amandeep Singh Gill, was informed by a presentation by the Co-Chair of the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, Carme Artigas. In his framing remarks, the Envoy of the Secretary-General noted several ongoing national and regional AI governance initiatives. Such initiatives provided impetus for the United Nations to reflect on its own role and contribution and how to ensure that global processes were inclusive and engaged all stakeholders. The Co-Chair of the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence provided an overview of the Advisory Body's work. Ongoing national and regional AI governance initiatives had thus far been focused on future AI safety risks. However, generative AI had already proven to be a powerful technology with potentially harmful consequences, which,

whether intended or unintended, meant that the technology industry must be more accountable. Hence, more needed to be done to address the harm that was already resulting from the use of AI (related to the impact of AI on democracy, elections and inequality), including through cooperation at the global level. An important role for the United Nations was to ensure that such global cooperation was credible and coordinated. The High-level Advisory Body was expected to produce a draft report including preliminary recommendations by the end of 2023, with stakeholder consultations and sectoral deep dives scheduled for early 2024 and a final report to be presented prior to the Summit of the Future.

10.   The Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, Catherine Pollard, speaking in her capacity as Chair of the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), also on behalf of the Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme Inger Andersen, conveyed the outcomes and highlights of the joint session of HLCM and HLCP on the use and governance of AI and related frontier technologies that had been held on 4 October 2023 in Copenhagen. She emphasized that the joint session had offered a unique opportunity to draw on United Nations system programme and management functions to think through complex issues together and leverage the expertise of different entities. The system already had a wealth of experience and expertise in the governance of issues of global concern that could inform global governance of AI. Likewise, many system entities were already adopting AI internally to accelerate the digitalization of service delivery, augment business operations and enhance productivity, in turn freeing up capacity and resources for programme delivery. It was important for the United Nations system to come together to learn from those experiences and forge a common pathway. As a next step, HLCP would conduct a deep dive into those issues and produce a white paper on current institutional models, existing international law and normative frameworks in the United Nations system that could be applied to Artificial Intelligence. The paper would also serve as a United Nations system contribution to the work of the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. System entities agreed to develop a United Nations system-wide normative and operational framework on the use of AI through HLCM.

11.   In the ensuing discussion, the Board focused on the opportunities, risks and challenges associated with AI, AI governance and the role of the United Nations system in supporting Member States to develop a potential global AI governance framework. Members observed that the use of AI and other frontier technologies could help countries develop more quickly, sustainably and equitably across many sectors. It could foster economic development, especially in developing countries, by enabling technology leapfrogging. Many positive applications of AI were envisaged, including in the area of health, where the technology could improve diagnosis, drug development and the identification of epidemiological trends, with a view to preventing future pandemics.

12.   Many members touched on the issue of data and the importance thereof for the development, deployment and use of AI. Currently, AI technology was mostly trained using data generated in the global North and data ownership remained concentrated in a limited number of large technology companies and geographical locations. Those facts raised concerns regarding the quality and representativity of data, algorithmic bias, in particular related to women and gender, inequalities in access to data and a lack of linguistic diversity, which had the potential to perpetuate and exacerbate existing inequalities within and between countries and deepen the digital divide. Increasingly, synthetic data were being used in AI development, making greater data protection and more robust data governance mechanisms necessary. Therefore, it was

critical for the United Nations system to focus on inclusion, address biases, help bridge the digital divide, connect AI and data governance and provide a forum for all countries to participate in the discourse on those important issues.

13. Deepening its reflections on the risks and challenges associated with AI, the Board noted that AI entailed a multitude of risks and posed threats in many domains. Disinformation and misinformation, aided by powerful AI technology, were proliferating at an alarming rate. Even with the aid of sophisticated tools, it had become increasingly challenging to determine whether content was generated by a person or by AI. At the same time, there was an erosion of trust not just in institutions, but also in digital spaces. Misinformation and disinformation were being used in multiple conflicts around the world and their negative impact had also been felt by United Nations peacekeeping operations. In addition, the technology was being used to influence elections and political processes more broadly, fuelling social unrest and threatening democratic processes and human progress. The Board was informed that a code of conduct on information integrity containing recommendations on countering misinformation and disinformation would be released prior to the Summit of the Future.

14. The spectre of AI applications in weaponry had become a growing peace and security concern. The misuse of AI by non-State actors, including terrorist and criminal groups, also posed a serious threat to peace and security. There was strong support among Member States to advance in addressing the development and deployment of lethal autonomous weapons systems through a General Assembly process. Initiatives were also under way to confront challenges related to the broader military application of AI technology and to agree on principles for the responsible use of AI in the military domain. For those initiatives to be effective, they needed to be inclusive and universally supported. Participants were of the view that the United Nations should convene inclusive discussions on those issues.

15. Many Board members pointed to the significant human rights concerns resulting from the deployment of AI, which had particularly negative impacts on women and girls, including through digitally-facilitated gender-based violence and child abuse, as well as on minorities and vulnerable people. In addition, AI was already affecting labour markets and disrupting livelihoods, demonstrating that regulation was important not only for governments, but also for industry and labour relations. To address those challenges, it was important that AI governance be grounded in the Charter of the United Nations, human rights, equity and ethics, and that transparency and accountability, including in relation to data, were ensured. Members pointed out that the United Nations system already had significant experience in that area, and that it could leverage that experience, as well as the CEB-endorsed principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system, for AI governance.

16. The Board was of the view that the governance of AI needed to be understood within the context of the broader technological landscape, including the increasing interaction of other frontier technologies, such as quantum computing and neurotechnology, with AI. Any regulation of AI needed to allow for innovation and enable economic development, while preventing further concentration of market power. With that in mind, members reflected on different models for and key functions of a potential global AI governance mechanism. Developing, monitoring the implementation of and enforcing norms and standards for the safe and responsible use of AI, and serving as a platform for governments and other stakeholders to come together, were seen as important functions of a governance mechanism. Agile and ex ante action would be necessary in view of the speed of AI development and deployment, and norms, standards and principles must be integrated into the design of AI systems from the beginning and prior to the release of any new technology. Any model for AI governance needed to be fit for the unique realities of AI systems and

technologies. Existing institutional frameworks must therefore be analysed in order to gain a better understanding of their pros and cons.

17.   Self-regulation by the private sector and the technology industry alone would not be sufficient owing to challenges associated with the enforceability of voluntary commitments, as past experiences with Internet governance and cybersecurity had demonstrated. At the same time, developing legally binding instruments presented many challenges, given the complexities of the political process, the difficulties of amending treaties, conventions and similar instruments to keep up with a rapidly evolving technology and the dual-use nature of AI. However, members considered that the development of non-binding instruments would entail the risk of private sector non-compliance with those instruments.

18.   The Board considered that the United Nations needed to be at the centre of the debate and provide an inclusive forum where the interests, views and voices of all countries could be heard and considered. The Organization could also provide a platform for civil society and stakeholder participation in deliberations on AI governance, and could, in particular, involve women, children and young people. Members agreed that the United Nations system had a role to play in supporting Member States to develop a universal AI governance approach or framework, including by advocating United Nations values and working to prevent widely different approaches and regulatory fragmentation. Managing technological transformation and its impact on society were not novel issues for the United Nations system. It had a wealth of experience from which lessons could be drawn, including many existing laws and instruments of global governance that could inform the design of any new mechanism or framework. The newly established High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence offered an important opportunity to integrate the various elements, building on existing instruments and initiatives.

19.   At the national level, the United Nations system needed to consider the best ways to help to create an enabling environment and engage and support countries to leverage AI for sustainable development and develop measures for AI governance. In addition, the United Nations system needed to expand its research and analysis on the impacts of AI on developing countries and provide capacity development to support public administration efforts to engage in sovereign and multilateral processes to govern AI. Within the United Nations system, capacities also needed to be strengthened to enable the responsible use of AI. That entailed developing shared technological tools and having a skilled workforce that could create and leverage AI tools for effective mandate delivery.

20.   The Secretary-General concluded the discussion by reaffirming the mandate of the High level Advisory Body and noting the importance of its work, including its contribution to the development of the global digital compact. The outcomes of the joint HLCP-HLCM session (CEB/2023/7), in particular regarding the development of a white paper on current institutional models, existing international law and normative frameworks in the United Nations system that could be applied to AI, under the auspices of HLCP, and the development of a system-wide normative and operational framework on the use of AI in the United Nations system under the auspices of HLCM, would be important system-wide initiatives to promote coherence and create expertise across the system.

Conclusion

21.   **CEB welcomed the outcomes of the joint session of HLCP and HLCM, held on 4 October 2023 in Copenhagen, noting that the forthcoming work of HLCP would be offered as a United Nations system-wide contribution to relevant**

deliberations on the governance of AI, including those of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence.

IV. Segment 3: climate change: rallying for the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and beyond

22.   The Secretary-General expressed concern that the international community was not moving in the right direction and highlighted three issues. First, there was no meaningful dialogue or common strategy between the great emitters of the developed world and the developing world aimed at achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and keeping the 1.5°C goal alive. Second, the fossil fuel industry was not supporting the energy transition, but instead was increasing its investments in oil and gas and reducing its investments in renewables and carbon storage. Third, developed countries had not fully assumed their climate finance commitments and were preserving fossil fuel subsidies instead of backing financial instruments that supported climate justice. Climate mitigation and climate justice went hand in hand and more ambition was needed for both.

23.   Looking ahead to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Secretary-General saw the first global stocktake of progress under the Paris Agreement as an opportunity to rally the international community to take a quantum leap in climate action. He called for the full operationalization of the loss and damage fund which had been agreed on at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, clear objectives to stimulate the acceleration of renewables and a phasing out of fossil fuels. The decarbonization of all sectors, including industry, energy and transportation, must be accelerated and the effective use of carbon markets intensified. Recognizing the range of ongoing initiatives across the United Nations system, including related to early warning systems, the transformation of extractive industries and the use of critical energy transition minerals, he asked entities to strengthen their cooperation and coordination and to speak with one voice on the global objectives at the upcoming session. He urged Board members to mobilize resources and capacity to accelerate transitions in countries and to enhance support to strengthen the ability of governments to secure funding and build capacity.

24.   Moderating the discussion, the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, introduced the two presenters, the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Simon Stiell, and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition, Selwin Hart. In her framing remarks, the Deputy Secretary-General stressed the importance of using the next three sessions of the Conference of the Parties – with the focus for the twenty-ninth session expected to be on financing and the focus for the thirtieth session on the new nationally determined contributions – in order to maintain momentum towards the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, before the window of opportunity closed. A good outcome of the global stocktake would positively influence work towards other ambitious targets on mitigation, adaptation and finance. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the climate agenda were one and the same, and she therefore underlined the need to use climate action to spur the transition to green economies. Emphasizing the primacy of the negotiation track at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, she echoed the Secretary-General's call for United Nations system entities to speak with one voice on ambition.

25.   In their remarks, the presenters described the current situation, what could be expected of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, how its outcome and those of the two subsequent sessions in 2024 and 2025 would relate to the delivery of the Paris Agreement, and what options there were for the United Nations system to respond to the anticipated challenges. According to the *Emissions Gap Report 2023* published by the United Nations Environment Programme, if nationally determined contributions and net-zero commitments were implemented as planned, global warming was projected to be limited to 2.0°C over the course of the century. While the world was burning through its remaining carbon budget at an accelerated rate, there was clarity on what needed to be done. The world was behind, but the scientific and technological tools to solve the problem were available. More ambitious commitments to exit coal and phase out fossil fuels were required.

26.   Against a backdrop of widespread misinformation and disinformation, it was vital for the United Nations to control the narrative and put the 1.5°C target at the centre of efforts through clear and coordinated messaging. The global stocktake had to set expectations on the quality and ambition level of the next round of nationally determined contributions, consistent with the 1.5°C goal. The United Nations system needed to work, through each of its entities, to ensure that countries delivered strong outcomes aligned with the 1.5°C target, including by supporting them to put in place policies and measures that would be conducive to raising their national ambitions.

27.   To better deliver on the ground, coordination in planning and implementing different climate strategies at the country level (including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and climate plans) had to be improved. Furthermore, plans needed to be converted into projects and programmes worthy of investment. Financing was essential to achieving the required level of ambition, but funding was inadequate; the stocktake could help to reinvigorate the climate finance process. It was also vital to bring coherence and coordination to the multiple financing initiatives, which ranged from a reform of the international financial architecture and the new framework on climate and finance to innovative sources of funding, such as carbon markets and levies on aviation and shipping. The presenters challenged the Board members to make the United Nations system a catalyst for action and delivery, as opposed to a mere convener.

28.   In the ensuing discussion, members reiterated that the climate agenda and sustainable development agenda were one and the same and noted connections between climate and issues related to urbanization, industrialization, infrastructure, agriculture and food, crime prevention and criminal justice, displacement and migration, and oceans. Moreover, as the international community had recently recognized, climate change also had serious impacts on security and stability in certain regions. The need for United Nations system entities to work together more effectively to address the climate-related drivers of conflict was underscored.

29.   Nationally determined contributions and national climate strategies had helped to increase the quality and ownership of climate action, but not quickly enough in the light of the closing window within which warming must be limited to 1.5°C. Members agreed that it was vital that the United Nations system organizations convey a sense of urgency to meet the 1.5°C target and combat climate change skepticism. They suggested that it would be important to communicate that decarbonization was manageable and profitable, and would have positive outcomes, including job creation and technological innovation. Calls for a just transition and international solidarity should be intensified. Finance and technology were identified as two key areas where the United Nations should push for greater ambition. Moreover, it would be important to exert pressure to try to reverse the trend of oil and gas companies using windfall revenues to expand exploration and lock in more years of fossil fuel production. The United Nations should amplify the message that alternatives to fossil fuels must be

affordable, accessible and adequate. The fact that women were among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change must be a clear thread in the narrative. Accordingly, the United Nations needed to take a strong stance and ensure that women's voices were front and centre in climate negotiations.

30. Members agreed that more effort was needed to unlock adequate climate finance, which was key to climate justice. In particular, to right historical wrongs, significantly more resources needed to be directed to women, who were on the front lines of the climate crisis. The debt burden prevented some developing countries from investing in climate adaptation. Although it might be challenging for States to reach agreement, members observed that a consensus on operationalizing the loss and damage fund had the potential to help rebuild trust among countries. Financial institutions had a part to play, too, by moving their investments in fossil fuels towards renewables. Although investment in renewable energy sources was accelerating, to date, only 2 per cent of those investments had gone to Africa. It was noted that if African countries were given access to clean and environmentally sound technology and adequate finance, the continent could lead on green industrialization.

31. The Board recognized that the technology to mitigate the effects of climate change already existed. Technology was key to a just transition and, in that context, classifying some technologies as "public goods" would facilitate their meaningful transfer. As innovation was increasingly coming from a wider range of countries, the conversation on technology transfer and access needed to be broadened. Members stressed the importance of removing barriers to the uptake of climate-friendly technologies, including barriers related to finance, intellectual property rights and absorption capacity at the country level. While technology could help to reduce the emissions of other sectors, the technology sector itself also needed to take action. The digital carbon footprint of technology (for example, as a result of training large language models) was growing and digital waste was proliferating. That had significant implications for the environment and there was no plan to deal with those issues.

32. Members recognized the progress that had been made in decarbonizing the transport sector. The Board was informed that the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization had committed to aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050, and, to support that goal, work was under way to accelerate the production and use of sustainable fuels and to create a global framework to ensure their availability globally. The shipping sector had also adopted a strategy for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. In addition, it was observed that world trade, which accounted for one-quarter of global emissions, had been a largely neglected part of the emissions agenda, and that the United Nations could work to incorporate the reduction of world trade emissions into planning at the national level.

33. The Board recognized the importance of timely capacity-building. Members underscored the fact that United Nations system entities had a vital role in supporting countries to respond to climate change, including on the energy transition, climate justice, promoting women as agents of change and innovators for climate solutions, technology transfer and adoption, design of carbon cap and trade schemes, disaster risk reduction and management of the relationship between technology and climate. To meet the demand, internal United Nations capacity needed to be strengthened and consolidated at the country level in the United Nations country teams.

34. Over the course of the discussion, CEB members highlighted ways in which their entities were responding to climate change, in particular, by helping governments to strengthen synergies between climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals, scale up climate initiatives, develop road maps towards achieving Goal 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern

energy for all), gain access to green technologies, tap into clean nuclear energy and address climate-related security issues. The Board was informed that efforts to work with the technology industry to develop green digital standards with science-based emissions reduction targets were under way. United Nations peacekeeping operations were striving to enhance their transitions towards renewables and otherwise bolster the credibility of the United Nations in terms of climate action.

35.   In their reactions to the discussion, the presenters stressed the need to generate synergies between climate and development initiatives, and to link the work across the mandates of United Nations system entities in a constructive way in order to catalyse accelerated action. In that context, the Early Warnings for All initiative was highlighted as a good model for coordination and collaboration. The next three sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change presented an opportunity for the United Nations system to work together to provide countries with the technical support and capacity to embark on the complex transition. To do that effectively, organizations needed to build their in-house capacities so as to enable them to help Member States envision the pathway to 2030 as they prepared the next set of nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans to deliver on the 1.5°C target. To give citizens hope, the United Nations should recognize and celebrate what was being done through a coherent narrative.

36.   In his concluding remarks, the Secretary-General identified two follow-up actions. First, he requested his Climate Action Team to compile a list of the major initiatives on climate being taken by United Nations system entities, and to then select some of those initiatives to be showcased at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties. Second, emphasizing the need to be well-coordinated and prepared for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2024 and 2025, the Secretary-General proposed that the United Nations system come together, through a group led by HLCP, to prepare coherent and strategic contributions for the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions. In that regard, he asked the Chair of HLCP to establish a process for developing those contributions on the basis of a proposal to be prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Climate Action Team, for consideration by HLCP at its forty-seventh session.

Conclusion

37.   **CEB requested that HLCP prepare coherent and strategic United Nations system contributions for the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.**

V.   Other matters

A.   Tributes to Board members

38.   The Secretary-General paid tribute to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Kitack Lim, and to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Maimunah Mohd Sharif, who were attending a CEB session for the last time in their current roles.

B. Presentation on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment in the United Nations system

39.   The Chair of HLCM, and the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, Kelly T. Clements, speaking in her capacity as Chair of the CEB Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organizations of the United Nations System, provided an update on efforts to address sexual harassment. The Chair of HLCM highlighted the key outputs of the Task Force, including the United Nations system model policy on sexual harassment, the Code of Conduct to Prevent Harassment, including Sexual Harassment, at United Nations System Events, a set of principles forming the basis of a victim-centred approach to sexual harassment, and the ClearCheck database. The Board was informed about the Task Force's successor body, the United Nations Executive Group to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Harassment, which would prioritize promoting an inclusive, respectful and safe workplace environment and organizational culture, applying a victim-centred approach and operationalizing the Organization's commitment to zero tolerance for inaction on sexual harassment.

40.   The Chair of the Task Force highlighted the testimony of a survivor to illustrate how sexual harassment could have a traumatic impact. Outlining remaining challenges to addressing sexual harassment, she noted that prevention and response efforts did not always resonate with victims, and referred to the underreporting of the behaviour at the United Nations, the persistent shortcomings in addressing the undercurrents of fear of reporting and cultural norms that allowed abuse to take place. Collective, visible and vocal leadership could remedy these challenges by fostering a speak-up culture, eliminating barriers to reporting, extending support to victims in the aftermath and taking a clear position on sexual harassment vis-à-vis third parties and partners.

41.   Board members shared their observations and experiences, and unequivocally concurred that sexual harassment had no place in the United Nations system. It was the responsibility of leaders to speak up, call sexual harassment out in clear terms, remedy unhealthy environments and power dynamics and build trust with survivors in order to increase reporting. Other points highlighted were the importance of overcoming stigma and transparently communicating disciplinary outcomes, the need to take a clear stance with Member States and partners on the issue and the need to pay particular attention to remote field duty stations.

42.   The Secretary-General appealed to the Board to prioritize addressing sexual harassment by taking action to prevent the victimization of colleagues, which entailed professional and personal consequences, trauma and loneliness. He urged Board members to take a clear zero-tolerance stance against sexual harassment and to ensure that principles and policies were translated into concrete action.

43.   CEB members unequivocally recommitted their entities to urgently preventing and responding to sexual harassment across the United Nations system and to addressing the remaining challenges both collectively and individually.

C. Endorsement of documents

44.   The report of HLCP at its forty-sixth session (CEB/2023/6), the report of the joint session of HLCP and HLCM on the use and governance of AI and related frontier technologies (CEB/2023/7) and the report of HLCM at its forty-sixth session (CEB/2023/5) were endorsed electronically outside of the CEB session.

D. Date and venue of the forthcoming session

45. The Board members were informed of the confirmed dates of the first regular session of 2024, to be held on 2 and 3 May and hosted in Santiago jointly by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme.