



Our Common Agenda  
Progress Report

**What have we  
achieved so far?**

OCTOBER 2023



**United  
Nations**



**Common  
Agenda**



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

# Introduction

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## PURPOSE

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In resolution 76/6, the General Assembly requested that regular updates on Our Common Agenda be provided to Member States. The present first written progress report showcases implementation of the Common Agenda proposals that did not require new mandates or consideration at the Summit of the Future. Many of these proposals build on ongoing work within the United Nations system. The present written update is presented in conjunction with the regular oral update by the Secretary-General.

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## OUR COMMON AGENDA

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The Our Common Agenda report (A/75/982) was the Secretary-General's response to a request from Member States in their declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations for recommendations on addressing current and future challenges. In his report, the Secretary-General warned of a world on the brink of breakdown and that business as usual was not an option. He called for a fundamental rethink of our political, economic, social and environmental systems to deliver more fairly and sustainably for all. Such a rethink would require renewed trust and solidarity between people, countries and generations and a corresponding reinvigoration of the multilateral system so that it could more effectively deliver on existing principles, goals and commitments while also preparing us for new threats and opportunities.

Most ideas in the Our Common Agenda report drew on existing initiatives and frameworks, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Approximately 80 per cent of the proposals in the report fell into this category. As such, they could immediately be taken forward by the United Nations system, working with Member States and other partners. The present report is a progress report on these. Other proposals require further intergovernmental consideration during the preparations for the 2024 Summit of the Future. The present written update does not focus on this set of issues.

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## THE 12 UN75 COMMITMENTS

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Annex I demonstrates progress against the 12 commitments from the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations (UN75 declaration), as was also done in the original report.



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## ACCELERATING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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A fundamental goal of Our Common Agenda was to get the world back on track towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and other commitments. Annex II illustrates how ideas in the report are contributing to Sustainable Development Goal implementation.

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## PROGRESS REPORT

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This section contains a report on progress in key areas, reflecting the structure of the chapters in the original report.

### NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT ANCHORED IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Our Common Agenda offered Member States proposals for how the United Nations could support them in rebuilding key elements of the social contract, anchored in human rights. These included, for instance: social protection systems; trust; inclusion and participation; and metrics that account for sustainability and well-being. These proposals are being taken forward through (a) the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions; (b) five transformative measures on gender equality and the rights of women

and girls; (c) follow-up to United Nations high-level meetings on food systems and education, as well as efforts towards a World Social Summit in 2025; (d) work on trust, inclusion, human rights, rule of law and access to justice; and (e) support to Member States in discussions on international tax cooperation, inter alia.

- The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection, one of the [12 high-impact initiatives showcased at the SDG Summit](#), will promote solutions for universal social protection, decent job creation, women's economic inclusion, green and digital economy job creation, a youth recovery barometer and youth labour guarantees. Guided by an [implementation strategy](#) and [investment strategy](#) and supported by a [technical support facility](#) for country-level implementation, its aim is to support the creation of decent jobs in key sectors of the economy, while supporting the achievement of universal social protection. A [Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund window on decent jobs and universal social protection](#) has been launched and work will soon start in seven pathfinder countries.
- Our Common Agenda proposed placing women and girls at the centre of political and economic life through five transformative measures, including: the reversal of gender-discriminatory legislation; the promotion of gender parity in all sectors; women's economic inclusion; the inclusion of the voices of younger women; and the eradication of gender-based violence. Progress has been made across all these areas. A [United Nations Gender Quota Portal](#) has been set up to provide in-depth analysis on women's political representation worldwide. The United Nations is supporting Member States in creating comprehensive national emergency response plans, including through the Spotlight Initiative on the eradication of violence against women and girls. In 2022, at least 157 laws across six regions were adopted or amended to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. An independent review of the United Nations

system's capacity to deliver on gender equality was conducted to strengthen our ability to deliver for women and girls in everything that we do. In June 2023, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (Council resolution [2023/11](#)). The United Nations is on track to achieve overall gender parity by 2028, albeit unevenly. Efforts continue to promote the engagement of young women in the work of the United Nations, including in the Summit of the Future.

- Our Common Agenda provided additional momentum to food systems transformation efforts, building on follow-up to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. One hundred and twenty-six countries have now adopted national pathways for food systems transformation. The [food systems window of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund](#) was also established, with an aim of \$100 million by the end of 2024 to catalyse financing and other means of implementation. Efforts to transform education have also progressed, with the [Transforming Education Summit of 2022](#), which was followed up by national commitments, multiple international initiatives and subsequent efforts to create [learning societies for a sustainable future](#). To accelerate and sustain progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals by building on commitments made to promote inclusion, protection and participation, the Common Agenda report also proposed a World Social Summit in 2025. This is welcomed in the [Political Declaration](#) adopted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the General Assembly, in September 2023, and will be developed in consultation with Member States at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly.
- With its emphasis on trust and inclusion, Our Common Agenda provided momentum to many initiatives emphasizing participation, listening

and ensuring that no one is left behind. This included proposals to provide legal identity for all and end statelessness. A dedicated United Nations task force continues to coordinate the implementation of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda at the global and country level, as well as setting the normative framework. Work is under way to establish the Global Alliance to End Statelessness in 2024, which will serve as a multi-stakeholder platform to increase advocacy, catalyse political commitments and accelerate concrete solutions to statelessness. The Solutions Seekers Programme will be one of the cornerstones of the new Global Alliance, and Member States are encouraged to join as champion States. Our Common Agenda also emphasized the need to address critical human rights challenges, including those set out in the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Practical tools continue to be developed to support Member States in implementing their human rights obligations, such as the repository of United Nations good practices on how the universal periodic review supports sustainable development and the "Human rights and voluntary national reviews operational common approach guidance note". The first-ever system-wide United Nations "Guidance note on protection and promotion of civic space" has led to increased advocacy and programmatic work to protect and promote meaningful, inclusive and safe civil society participation and civic space involving different parts of the United Nations system. The Agenda for Protection is also being finalized, with the aim of ensuring more timely, coordinated and continuous United Nations support for the protection of human rights across the three pillars of the United Nations, while primary responsibility for protection rests with Member States. A New Vision for the Rule of Law has been developed to ensure that United Nations rule of law work supports Member States in the promotion of just and equitable societies with strong institutions that place people at the centre.

- There was emphasis in Our Common Agenda on the role of tax policies and international tax cooperation in reducing inequality, enhancing well-being, fostering gender equality and shifting to sustainability. As a follow-up to General Assembly resolutions [77/244](#) and [77/154](#), the Secretary-General presented recommendations on fully inclusive and more effective international tax cooperation ([A/78/235](#)) and on international cooperation and coordination to combat illicit financial flows ([A/78/186](#)).

### SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS: SHAPING THE FUTURE

Our Common Agenda emphasized that (a) young people today and (b) future generations, will live with the consequences of our action and inaction and made a range of proposals in this regard.

- The United Nations Youth Office ([see resolution 76/306](#)) is anticipated to be fully staffed and operational before the end of 2023. The Office will scale up efforts to accelerate the global youth agenda and enhance engagement and advocacy for youth issues across the three main pillars of the work of the United Nations.
- The call in Our Common Agenda to fulfil our long-standing commitment to meet the demands of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs has been positively received. A set of [United Nations System Common Principles on Future Generations](#) was endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

### GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS AND MAJOR RISKS

Our Common Agenda was, above all, a call for new ways of working together at the global level that are better suited to the challenges that we face and the diverse landscape of actors that have the capacity to contribute to solutions. Many related proposals in the report are for the consideration of

Member States in the context of the 2024 Summit of the Future. Others have been taken forward in relevant intergovernmental, United Nations system or other bodies, as follows:

- On climate and the environment, a historic resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment ([resolution 76/300](#)) was adopted by the General Assembly in 2022. As mandated by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), a Climate Ambition Summit was convened on 20 September 2023 centring on the acceleration agenda of the Secretary-General and showcasing “first mover and doer” leaders with credible actions, policies and plans.
- In the area of global public health, efforts continued to ensure equitable access to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) issued guidance to [integrate COVID-19 vaccines into immunization programmes and primary health care](#). Intergovernmental negotiations are under way to deliver a strong, comprehensive pandemic accord with equity at its core, as well as amendments to strengthen the International Health Regulations. The 2023 General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response demonstrated political will at the highest level, with the approval of a Political Declaration.
- On the global economy, in addition to those ideas taken forward in intergovernmental negotiations, Member States took note of the Common Agenda proposal to convene a biennial summit to promote a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy. The Presidents of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly will continue to be engaged to ensure an inclusive approach to Member States’ participation.
- A High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence will be launched to provide analysis

on options for the international governance of this frontier technology.

- In the area of futures literacy and foresight, the [United Nations Futures Lab](#) network is forming an ecosystem that builds and leverages strategic foresight efforts across the United Nations to improve long-term decision-making. Early highlights include the establishment of a United Nations strategic foresight community of practice and the first-ever United Nations Strategic Foresight Guide. A Global Risk Report will be published in 2024 to identify the major global risks and assess our preparedness to manage them.

#### ADAPTING THE UNITED NATIONS TO A NEW ERA

The Common Agenda report concluded with commitments by the United Nations system. Efforts are under way to implement these.

- A United Nations system-wide dedicated civil society focal point network has been established to strengthen civil society engagement in the work of the United Nations.
- Guidance notes are being developed and best practices documented on how to more fully listen to, consult and engage with people.
- Enhancing the inputs and role of parliamentarians, including on the Sustainable Development Goals, has been pursued through multi-stakeholder processes on various forums such as the Internet Governance Forum Parliamentary Track.
- The United Nations Global Compact is advancing private sector engagement on Sustainable Development Goal acceleration, inclusive multilateralism and climate action, with the

[Forward Faster](#) initiative.

- An Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments is being created to advise the Secretary-General on strengthening collaboration with subnational authorities.
- Steps have been taken to improve the use of data and science. In August 2023, the Secretary-General launched his new [Scientific Advisory Board](#) connecting many of the world's most eminent scientists and scientific networks with United Nations leaders. The Board will focus on breakthroughs in science and technology and how to harness the benefits of these advances and mitigate potential risks.
- The Secretary-General has also launched [UN 2.0](#), a vision for a modern United Nations system, rejuvenated by a forward-thinking culture and empowered by cutting-edge skills fit for the twenty-first century. Leveraging our diversity, we are striving towards this vision with a powerful fusion of data, innovation, digital, foresight and behavioural science expertise.
- Proposals on better harmonization of budgeting and funding requests are being taken forward through the Finance and Budget Network. Three priority areas of work have been identified for a practical framework for financial management system in the United Nations system: development of knowledge products and more robust data analytics; budgeting and funding requests across the United Nations system, with a view to strengthening linkages to results; and the establishment of a coordination mechanism within the United Nations system for entities to work with international financing institutions.

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[Read the full report](#)

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[Secretary-General's report on "Our Common Agenda" \(un.org\)](#)

# Annex I

## KEY PROPOSALS ACROSS THE 12 COMMITMENTS

From the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations



All proposed actions are in line with and designed to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are also in line with the 12 commitments of the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations (UN75 declaration) as shown in this infographic, an update on the original report.



### 1. Leave no one behind

- ▶ Renewed social contract anchored in human rights
- ▶ New era for universal social protection, including health care and basic income security, reaching the 4 billion unprotected
- ▶ Reinforce adequate housing, education and lifelong learning and decent work
- ▶ Digital inclusivity
- World Social Summit in 2025
- ▶ Identify complementary measures to gross domestic product (GDP)



### 2. Protect our planet

- ✓ Leaders meeting ahead of the global stocktaking in 2023
- ▶ Commit to the 1.5 degree Celsius goal and net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner
- ✓ Declarations of climate emergency and right to a healthy environment
- ▶ Package of support to developing countries
- ▶ Measures for adaptation and resilience
- ▶ No new coal after 2021 and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies
- ▶ Account for the environment in economic models, carbon pricing mechanisms and credible commitments by financial actors
- ✓ Post-2020 biodiversity framework
- ▶ Transforming food systems for sustainability, nutrition and fairness
- Action by the General Assembly on territorial threats of climate change and to prevent, protect and resolve situations of environmental displacement



### 3. Promote peace and prevent conflicts

- ✓ New agenda for peace to:
  - Reduce strategic risks (nuclear weapons, cyberwarfare, autonomous weapons)
  - Strengthen international foresight
  - Reshape responses to all forms of violence
  - Invest in prevention and peacebuilding, including Peacebuilding Fund and Peacebuilding Commission
  - Support regional prevention
  - Put women and girls at the centre of security policy
- ▶ Peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space, including through a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space

- ✓ Completed
- ▶ In progress
- Under consideration





#### 4. Abide by international law and ensure justice

- ▶ Human rights as a problem-solving measure, including by comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and promoting participation
- ▶ Application of human rights online and to frontier issues and new technologies
- ▶ Universal access to the Internet as a human right
- Human rights mechanisms on a more sustainable financial footing
- ▶ Legal identity for all, end to statelessness and protection of internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants
- ✓ New vision for the rule of law
- ▶ Global road map for the development and effective implementation of international law



#### 5. Place women and girls at the centre

- ▶ Repeal of gender-discriminatory laws
- ▶ Promote gender parity, including through quotas and special measures
- ▶ Facilitate women's economic inclusion, including investment in the care economy and support for women entrepreneurs
- ▶ Include voices of younger women
- ▶ Eradication of violence against women and girls, including through an emergency response plan



#### 6. Build trust

- ▶ Global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information Improve people's experiences with public institutions and basic services
- ▶ Inclusive national listening and "envisioning the future" exercises
- ▶ Action to tackle corruption in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption
- ▶ Reformed international tax system
- Joint structure on financial integrity and tackling illicit financial flows



#### 7. Improve digital cooperation

- ▶ Global Digital Compact to:
  - Connect all people to the Internet, including all schools
  - Avoid Internet fragmentation
  - Protect data
  - Apply human rights online
  - Introduce accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content
  - Promote regulation of artificial intelligence
  - Digital commons as a global public good



#### 8. Upgrade the United Nations

- ✓ High-level Advisory Board led by former Heads of State and Government on Effective Multilateralism
- ▶ System-wide policy that puts people at the centre, taking into account age, gender and diversity
- ▶ More listening, participation and consultation (including digitally), building on the seventy-fifth anniversary declaration and Our Common Agenda
- ▶ Gender parity within the United Nations system by 2028
- ✓ Re-establish the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board
- ▶ United Nations 2.0, including innovation, data, digital, foresight and behavioural science



#### 9. Ensure sustainable financing

- Biennial Summit between the Group of 20, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General and the heads of international financial institutions for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy including to:
  - Support a Sustainable Development Goal investment boost, including through a last-mile alliance to reach those furthest behind
  - Provide more flexible research and development incentives
  - Resolve weaknesses in the debt architecture
- Fairer and more resilient multilateral trading system, including a reinvigorated World Trade Organization
- ▶ New business models
- ▶ Improve the United Nations budget process





## 10. Boost partnerships

- ▶ Annual meetings between the United Nations and all heads of regional organizations
- ▶ Stronger engagement between the United Nations system, international financial institutions and regional development banks
- ▶ More systematic engagement with parliaments, sub-national authorities and the private sector
- ✓ Civil society focal points in all United Nations entities
- ▶ United Nations Office for Partnerships to consolidate access and inclusion, including accessibility online



## 11. Listen to and work with youth

### Youth

- Remove barriers to political participation and measure progress
- ✓ United Nations Youth Office
- ✓ Transforming Education Summit in 2022
- ▶ Recovery barometer to track career paths and labour market outcomes for youth
- ▶ High-ambition coalition to promote green and digital-economy job creation

### Future generations

- ▶ Summit of the Future in 2024
- ▶ Ensure long-term thinking, including through a United Nations Futures Lab
- ▶ Represent succeeding generations, including through a Forum, a Declaration on Future Generations, and a United Nations Special Envoy for Future Generations



## 12. Be prepared

- Emergency Platform to be convened in response to complex global crises
- ▶ Global Risk Report by the United Nations every five years
- On global public health:
  - ✓ Global vaccination plan
  - ▶ Empowered WHO
  - ▶ Stronger global health security and preparedness
  - ▶ Accelerate product development and access to health technologies in low- and middle-income countries
  - ▶ Universal health coverage and addressing determinants of health

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- ✓ Completed
  - ▶ In progress
  - Under consideration
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# Annex II

## HOW OUR COMMON AGENDA CONTRIBUTES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 to reduce poverty requires building the resilience of vulnerable populations, engaging youth and women, innovative social protection, strengthening disaster response and targeted response to poverty risks. Our Common Agenda addresses income inequality and upholds the principle of "leave no one behind" by strengthening universal social protection coverage, resilience to shocks and financial support for developing States.



Our Common Agenda urges actions on reducing inequality within and among countries by improving the global financial architecture to enhance representation and voice for developing countries, implementing global initiatives on migration and refugees, promoting a fairer and more resilient multilateral trading system and calling for the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and social protection policies.



War and conflicts accelerate hunger, while pervasive climate change threatens food security. To tackle global hunger in Sustainable Development Goal 2, Our Common Agenda calls for better response to global shocks and emergencies, transformation of food systems, sustainable policies, resource mobilization and financing of food services and a fairer and more resilient multilateral trading system applying also to food and agricultural markets.



Our Common Agenda draws attention to the advancement of the human right to adequate housing, puts sustainable, green and transformative urbanization at the heart of issues to be taken into account when considering the interests and needs of future generations and highlights the role of local and regional governments in achieving global goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.



To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3 through comprehensive and inclusive health care for all, Our Common Agenda calls for better governance of global public health, including a strengthened WHO, stepped-up global health security and preparedness, international cooperation on sustainable health-care financing, product development and access to health technologies for low- and middle- income countries and universal health coverage.



Despite Sustainable Development Goal 12, efficient use of resources is decreasing as the economies of many countries grow rapidly. Our Common Agenda recognizes the need for a pathway that protects people and the planet and puts forward proposals for complementary measures to GDP, sustainable management of food systems, reducing absolute emissions and shifting fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energy.



Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4 means investing in human capital and well-being by advancing accessible, inclusive and affordable learning. Transforming education and steps towards a formal recognition of a universal entitlement to lifelong learning and reskilling are key pillars of Our Common Agenda, which are critical for our collective future. The Transforming Education Summit in September 2022 was a major milestone.



The need for urgent improvements in international cooperation to address the triple planetary crisis is key to Our Common Agenda. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 13 and the Paris Agreement, Our Common Agenda calls for vital action to strengthen adaptation and resilience, including through a credible solidarity package of support to developing countries, and urges imperative action to achieve the long-terms goals of the Paris Agreement before it is too late.



Active and equal participation of women and girls is at the centre of any meaningful social contract. Our Common Agenda advances gender equality through transformative measures, recognizing climate, conflict and pandemic impacts on vulnerable women, ensuring women's economic inclusion and financial access, combating gender-based violence, valuing unpaid care work and putting women and girls at the centre of security and peace policies.



Our Common Agenda addresses the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution which also affects the oceans, seas and marine resources. It draws attention to the high seas as an important global common and calls for progressive development of international law for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.



Our Common Agenda recognizes water and sanitation as basic human rights that are crucial to leaving no one behind, tackling poverty, discrimination and exclusion. It supports ongoing work to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 on universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, urges steps to address the triple planetary crises and advocates the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.



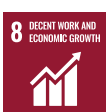
The opportunity to integrate biodiversity considerations into economic recovery measures has been largely neglected. Our Common Agenda calls for increased investments to combat biodiversity loss and promote resilience. It emphasizes the interconnection between people, animals and plants and their shared environment through concepts such as One Health.



Accessible, affordable and clean energy for all can lift present and future generations out of poverty. It is critical to the global agenda for climate and planetary health, the economy, peace and human rights. Our Common Agenda puts the shift towards sustainable energy at the heart of ensuring a healthy planet for its people. It calls for concrete policies and actions aligned with a net zero future, including shifting fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energy, creating green energy jobs and promoting energy conservation.



Our Common Agenda proposes a renewed social contract and a new global deal to address the growing disconnect and distrust between people and institutions that serve them. It calls for better listening, inclusion of youth and women, reducing violence, reducing illicit financial flows, tackling corruption, legal identity for all, public access to reliable information, broadening the participation of developing countries in global governance and a new vision for the rule of law.



To accelerate actions on Sustainable Development Goal 8, Our Common Agenda calls for enhanced global effort to create decent work and quality jobs as a key enabler for economic growth, climate action and a just transition. It promotes protection for all workers, integration of informal workers into formal economies, women's and youth participation in the workforce and the creation of green and digital economy jobs.



Driven by a vision of networked and inclusive multilateralism, Our Common Agenda contains many proposals to turbocharge partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals for reform of taxation, better governance of the global economy, mobilization of financial resources from diverse sources, improved access to science, technology and innovation for developing countries and a fairer and more resilient multilateral trading system.



Our Common Agenda highlights the importance of resilient infrastructure, increased adaptation support for developing countries, accelerated product development and access to health technologies in low- and middle-income countries and more flexible research and development incentives to foster innovation. It recommends reinforcing universal access to the Internet as a human right.



