

**Synthesis of mandates outlining follow-up to implementation and review
from selected United Nations summits and conferences
to support preparation for the Second World Summit for Social Development
16 April 2025**

I. Introduction

This non-paper provides a composite view of the mandates contained in the main outcome documents from selected United Nations summits and conferences, with respect to follow-up implementation monitoring and review. The respective outcome documents were the result of intergovernmental negotiations and were adopted or endorsed by the General Assembly. This synthesis paper provides citations of these documents, including references to specific paragraphs.

The non-Paper aims to provide Member States with a view of the review formats, timeframes and review methodology where appropriate. In doing so, the non-paper does not offer recommendations of specific approaches; instead, the various examples could be considered as a menu of available options and approaches for consideration and are not listed in any particular order.

II. World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen 1995¹

Paragraph 82 states that social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit are primarily the responsibility of Governments, although international cooperation and assistance are essential for their full implementation. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in the context of its role under the Charter of the United Nations vis-à-vis the General Assembly and in accordance with Assembly resolutions 45/264, 46/235 and 48/162, would oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Summit outcome and make recommendations in this regard. It should look at ways to strengthen, consistent with the mandates of the UN Charter, the role and authority, structures, resources and processes of the Council, bringing specialized agencies into a closer working relationship with the Council so that it can review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit as well as improving the Council's effectiveness.

The Council, at its substantive session of 1995, was invited to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including considerations for strengthening the Commission, taking into account the need for synergy with other related commissions and conference follow-up.

¹ <https://docs.un.org/en/A/CONF.166/9>

The General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental mechanism, is the principal policymaking and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Summit. The Assembly should include the follow-up to the Summit in its agenda as an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development."

The General Assembly ([A/CONF.166/9](#)) was requested to hold a special session in the year 2000, for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and should consider further action and initiatives. Paragraph 94 mandates that a framework for international cooperation must be developed in the context of the agenda for development in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the outcome of the Summit, together with the results of other recent and planned United Nations conferences related to social development. All specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system are invited to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the Summit. Relevant governing bodies should review their policies, programmes, budgets and activities in this regard.

The support and participation of major groups as defined in Agenda 21 are essential to success of the Programme of Action.

III. International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994²

Paragraph 23 decided that the General Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Economic and Social Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, in accordance with GA resolution 48/162, and a revitalized Population Commission shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action, keeping in mind the need to develop a common framework for a coherent follow-up to United Nations summits and conferences, and to this end:

- (a) The General Assembly, being the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policies on matters relating to the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development, will organize a regular review of the implementation of the Programme of Action.
- (b) The Economic and Social Council, in assisting the General Assembly, will promote an integrated approach, provide system-wide coordination and guidance in the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action and make recommendations thereon.
- (c) The revitalized Population Commission, as a functional commission assisting ECOSOC, will monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

² [A/RES/49/128](#)

Resolution 49/128 also requests ECOSOC, at its substantive session of 1995, to review the reporting procedures within the United Nations system regarding population and development issues, including a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind the reporting procedures for all United Nations conferences in the economic and social field. Paragraph 30 requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, also to prepare a report on institutional follow-up issues and reporting procedures in the UN system, to be submitted to ECOSOC at its substantive session of 1995.

IV. The Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995³

Following the Fourth World Conference on Women, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/203, and in paragraph 24 invited the Economic and Social Council “to review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women, taking into account the Platform for Action as well as the need for synergy with all other related commissions and conference follow-up, and for a system-wide approach to its implementation.” The General Assembly decided in paragraph 25 of that resolution that “the Commission on the Status of Women, as a functional commission assisting ECOSOC, shall have a central role in the monitoring of the implementation of the Platform for Action within the UN system and in advising the Council thereon.”

The Assembly also decided, in paragraph 21 of 50/203, that the Commission, together with ECOSOC and the General Assembly, would constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields. ECOSOC in its resolution 1996/6, and subsequent E/RES/2020/15 endorsed the multi-year work programme for CSW which included an item on a comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The Beijing+25 political declaration⁴ adopted on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, reaffirmed the primary responsibility of CSW for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the GA twenty-third special session and recalled the follow-up work of the Commission in that regard.

V. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: The Future We Want - Rio+20, Rio de Janeiro, 2012⁵

³ [Resolution 50/203](#)

⁴ E_CN.6_2020_L.1-EN.pdf

⁵ [A/RES/66/288](#)

Paragraph 82 reaffirmed that the Economic and Social Council is a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development. Paragraph 83 committed to strengthen ECOSOC within its mandate under the Charter, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognize its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Paragraph 84 established a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum⁶ (HLPF), building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development agenda and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.

VI. Third International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development / Addis Ababa Action Agenda, 2015⁷

Paragraph 130 states that mechanisms for follow-up and review will be essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and their means of implementation. Member States committed to fully engaging, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. To achieve this, it will be necessary to ensure the participation of relevant ministries, local authorities, national parliaments, central banks and financial regulators, as well as the major institutional stakeholders, international development banks and other relevant institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector. The UN regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, are encouraged to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the present Agenda.

Paragraph 131 appreciated the role played by the United Nations financing for development follow-up process; recognized the interlinkages between the financing for development process and the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda; and emphasized the need for a dedicated follow-up and review for the financing for development outcomes, as well

⁶ Every four years, the HLPF convenes at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly and is referred to as an “SDG Summit”. The Forum under the auspices of the GA adopts a negotiated political declaration. The first SDG Summit was convened in September 2019 and the second in September 2023. The Forum also convenes annually under the auspices of ECOSOC for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and adopts a Ministerial Declaration. The Forum conducts [regular in-depth reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals](#) and includes [Voluntary National Reviews](#) where countries present the findings from national reviews of progress with a view to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

⁷ A/CONF.227/20

as all the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, which is integrated with the post-2015 follow-up and review process to be decided at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

In paragraph 132 Member States committed to staying engaged in this important agenda through a dedicated and strengthened follow-up process that will use existing institutional arrangements and will include an annual ECOSOC forum on financing for development follow-up (FFDF) with universal, intergovernmental participation. The forum's modalities of participation will be those utilized at the international conferences on financing for development. The forum will consist of up to five days, one of which will be the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, as well as additional institutional and other stakeholders depending on the priorities and scope of the meeting; up to four days will be dedicated to discussing the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will feed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda through the HLPF.

The deliberations of the Development Cooperation Forum, according to its mandate, will be also taken into account. The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the General Assembly will be held back-to-back with the HLPF under the auspices of the Assembly when it convenes every four years.

Paragraph 133 states that to ensure a strengthened follow-up process at the global level, Member States encourage the Secretary-General to convene an inter-agency task force, to include the major institutional stakeholders and the United Nations system, including funds and programmes and specialized agencies whose mandates are related to the follow-up.

VII. Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations, New York, 2024⁸

The Summit of the Future adopted the Pact for the Future which aims in paragraph 31, to significantly advance progress towards the full and timely achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030, including through strengthening the role of the HLPF as the main platform for the follow-up and review of the sustainable development agenda. Paragraph 17 committed to advance implementation of these actions through relevant, mandated intergovernmental processes, where they exist and to review the overall implementation of the Pact at the beginning of the eighty-third session of the General Assembly through a meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government. The HLPF under the auspices of the General

⁸ A/RES/79/1

Assembly, was invited to consider in September 2027, how Member States will advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, as a priority and at the centre of their work.

Member States agreed in paragraph 64, to implement the Global Digital Compact within their own countries and at regional and global levels while engaging the private sector, technical and academic communities and civil society. Paragraph 70 recognized the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) - a functional commission of ECOSOC - in reviewing the follow-up implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and requested CSTD to consider how it can contribute further to the implementation of the Compact. Member States also requested the Secretary-General to provide a Compact implementation map for the consideration of Governments and other stakeholders, that reflects the contributions of the UN system and other relevant stakeholders, and to reflect this in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes, ahead of the WSIS+20 review.

In paragraph 73, Member States recognized the role of the HLPF and ECOSOC in reviewing progress of the Compact in closing digital divides and accelerating achievement of the 2030 Agenda. And in paragraph 74, Member States decided to convene a high-level meeting entitled “High-level review of the Global Digital Compact” to take place during the eighty-second session of the General Assembly, based on a progress report by the Secretary-General and with the input and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, including CSTD, the Internet Governance Forum and WSIS action line facilitators.

Regarding the Declaration on Future Generations, Para. 32, takes note of the Secretary-General’s proposal to appoint a Special Envoy for Future Generations to support the implementation of the Declaration; Decides to convene during the eighty-third session of the General Assembly, an inclusive high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on future generations that will review the implementation of the Declaration; Requests the Secretary-General to present a report on the implementation of the Declaration for consideration at the high-level plenary meeting to be held during the eighty-third session of the General Assembly.

VIII. The Global Migration Compact, Marrakech, 2018⁹

Paragraph 16 of 73/195, established a cooperative framework comprising 23 objectives, mechanisms for implementation, and a follow-up and review process. Each objective contains commitment, followed by a range of actions considered to be relevant policy instruments and best practices. For implementation, follow-up and review, Member States:

- Welcomed the decision by the Secretary-General to establish a UN network on migration to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for implementation, including the capacity-building mechanism, as well as follow-up and review (paragraph 45).

⁹ A/RES/73/195

- Requested the Secretary-General to report on a biennial basis on implementation of the Global Compact, including related activities of the UN system and the functioning of the institutional arrangements (paragraph 46).
- Established a quadrennial follow-up and review process, the International Migration Review Forum, convened for the first time in 2022 by the PGA; also decided that each edition of the IMRF will result in a Progress Declaration, which may be taken into consideration by the HLPF (paragraph 49).

IX. Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 2002¹⁰

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) defined the principal approach to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in its [resolutions 42/1, 44/1 and 45/1](#), including a decision to undertake a review and appraisal every five years. The Commission, at its 2004 session, also identified the following general modalities of the review and appraisal: Each review and appraisal cycle will focus on one of the priority directions of MIPAA; A specific theme emanating from MIPAA will be identified by the UN Secretary-General for the first cycle; Review and appraisal will include two dimensions: ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts; and the bottom-up and flexible approach will be the major format of the review and appraisal exercise.

In paragraph 116, Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the broad recommendations of the International Plan of Action, 2002. The review and appraisal cycle¹¹ begins at the national level and progresses to the regional level. UN regional commissions play a crucial role in facilitating intraregional cooperation, providing regional forums, conducting regional reviews and translating the International Plan of Action into regional action plans (paragraph 128).

At the global level, Member States requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to CSocD during the regional review year. This report provides an analysis of preliminary findings from the review and appraisal exercise, highlights prevalent and emerging issues, and presents related policy options. Additionally, in the lead-up to the global review year, Member States requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to CSocD summarizing the conclusions of the global review and appraisal exercise, along with an identification of key issues and policy recommendations. The global review is conducted as a high-level meeting¹² of CSocD, which

¹⁰ MIPAA was adopted in Madrid on 12 April 2002 (Source: A/CONF.197/9) (See also: Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002) and endorsed by the General Assembly on 18 December 2002 (see A/RES/57/167). In its resolution 58/134, the Assembly acknowledged the road map for the implementation of the Plan (see A/58/160).

¹¹ Modalities for the fifth review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA were agreed by CSocD63 resolution E/CN.5/2025/L.6, to be adopted by ECOSOC in mid-2025. CSocD63 also decided on the modalities for the fifth review and appraisal, namely, 2026: National review and appraisal; 2027: Regional reviews; 2028: Global review by the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-sixth session.

¹² In recognition of the relevance of this mechanism, Member States have decided to double the number of HLMs of the global review for the 5th cycle. See CSocD63 resolution [E/CN.5/2025/L.6](#). For a previous example (4th cycle) see ECOSOC resolution [E/RES/2020/8](#)

serves as a platform to present more comprehensive insights than those contained in the Secretary-General's report. It aims to foster interactive discussions and facilitate an open exchange of views among all participants, including Member States and non-governmental organizations. The meeting examines institutional mechanisms, good practices, digital technologies, and implementation tools identified at the national and regional levels to accelerate the implementation of MIPAA.

X. Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Antigua and Barbuda, 2024

The follow-up monitoring and review framework set out in paragraph 38, commits to a 10-year systematic monitoring and evaluation cycle of the ABAS. The Secretary-General is requested to convene an inter-agency task force to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear targets and indicators, to be completed no later than the second quarter of 2025. The framework should build on the monitoring and evaluation framework for the SAMOA Pathway, in line with the targets and indicators of the SDGs, using data from existing reporting mechanisms where possible. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and OHRLLS are requested to conduct workshops to familiarize SIDS with the application of the framework and build capacity to collect and submit their data. The annual SIDS segment of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC, is to be repurposed to review progress against commitments in the ABAS that are aligned with the SDGs under review, with the input of an annual report by the Secretary-General on progress in implementing the ABAS, drawing on data from the monitoring and evaluation framework.

Beginning in 2026, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Africa, are to conduct a comprehensive biennial review of progress in each SIDS in their respective regions, which should inform the Secretary-General's report on follow-up of the ABAS, while ECA and ESCAP are requested to establish SIDS Divisions, within existing resources, to coordinate monitoring, evaluation and reporting for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) SIDS (paragraph 41).

Paragraph 42 calls for the General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive mid-term review of the ABAS, informed by regional preparatory meetings, to highlight solutions to address the gaps and challenges in implementing the ABAS and to identify priorities for the final five years of its implementation.