

Documentation of the Simulation of the

## **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)\***



**Conference B** 

13 - 17 April 2025

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# **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

## **Committee Staff**

Director	Tomas Paramo
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## **Agenda**

- 1. Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy
- 2. Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Global Supply Chains

## **Resolutions adopted by the Committee**

Code	Topic	Vote (In favor - Against - Abstention)
UNDP/1/1	Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy	Adopted without a vote
UNDP/1/2	Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy	Adopted without a vote
UNDP/1/3	Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy	Adopted without a vote
UNDP/2/1	Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Global Supply Chains	Adopted without a vote

#### **Summary Report**

The United Nations Development Programme held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- 1. Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy
- 2. Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Global Supply Chains

The session was attended by representatives of 26 Member States and no Observers. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of 1, 2, beginning discussion on the topic of Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy.

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 3 proposals addressing a broad array of subtopics, including the integration of marginalized communities, digitalization, and framework for sustainable funding. As deliberations progressed, delegates emphasized the importance of vocational training programs and inclusive financial structures. By the end of session on Tuesday evening, 3 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which contained amendments. All three draft resolutions were adopted by consensus, reflecting the committee's shared vision. Following voting procedure, the committee began discussion on the second agenda item "Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Supply Chains". The body shared a collaborative environment once again, leading to the creation of a single proposal. Early discussions focused on labor rights, Small and Medium Enterprises and the role of digitalization.

On Wednesday, the committee continued to engage in constructive dialogue, further developing the proposal to incorporate advanced discussions on the use of artificial intelligence, the establishment of data systems, and environmental sustainability. The Dais approved the draft resolution, which had no amendments. The resolution was subsequently adopted through a general consensus, reflecting the body's shared commitment to innovation and inclusive development.



Code: UNDP/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Development Programme

**Topic:** Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy

The United Nations Development Programme,

Acknowledging that marginalized groups such as women, youth, migrants, and Indigenous people work in the informal economy at a rate disproportionate to those not in such groups and the need to address these harms experienced in the informal economy beyond formalization within the UNDP mandate,

Recognizing that the latest International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates conclude that around 60% of women workers globally are in the informal sector, and the negative ways in which the informal economy harms its workers, such as lower work safety standards and lack of resources, minimum wage violations, child labor, and hazardous working conditions,

Aware that transparency and fostering dialogue serve as a way to ensure marginalized groups can receive the proper support needed from non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing the crucial role that trust in institutions plays in encouraging informal workers to transition into the formal economy,

Deeply concerned by the vulnerability of migrant workers in the informal sector and emphasizing the need for stronger legal protections and inclusive economic policies to ensure their safety and well-being,

Appreciating the work of organizations like Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch as third parties that ensure legal oversights for workers in the informal economy,

Reminding the importance of digital inclusion and microfinancing, as marginalized groups are unlikely to have the means to escape poverty, having limited ways of expressing themselves in non-digital channels,

*Alarmed* that more than 86% of Indigenous people work in the informal economy, according to the ILO's report, and that urgent action is needed to tackle poverty and inequalities,

Noting with appreciation NGOs such as Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) for empowering women in the informal economy,

*Profoundly concerned* with the 1.6 billion workers in the informal sector that were significantly affected by COVID-19 and other natural disasters, leading to a 60% decline in their earnings, and inspired by Kazakhstan's reaction in protecting informal workers, which saw the creation of the Digital Family Card,

*Expressing* deep concern that informal employment accounts for 85.8%, according to ILO, of total employment within Africa, resulting in limited access to social protection, financial inclusion, and adequate healthcare,

Calling attention to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 (gender equality), as at current pace, workforce parity is 140 years away, SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 10 (reducing inequalities), considering there are more than 304 million migrants globally and 1 of 4 youth are unemployed or without education, young women are twice as affected by 2024 and over 8,000 migrant deaths were recorded globally following this, aiming to improve the well-being of all those affected and enhancing living standards globally,

Recognizing that the youth, especially in marginalized communities with a lack of career guidance, have barriers to entry into formal labor and that promoting career placement simultaneously during their early educational experience can prevent entry into the informal economy,

Having seen the successful adoption of ILO Recommendations No. 202 in ILO and 204 in UNDP, aimed at promulgating universal access to healthcare and income security for informal workers as well as standardizing the transition between formal and informal work,

*Noting* that the informal sector accounts for 30-40% of GDP according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in some developing Member States, significantly limiting public revenues needed for infrastructure and services due to lower tax collections,

Concerned that only 35% of people in developing nations have internet access as of 2022, which hinders them from not only accessing online opportunities and jobs but also benefiting from digitization efforts in formalizing the informal sector.

*Noting* that the challenges of the informal economy are closely linked to migration, and that the collaboration between cross-border countries is crucial, especially through the establishment of regional data-sharing frameworks and joint technical consultations,

- 1. *Recommends* the establishment of data-driven research and innovation centers for each Member State's inclusion and development facility that drives policy by:
  - a. Providing strategies and resources like job training, transportation services, and financial literacy classes that support marginalized groups and underserved communities navigate from the informal economy into the formal economy;
  - Working in close collaboration with academic institutions, civil society, and the private sector to
    provide volunteers and mentors to help support the needs of marginalized groups through the
    establishment of preemptive initiatives to ensure awareness of rights and options;
- 2. *Proposes* the creation of trimestral recommendations held by UNDP for government inclusivity of marginalized groups by:
  - a. Using the UNDP Human Development Index and parameters on enterprises, workers, employment, and GDP stated on the annual progress report;
  - b. Appreciating local NGOs for focusing on creating inclusive and sustainable solutions for education, healthcare, and employment programs that directly benefit marginalized groups to reduce inequalities;
- 3. Encourages Member States to collaborate with non-governmental organizations to ensure their findings are being published regularly, in addition to hosting forums for dialogue as a way to strengthen trust and transparency between these NGOs and those within the informal economy by:
  - a. Encouraging UNDP to support the organization of semi-annual workshops, in collaboration with local NGOs and community-based organizations;
  - b. Facilitating the organization of semi-annual conferences and workshops where informal economy workers can engage with NGO representatives to discuss their needs and concerns;
  - c. Creating an online platform dedicated to publishing findings and research on the informal economy by NGOs;

- d. Launching awareness campaigns to promote NGO initiatives and encourage participation from informal workers at the national level:
- 4. Recommends Member States implement initiatives that target providing microloans to women entrepreneurs similar to Coca-Cola's 5 by 20 program, which has provided 6 million women across business skills training, mentoring networks, and financial services;
- 5. *Encourages* the creation of radio and other informative programs targeted toward women and other groups disproportionately affected by participation in the informal economy to best inform these groups of their work safety rights;
- 6. Suggests Member States collaborate with NGOs like Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch to oversee transparency and impose equal and humanitarian consequences to any violations within the informal economy relating to labor rights abuse, such as minimum wage violations, child labor, and hazardous working conditions;
- 7. *Urges* Member States to establish national worker protection funds, modeled after Qatar's Workers Protection System (WPS) program, to offer swift financial relief and legal support to informal and migrant workers facing wage disputes or contract breaches, thereby fostering trust in institutions and promoting the formalization of the informal economy;
- 8. Further urges Member States to implement programs similar to the Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for Indigenous people to share information on sustainable practices;
- 9. *Expresses its support* for the development of SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) through improving the global attitude towards the informal economy by:
  - a. Establishing the "Respect Informal Workers" global social media campaign through Instagram, X, Facebook, and TikTok to amplify the importance of informal workers;
  - b. Utilizing UNDP Goodwill Ambassadors to support the empowerment of the informal economy to seek out the necessary social protections;
  - c. Funding through collaboration with NGOs such as WIEGO to receive funding;
- 10. Further recommends Member States implement programs modeled after UNDP's successful partnership with Kazakhstan for the Digital Family Card, which aids in providing social support for economically and socially disadvantaged communities to reduce gender inequalities by:
  - Making use of the already established multi-phase process, in which well-being is assessed according to five criteria: economic conditions, health care, housing conditions, educational attainment, and social conditions;
  - b. Utilizing social welfare policies, economic liberalization policies, and international labor standards to pinpoint and allocate to families who need it most;
- 11. *Encourages* the increase of funds within the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with the means of NGOs and private organizations;

- 12. Suggests Member States to model after UN Women's and UNDP's partnership initiative Equanomics, which builds skills and supports programs that wish to achieve the goal of gender equality in the economy, to take apart systemic economic constructs that perpetuate gender inequality;
- 13. *Recommends* the creation of unbureaucratic unions of informal regional sectors to oversee its necessities, risks and create network opportunities;
- 14. *Recommends* local communities to create local forums for informal and temporary job opportunities to lower time spent looking for employees and employers, creating a more resilient environment;
- 15. Recommends Member States to implement legal, supervised, and paid work opportunities within education systems for students who lack established professional networks that start three months before they are eligible for labor elsewhere, enhance career inspiration and create pathways into the job market for children, and reduce early and possibly irreversible entry into the informal job market by:
  - Advising that Member States work with private companies to advocate for the adoption of initiatives that provide resources for informal workers while easing the transition from informal to formal employment;
  - Providing additional benefits for informal workers to supplement the economic gap between formal and informal work, including improved pay and bonus wages, contributions to social security programs for informal workers, and public transportation initiatives for formal and informal workers;
  - c. Supporting initiatives that incorporate more informal businesses into formal protections without the requirements of formal work simultaneously with education and digitalization-based initiatives to ease the transition between formal and informal work, such as:
    - i. Recognizing contract-based work as a middle-ground between formal and informal work with reduced taxes and increased protections for workers;
    - ii. Providing access for informal workers to engage with digital tools and programs supporting educational initiatives through private organizations aimed at aiding workers;
- 16. Recommends Member States leverage progressive taxes in an attempt to empower informal sector workers and encourage formalization, to incentivize informal sector workers to formalize without being at risk of losing their income;
- 17. Proposes the launch of a pilot initiative, implemented by Member States in partnership with local NGOs and guided by the Digital Cooperation Fund and UNDP Digital Strategy 2022–2025, to improve digital access for informal workers, particularly women, by providing subsidized internet connectivity, low-cost digital devices, and foundational digital literacy training, and funding is to be sourced through voluntary contributions from private sector partners, international development agencies, and philanthropic organizations committed to advancing inclusive digital infrastructure;
- 18. Recommends that UNDP convene semi-annual regional meetings among neighboring Member States, with the technical support of relevant United Nations organizations such as ILO and IOM and the active involvement of civil society organizations, with the willingness to:
  - a. Coordinate cross-border data collection and policy alignment regarding informal work and social protection policies;

- b. Support regional projects that promote inclusive and sustainable economic opportunities for migrants working in the informal sector, especially in border regions;
- c. Encourage collaboration with local NGOs tackling the subject of migration and labor inclusion to ensure policies are rooted in needs.



Code: UNDP/1/2

**Committee:** United Nations Development Programme

**Topic:** Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy

The United Nations Development Programme,

Affirming the responsibility of all Member States to fulfill, respect, and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms, as per the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (2006), and the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (1965),

*Taking into account* General Assembly resolution 77/281 (2023) on "Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development",

*Emphasizing* the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and UN Women to implement family-friendly policies for workers in the informal economy, such as adequate wages, child benefits, and paid parental leave,

Recalling further the UN Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy to reduce unpaid care work done by women and improve their access to natural, technological, and financial resources,

*Noting with deep concern* that women working in informal employment earn just 42% of what men earn in formal jobs per month,

Noting further that closing the gender gap in employment could potentially increase global GDP by more than 20%, according to the World Bank Group's A Gender Employment Gap Index (GEGI) (2022),

Acknowledging that around 2 billion women and girls worldwide lack social protection, including unemployment benefits, pensions, healthcare, and maternity support,

Fully alarmed that 17% of informally employed women experience poorer mental health due to factors such as lack of job security, low pay, and sexual harassment, according to the National Library of Medicine,

Bearing in mind that women involved in domestic work have an increased exposure to abuse and harassment, as the ILO notes that 20 out of 80 studies excluded domestic workers from labor laws,

Taking note that the informal sector grows in size with the growth of migrants, who make up 80% of the informal economy and who already face considerable economic challenges,

Concerned by data from the World Health Organization and the ILO, showing that a significant proportion of informal workers, particularly women and migrants, are exposed to hazardous working conditions without adequate health coverage,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 79/213 (2024), reaffirming the International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendation No. 204 in advancing social protections, worker rights, and financial inclusion to formalize vulnerable groups,

*Expressing its concern* that only 37.4% of workers globally have coverage for occupational injuries, leaving 2.3 billion unprotected,

Recognizing the importance of Women in Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) global initiative, made to support marginalized women in the informal sector medically through their dedicated "Workers' Health" pillar that provides information, research, and movement-building related to promoting improved access to healthcare for informal workers.

Acknowledging the World Bank Jobs Umbrella Multi-Donor Trust Fund Annual Report, highlighting their funding initiatives for programs aimed at improving job quality in the informal sector,

Profoundly concerned with the 1.6 billion workers in the informal sector that were significantly affected by COVID-19, which further exacerbated pre-existing forms of inequality and systemic discrimination, leading to a 60% decline in their earnings,

- 1. Recommends the creation of a framework called "Work Safely" that strengthens occupational health and safety policies in high-risk informal sectors, such as construction, agriculture, and domestic work, by promoting:
  - a. Access to equipment such as protective gear, basic tools for handling waste, and tools for the specific occupation, like farming or fishing;
  - b. Capacity building training for the employees to promote safe working places and practices;
  - c. Incentives for safer workplaces and community-based monitoring to track and monitor the specific challenges faced in the informal sector;
- Further recommends using data collected by the ILO STAT, the UNDP Informal Economy Data Explorer, and economic indicators from the World Bank's Prosperity Data 360 initiative to promote Member State-led efforts in equipping local governments and civil society with formalization plans through annual policy briefings, such as business registration and policy solutions;
- 3. Suggests Member States use data collected by the World Bank to create bi-annual longitudinal reports to monitor continual progress of formalization and the effectiveness of programs in accordance with the UNDP's Handbook on Monitoring and Evaluating for Results using various indicators such as:
  - a. The Human Development Index, especially focusing on developing countries;
  - b. Visual dashboards using the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) to assess yearly progress in the implementation of this resolution, as well as the Gender Inequality Index (GII), and the Gender Development Index (GDI);
- 4. *Invites* Member States to establish national frameworks to support the transition from informal to formal employment through:
  - Inviting Member States to consider adopting legal frameworks that ensure the regulation and incentives for companies to have gender equality guidelines and proper maternity leave regulations;
  - Suggesting the promotion of business registration by highlighting labor law, which protects safe work environments, and contract law, which protects from worker exploitation and allows for fair negotiations between all parties in a business;
  - c. Supporting the process of reducing land disputes by formalizing legal rights to land used by informal agricultural practices;

- 5. *Encourages* public-private partnerships aiming to ensure the inclusion of women in informal labor markets by providing access to digital platforms and more accessible financial services by:
  - Using innovative and alternative credit score methods based on using phone data of financial apps;
  - b. Creating pathways for women to participate more fully in the digital economy, such as the collaboration between Siemens and UN Women to train digital skills in women;
  - c. Offering mentorships and business development resources that promote entrepreneurial skills and enable the scaling of women-led informal businesses, with business planning and management, legal awareness, networking, and leadership;
- 6. *Advises* Member States to recognize and address the disproportionate impact of mental health issues on women in informal labor sectors by:
  - a. Highlighting the psychological effects of traditional gender roles, workplace discrimination, and unpaid care responsibilities on women's mental health through awareness campaigns and educational programs aimed at destigmatizing mental health challenges among women, especially those in vulnerable employment situations;
  - b. Expanding access to gender-sensitive mental health services, such as community-based counseling, helplines, and trauma-informed care;
- 7. Suggests the adherence to universal social protection systems in the WIEGO Child Care Initiative framework in regards to child care needs of informal workers by:
  - a. Including maternity leave and allowing maternity leave benefits for informal workers, inspired by the Expanded Maternity Protection Proposal in South Africa;
  - b. Permitting unemployment benefits as per the Seguro de Desempleo for informal workers in Mexico and universal minimum pension as simulated by the Universal Pension
  - c. Scheme proposed by Thailand;
  - d. Granting accessible healthcare for women working in informal employment, inspired by the Linda Mama Program in Kenya;
- 8. Invites Member States to seek financial assistance from international organizations in order to aid by:
  - a. Providing incentives and grants to governments that successfully formalize the informal sector, based upon data collected through the UNDP Informal Economy Data Explorer, through national policies;
  - b. Offering low-interest loans, subsidized registration, and mobile-based social security to Member States;
  - c. Expanding social safety nets that provide economic aid during crises caused by forced displacement, climate change, or extreme change;
- 9. Supports utilizing the Health4life Fund to support their transition towards a formal economy to be managed through a partnership between international development banks, private investors, and regional financial institutions, aimed at:

- a. Providing micro credit access to informal economy workers with preferential interest rates;
- b. Supporting business formalization processes through technical assistance in qualifying for loans, and financial literacy programs to the efficacy of financial decisions, based on knowledge of the business context;
- 10. Encourages the establishment of a "toolkit", which emphasizes the importance of integrating informal businesses into the financial systems and providing governments with guidelines on how to formalize economies that became informal due to the COVID-19 pandemic, modeled after the Alliance for Financial Inclusion toolkit;
- 11. *Recommends* that Member States increase recognition of refugees' qualifications in order to support vulnerable displaced persons' access to formal employment and fulfill economic integration within the formal community, modeled after the African Union-IOM's Joint Labor Migration Program.



Code: UNDP/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Development Programme

**Topic:** Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy

The United Nations Development Programme,

Affirming the International Labour Organization's resolution (ILO) concerning decent work and the informal economy (2002), which addressed the benefits of formalizing the informal sector while respecting everyone's right to decent work.

Reaffirming the commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure),

*Noting with concern* that 60% of the global workforce is currently employed in the informal sector and that 1.6 billion informal workers were significantly affected by COVID-19 and other natural disasters, experiencing a 60% drop in earnings, as reported by the ILO,

Asserting that there is a place for close cooperation between UNDP, local authorities of particular Member States, and non-governmental organizations to achieve digitalization in pursuit of the SDGs,

Recalling the strong framework offered by the UNDP Digital Strategy 2022–2025 and ILO's (2024) recommendation on creating digital systems to bridge the gap between informal and formal economies, including through responsible digital payments and wage systems,

Emphasizing the importance of digitalization in reducing barriers to entering the formal economy, especially since access to mobile money services has helped lift more than 194,000 households out of extreme poverty in Kenya, according to an MIT study (2016), and digital identity systems have enabled more than 1.3 billion Indian citizens to access banking and governance services through Aadhaar application,

*Expressing concern* that limited digital access reinforces economic inequality and hinders formalization, with over 2.6 billion people still offline, 96% of whom live in developing countries, disproportionately affecting rural workers (ITU, 2023),

*Noting* the success of the Special Individual Micro Entrepreneurs Initiative in Brazil, established in 2008, which today represents two thirds of companies and has increased the income of newly formalized companies three times on average,

Observing the effects of UNDP's Accelerator Labs work to formalize economies with opt-in finance elements such as tracking expenses and acquiring loans,

Reaffirming the importance of comprehensive education and legal awareness to support informal workers, noting that over 60% of global workers operate outside formal labor protections (OECD),

Recognizing the potential of integrated education and technology programs, such as those implemented by CDI, highlighting the improvement of problem-solving skills for 81% of students and technological awareness among students and teachers among underserved communities,

*Noting* the success of the ILO Formalize Your Business (FYB) training program for entrepreneurs in the business permitting process to streamline their integration into formal regulatory frameworks,

*Emphasizing* the need for incorporating local communities in initiatives that promote regional inclusion and prevent further marginalization to address the misconceptions and lack of education about the informal sector that perpetuates stigma and result in policies that deny social protections to marginalized communities,

Regretting that 55% of women workers are employed informally and that in 44% of countries, the law does not mandate equal pay for both genders, according to UN Women's *The Crucial Role of Legal Frameworks in Advancing Gender Equality Infographic* (2024),

Highlighting that in 2023, roughly 55% of refugees lived in countries where access to formal employment was restricted or non-existent in practice, according to the UNHCR's *Global Survey on Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Report* (2023),

- 1. Encourages UNDP to assist in the creation of pilot programs for the formalization of businesses in rural and urban areas with high levels of informal employment, with particular attention to usability, accessibility, and local adaptation by:
  - Selecting pilot areas for launch, taking into account the percentage of informal workers, the
    existing digital infrastructure, and the extent to which local authorities are willing to collaborate
    and participate in the project;
  - b. Developing localized versions of the system that include different languages, culturally appropriate interfaces, and compatibility with all mobile devices;
  - c. Analyzing data taken from established local sources in pilot program areas, such as enrollment rates and user feedback:
  - d. Working integration into local systems in order to improve the program;
- 2. Further recommends to Member States the development of SDG Innovation Demonstration Zones to facilitate increased digitalization, influenced by the HUA Hub in Shenzhen, and encourages their implementation in urban areas of developing Member States through:
  - a. Fostering digitalization with the joint cooperation of local authorities and relevant NGOs to help kickstart these zones;
  - b. Encouraging Member States to consider supporting these developments by drawing from the existing contributions available to UNDP;
  - c. Strengthening of digital labor platforms and transparent grievance mechanisms, modeled after Qatar's electronic Wage Protection System (WPS), in order to build institutional trust and support the gradual formalization of informal labor;
- 3. Supports the extension of the UNDP Digital Strategy 2022–2025 framework, which emphasizes leveraging technologies for sustainable development to continue operating its digital literacy training until 2030 and includes:
  - a. Digital and technical training that helps informal workers pass the digital barriers to enter the formal economy;
  - b. Integrating basic digital skills into public education, and vocational training;

- c. Gathering localized data to provide adequate analysis to workers and governments that consider the national and domestic context;
- d. Creating awareness campaigns on the benefits of digital tools;
- e. Member States partnering with local NGOs to host free digital skills workshops;
- 4. *Emphasizes* the distribution of subsidized mobile devices and internet access for vulnerable populations by:
  - a. Member States partnering with NGOs such as the Marpu Foundation to develop smartphones with basic functions, suitable for digital public services;
  - b. Launching programs to distribute devices to students, informal workers, and women in vulnerable groups;
  - c. Supporting the local production of devices to create job opportunities;
  - d. Allowing free access to essential websites and apps, such as education and public services, through zero rating to reduce data costs;
- 5. Recommends Member States to implement Individual Micro Entrepreneurship companies, with special regulations being a first step into formalization, influenced by Brazil's MEIs program that provides the transition by opening social security and financial options to companies by simple and digital bureaucracy;
- 6. Recognizes the efforts needed to promote financial inclusion and economic resilience through the digitalization of the informal economy, including investments in Fintech solutions, specifically for:
  - a. Digital identity systems to empower informal workers and integrate them into the formal financial system;
  - Continued training and showcasing the basic use of financial platforms and applications already present:
- 7. *Invites* Member States to increase their support for their female workforce to help make the informal and formal economy more reflective of proportional gender percentages through:
  - a. Monetary support for their domestic workers through tax write-offs relating to domestic work in the informal sector;
  - b. Monitoring the amount of resources available to support the effective implementation;
  - Encouraging the implementation of workplace safety legislation, non-discriminatory laws, and protections for informal workers to mitigate the possibility of them being taken advantage of by employers;
- 8. *Recommends* the establishment of an HEReconomy lab, a targeted incubator program designed for female-led businesses to facilitate a transition into the formal economy through:
  - a. Fostering pilot projects to access linkages to market stakeholders and business models;
  - b. Entrepreneurial training by experts in the business field that provides consulting on:
    - i. The navigation of business model and paperwork;

- ii. Managing business savings and investments for future development and growth opportunities;
- 9. *Recommends* Member States to create policies that help informal SMEs connect to customer markets, facilitating a transition to the formal economy by:
  - a. Creating tenders for informal companies to give them opportunities to develop their businesses;
  - Collaborating with Micro Financing firms to be incubators for business in informal sectors, to develop and train potential SMEs to enter formal markets and enhance their chance of competitiveness and resilience;
- 10. *Supports* the continued funding of educational projects and academic institutions that promote human development and proper accreditation to access the formal working labor through:
  - a. The expansion of the joint ILO, UNHCR, and UNICEF initiative PROSPECTS, focusing on the introduction of Recognition of Prior Learning (PRL) plans for migrant children and youth, which certifies skills and knowledge acquired informally or in their home communities;
  - b. Earmarked contributions by Member States that enhance the financial capability of educational institutions;
  - c. The creation of a global fund that appeals to solidarity and provides money to educational projects;
- 11. Suggests technical assistance to Member States on vocational training alignment advising Member States on policies to support economic mobility through skills development by aligning technical and vocational training programs with short-term future labor market demands;
- 12. Welcomes that Member States implement a social media campaign by partnering with NGOs such as the Education Post to raise awareness of the discrimination endured by the members of the informal economy by:
  - a. Sharing stories of informal workers who have experienced workplace injuries and bringing their situations to light;
  - b. Informing policymakers that marginalized groups in the informal economy are often neglected;
  - c. Assisting in creating safe working conditions and social security through implementing safety protocols in the workplace and providing appropriate training for workers;
- 13. *Encourages* the creation of an International Informal Economy Resilience and Inclusion Initiative (IIERII) to provide:
  - a. Entrepreneurial support by partnering with local governments and suggesting policies that make the government the first consumer of informal companies on their transition to formality;
  - b. Economic inclusion and formalization through technical training;
  - c. Vocational training;
  - d. Collaboration with offices in targeting informal workers through simplified registration on digital platforms by:

- i. Ensuring a gender-sensitive approach with data collection;
- ii. Developing gender-sensitive financial literacy and inclusion programs;
- 14. *Proclaims* Member States model the UNDP's Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction project, which aims to benefit the employment opportunities of urban women by:
  - a. Providing vocational training opportunities and micro-business support for female informal workers;
  - b. Forming women-led community savings groups to allow informal workers to access resources to grow small businesses;
  - c. Assisting informal vendors in achieving municipal recognition;
- 15. *Suggests* Member States to alter the image of informal economies, dispelling falsities surrounding them and highlighting their positive attributes by:
  - a. Emphasizing the vital influence of the informal economy through supplying resources to the formal economy;
  - b. Implementing optional courses on the informal sector to reduce misconceptions through education programs on topics of inclusivity of marginalized groups, and cultural differences;
  - c. Recommending Member States to integrate the informal economy into public advertisement, at the local and national levels;
- 16. *Recommends* Member States model after the ILO Formalize Your Business (FYB) training, which aims to support the transition of informal economic units and their workers to the formal economy by:
  - a. Rolling out programs that educate informal entrepreneurs on the process of applying for a business license;
  - b. Guaranteeing the effectiveness of the training programs by:
    - i. Creating unique training programs for selected nations that take into account variations in the character of informal economies in different regions;
    - ii. Conducting research and mapping out key actors and initiatives that support the transition to formality in the selected country;
    - iii. Recruiting trainers with expertise in navigating the regulatory ecosystem of the selected country.



Code: UNDP/2/1

**Committee:** United Nations Development Programme

**Topic:** Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Global Supply Chains

The United Nations Development Programme,

*Recognizing* the employment of approximately 450 million workers in global supply chains, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), as of 2013,

Reaffirming the commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities),

Acknowledging existing bilateral and regional frameworks such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the role they play in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in a practical manner,

*Deeply concerned* by the vulnerabilities in global supply chains revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a 13% drop in global trade volume, according to the World Trade Organization,

Stressing that a key part of achieving more inclusive and sustainable supply chains is the development and expansion of green infrastructure across the world, particularly among the more vulnerable Member States,

Observing that, according to the OECD, the practice of supply chain transparency can lead to significant reductions in unethical practices, most notably the success of programs like the United Kingdom's *Modern Slavery Act* of 2015 and Norway's *Transparency Act* of 2021, both of which led to global companies reporting forced labor risks, environmentally degrading practices, and improving practices,

Appreciating the African Union's Agenda 2063, which seeks to integrate African countries in global trade and supply chains to boost their economic development through the establishment of flagship initiatives that deepen market integration and promote inter-African trade,

Recognizing that the key components of a successful supply chain risk assessment include identifying potential risks, evaluating their likelihood and impact by creating contingency plans, and monitoring assessments,

*Gravely concerned* that, according to the United Nations Global Compact, international shipping accounts for 3% of GHG emissions,

Honors the Sustainability Disclosure Standards (SDS) by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), a global baseline for sustainability-related documents to include transparent and high-quality Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting standards,

Recognizing the need for an inclusive digital infrastructure to enhance transparency and efficiency in global supply chains, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing economies, in line with the UNDP Digital Strategy 2022–2025,

Appreciating existing frameworks such as the Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Programme and electronic standards like EPCIS, which support traceability and responsible sourcing through interoperable and secure data-sharing mechanisms,

Fully aware that forced labor, child labor, and exploitation within small and medium-sized enterprises result in human rights not being upheld to the proper standard,

Observing the positive impact that oversight has in advocating for reforms, monitoring human rights, and holding those not adhering to human rights criteria responsible,

Deeply conscious about the ILO Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage report (2017), stating that 24.9 million people are still engaged in forced labor exploitation, with 89 million people having experienced some form of modern slavery,

Calling attention to the disproportionate way in which issues within global supply chains affect developing nations, with lower-income countries facing issues with production recovery at higher rates that amplify global inequality,

*Disturbed* that 79 million children working in child labor are performing hazardous work, according to UNICEF's report *Child Labour: Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward* (2021),

Acknowledging that over 160 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 are affected by child labor within supply chains,

Expressing its deep concern with the working conditions informal supply chain workers are subjected to, with lower wages, reduced social benefits, and minimal job security,

Recognizing how small farmers and workers at the base of the supply chain do not reap the benefits of their labor due to challenges such as price instability, climate vulnerability, and limited access to technology and markets,

Recognizing the Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies (2020), enhancing crisis-response mechanisms in SCs, ensuring adaptability in high-risk areas through localized risk assessments and sustainable resource allocation,

*Emphasizing* the fact that SMEs comprise 90% of all global companies, yet are disadvantaged when seeking funding and investment in the private sector, and face networking and business skill barriers both locally and internationally,

*Expressing concern* at the underrepresentation of SMEs within the global supply chain, which includes marginalized/minority and women-owned businesses,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/324 (2018), which called upon the United Nations to integrate a gender perspective and pursue gender equality,

Acknowledges efforts done by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) to promote SMEs within LDCs, resulting in 48 Member States improving their national development plans,

Appreciating the ILO's Inclusive and Sustainable Supply Chains Asia initiative and other similar propositions worldwide, responsible for educating and empowering neglected communities, connecting developed countries and the Global South with technology transfer, and expanding sustainable supply chains,

Aware that a great part of mineral extraction in the Global South is mined illegally by crime lords that take local populations hostage, neglecting their human rights and damaging the area in the process, further aware that that is not limited to mining,

Acknowledging that SMEs in developing countries face significant barriers in accessing digital platforms, with only 17% using such platforms to connect to global supply chains, compared to over 50% for large enterprises (UNCTAD, 2021),

*Highlighting* that due to a lack of resources, SMEs contribute up to 60-70% of global greenhouse gas emissions while representing 90% of all firms and contributing to roughly 70% of employment,

Recognizing Building Effective Public-Private Partnerships to Drive Sustainable Development (2021), developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), focusing on inclusive economic growth in agriculture through the "anchor firm" model, where lead corporations partner with SMEs to ensure market access and resource efficiency,

Acknowledging the buying power of multinational corporations, as well as their role in shaping global labor conditions and influencing their SME suppliers to conform to sustainability guidelines such as the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles,

Recognizing the commitment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to addressing the challenges of rising sea levels, particularly in support of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and its longstanding expertise in coastal engineering and flood prevention,

Highlighting the potential of voluntary partnerships between Member States, global corporations, and international organizations to strengthen coastal resilience through the integration of innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT), enabling real-time monitoring and proactive disaster risk management,

Deeply concerned about the severe environmental damage resulting from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, particularly soil degradation, air and water pollution, and deforestation, recognizing Germany's extensive experience in environmental policy and renewable energy as a key asset for supporting sustainable reconstruction,

Reaffirming the importance of the Paris Agreement (2015) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992), guiding global efforts to limit global warming and promote environmental resilience.

*Recognizing* that, even though the Global South has the will and dedication to do volunteer work, it lacks volume and organization in its volunteering institutions,

Reaffirming the commitment of UNDP to achieving SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 6 (clean water and sanitation), and 13 (climate action),

Taking note that agricultural commodities such as palm oil, soy, and cocoa are major drivers of deforestation, with the palm oil industry alone being responsible for 8% of all deforestation, especially in Southeast Asia,

Concerned that one-third of the world's assessed fisheries are being pushed beyond their biological limits, and that overfishing and poor labor practices in the fishing sector seriously endanger both the health of our ecosystems and the livelihoods of fishers and consumers,

- 1. Recommends Member States develop a Global Trade Digital System (GRDS) through cooperation with companies involved in the operation of global supply chains by:
  - a. Developing a platform with real-time data, a database of previous events, and an opportunity for all companies to get access to it;
  - b. Implementing IoT technologies for tracking data and collecting it into the system;
  - c. Considering blockchain and AI to make transactions in chains and global trade more transparent, sustainable, and protective for employees;

- d. Providing access to improve competitiveness and fairness in this sector for all companies involved in supply chains;
- e. Using Al algorithms to detect suspicious activities, prevent supply chain risks, and predict trends to help Member States strategize;
- 2. *Supports* the intentions of the Member States in creating a public campaign in collaboration with local NGOs to raise awareness among people by:
  - a. Increasing the level of knowledge about what the supply chains are and how important they are;
  - b. Spreading the information on how much money is involved in the sector and why it is important to make a global trade system sustainable and inclusive for everyone;
- 3. Recommends the establishment of an AI green-powered risk assessment tool, Supply Risk-GSC, by Member States to help identify inappropriate patterns and practices exercised by the stakeholders of select supply and demand networks by:
  - a. Providing tailored toolkits that advise Member States on best practices would be published annually as a follow-up to the assessments;
  - b. Outlining recommendations to bolster the resilience of value chains in the face of climate threats;
  - c. Creating a scoreboard on key KPIs evaluated and nominated by UNDP and United Nations General Assembly to track the progress of the global supply chain in achieving sustainability;
- 4. *Emphasizes* that sustainable infrastructure will play an important role on the path to sustainable development through encouraging the expansion of efforts influenced by the Green and Digital Innovation Project in Hainan by:
  - a. Facilitating the development of regional hubs to foster a smoother transition to renewable sources;
  - b. Partnering with local NGOs such as the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs to develop policies with special emphasis on local conditions;
- 5. *Highlights* the importance of implementing practical solutions for fostering the development of sustainable supply chains along the lines of currently established United Nations frameworks and putting them into practice through sustainable ventures, including the BRI by:
  - a. Supporting green development projects with a focus on bilateral partnerships between Member States;
  - b. Advising that Member States consider implementing legislation to support sustainable development;
- 6. Encourages Member States to model regional initiatives after UNCTAD's Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS) portal, an online portal that benefits international trade and supports related policy-making decisions by:
  - a. Collecting and dispersing data, through local relevant agencies, on tariffs, trade flows, and non-tariff measures across different regions;

- b. Assisting users in tracking and understanding policies and regulations other than tariffs that might impact trade;
- c. Making data available to relevant stakeholders to inform policy decisions;
- 7. Suggests the use of already existing programs, such as the United Kingdom's Modern Slavery Act and Norway's Transparency Act, as a model for corporate accountability, encouraging large businesses to disclose detailed information on their global supply chains and the preventative measures taken on human rights abuses and environmental degradation;
- 8. *Encourages* Member States to invest in port digitalization and smart trade systems, modeled after initiatives such as Qatar's Hamad Port platform, by:
  - a. Implementing real-time cargo tracking and digital logistics platforms to improve supply chain transparency and responsiveness;
  - Adopting paperless cost procedures and e-documentation systems to reduce delays, operational costs, and environmental impact;
  - c. Providing technical training and digital infrastructure support to developing countries to ensure inclusive access to supply chain innovation;
  - d. Collaborating with regional and international partners to share best practices in digital trade governance and data-driven supply chain management;
- 9. *Invites* the UNDP Strategy, Analysis and Research Team (SART) to globally research strategies on increasing inclusivity and sustainability in global supply chains by:
  - a. Expanding the scope of their research past Sub-Saharan Africa to include the Global South;
  - b. Researching potential ways Member States can increase inclusivity and sustainability within global supply chains;
  - c. Identifying the various potential outcomes of increased levels of inclusivity and sustainability in global supply chains and providing Member States with a bi-annual report outlining the proposed solutions and data;
- 10. Suggests adopting blockchain technology to build a global database built upon quarterly reports submitted by international corporations, for a performance assessment using streamlined sustainability metrics and IRFS-SDS, which will be supervised and accessible to relevant stakeholders in the governments of volunteering Member States;
- 11. Recommends that UNDP, in partnership with national customs authorities and chambers of commerce, develop a modular digital platform enabling SMEs in Sub-Saharan Africa to access real-time trade data, e-documentation tools, and supply chain compliance guidelines;
- 12. Calls upon Member States to integrate EPCIS standards and digital product passports into national trade registries, using T4SD methodologies to ensure alignment with sustainability reporting and traceability benchmarks across key export sectors;
- 13. *Calls upon* the expansion of existing frameworks, such as the UN Global Compact, to redefine and specify human rights criteria within SMEs:

- 14. *Emphasizes* the work done by third-party groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, to bridge the gap between the private and public sector and small and medium-sized enterprises as a way to ensure adherence to human rights between these organizations and governments within Member States:
- 15. *Advises* Member States to expand initiatives to strengthen transparency and accountability within supply chains, addressing the systems of oppression that perpetuate modern slavery, including:
  - a. Coordinating with intermediary parties associated with civil society to monitor corporate activity and advocate for regulations to proactively disrupt and reduce the frequency of human rights abuses like slavery and forced labor;
  - Implementing legislation that consolidates previous offenses related to trafficking and slavery, placing an obligation on businesses to monitor their impact within supply chains and improve transparency similar to the *Modern Slavery Act* of 2015;
- 16. Recommends Member States implement partnerships similar to the ILO and FAO's CLEAR Supply Chains: Ending Child Labor in Supply Chain, which aims to address the root causes of child labor, specifically in the mineral and coffee supply chain, through mapping the main drivers of the supply chain and providing access to free education;
- 17. Recommends that Member States implement monthly conditional cash transfer programs, similar to Egypt's Takaful and Karama, where children are encouraged to attend school by decreasing the opportunity cost of child labor;
- 18. Calls upon establishing an auditing initiative called Global Supply Chain Sustainability Audit Framework (GSCSAF), alongside UNDP and ILO, to obtain and analyze annual publications of ESG reports, which include regular inspections of current Supply chain practices and labor conditions;
- 19. Fully supports inclusive global supply chains that prioritize fairness, equity, and environmental responsibility, as well as the implementation of fair trade policies that respect the interests of developing nations and ensure that all Member States, regardless of size or income level, have an equal opportunity to participate and prosper in the global economy;
- 20. *Recommends* the creation of a traceability guideline to facilitate regulatory compliance and enhance quick responses to high-risk areas' issues, like the United Nations Global Compact's Guide to Traceability, by:
  - a. Establishing a blockchain system for recording and tracking the movement of a product through its lifecycle and along the SC, ensuring transparency;
  - b. Using UNDP's Procurement for Sustainable Development Strategy 2022-2025 as a standard for corporations that outsource in high-risk areas, where UNDP will review the adherence of these guidelines semi-annually by using the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit to investigate the allegations of noncompliance, and also assess semi-annual progress made in terms of SES;
- 21. *Expresses* support for voluntary initiatives that seek to aid willing developing nations in recovering from the effects of decades of harmful trade practices that promoted the continuation of forced and unethical labor, such as:
  - Encouraging Member States to diversify partnerships, which would expand supply networks and increase access to new markets and resources while reducing economic risk, technological disruptions, and environmental challenges;

- b. Furthering the development of Public-Private Partnerships to increase innovation and accessibility within global and regional supply chain networks;
- 22. Encourages Member States to promote increased investment from the private sector in SMEs through:
  - a. Implementing bonds that target specific ideas, such as the environment and social business;
  - b. Highlighting SMEs' advantages in the supply chain;
  - c. Partnering with private financial institutions such as Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) and local equivalents to foster SMEs to conduct business and investment activities while benefiting from tax incentives;
- 23. *Recommends* all Member States and local communities promote international networking environments, help to connect local SMEs to international investors, consumers, and buyers, the international supply chain, at the same time promoting local partnerships and education by:
  - a. Creating websites where initiatives from marginalized communities and sustainable ideas can spread and find potential consumers worldwide;
  - b. Promoting the efforts of SMEs leaders to network locally, establish partnerships, and encourage mutual cooperation;
  - c. Using social media to promote, explore, and expand realities of sustainable and inclusive SMEs;
  - d. Producing an e-platform with lectures and classes for better market understanding, improving financial decisions, long-term planning, and human resource strategies, which support such companies with translation and digitalization services to find broader views;
- 24. *Encourages* a global establishment modeling that of the EIF to promote integrated trade strategies in underused sectors by:
  - a. Targeting undersold goods of Member States to boost local economies and promote global supply chains;
  - b. Highlighting SMEs to businesses to promote more inclusive trade at a global level;
  - c. Developing trade-related assistance to help guide Member States towards more inclusive and stronger supply chains;
  - d. Encouraging the private sector within Member States to engage with limited liability company suppliers, which are the most popular choice for small businesses;
- 25. *Emphasizes* the reduction of gender-based discrimination in historically underutilized global supply chains through:
  - a. Promoting women-owned businesses in local and national advertisements;
  - b. Encouraging government supply chains to recognize and subsidize minority-owned businesses;
- 26. *Calls upon* Member States to promote the digital integration of SMEs in developing countries into global supply chains by:

- a. Encouraging the development of multilingual, user-friendly digital platforms that reflect the needs of local SMEs;
- b. Supporting training that strengthens the digital skills of SME owners and employees, with a focus on practical competencies such as e-commerce, cybersecurity, and digital marketing;
- Developing a program specifically tailored for SMEs, modeled after the CDI Portugal Recode platform, which improves the digitization of firms and connects them to the global labor market by providing free online courses and distributing certifications for SMEs;
- d. Partnering with and recommending the expansion of the Global Compact Network Germany, an integrated digital database and communication network for companies to align their procurement practices with international sustainability standards;
- 27. Recommends the publication of an updated FAO Building Effective Public-Private Partnerships to Drive Sustainable Development report, to further incorporate an anchor model for industrial and renewable energy SCs, and supply a toolkit for investment in green innovative SCs;
- 28. Deeply concerned about the severe environmental damage resulting from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, particularly soil degradation, air and water pollution, and deforestation, recognizing Germany's extensive experience in environmental policy and renewable energy as a key asset for supporting sustainable reconstruction;
- 29. *Reaffirming* the importance of UNFCCC, guiding global efforts to limit global warming and promoting environmental resilience by:
  - a. Recommending launching a joint Ukraine-Germany Green Innovation Hub to facilitate collaboration in research, education, and low-carbon technology development, with an emphasis on practical implementation in affected regions;
  - Encouraging the expansion of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Global Maritime
    Energy Efficiency Partnerships Project (GloMEEP) to other regions, to assist Member States in
    reviewing their current sustainability frameworks and developing roadmaps and policies to
    support maritime energy efficiency;
  - c. Encouraging the Member States to adopt and implement due diligence legislation, to require companies to identify and mitigate environmental risks across their entire supply chains, inspired by France's Corporate Duty of Vigilance Law;
- 30. Encourages the World Bank to create and manage a voluntary Global Corporate Contribution Fund (GCCF), where publicly traded corporations with annual revenues exceeding \$1 billion contribute 0.1% of their revenue to improve labor conditions in underprivileged nations, in return for a United Nations-endorsed badge of honor;
- 31. *Encourages* the implementation of a volunteer-based initiative led by UNDP, in cooperation with interested global corporations, to assist SIDS in fortifying port infrastructure against climate-induced sea level rise;
- 32. *Recommends* UNDP, in coordination with IMO and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to lead the development and implementation of volunteer-based pilot projects deploying smart sensors through Al and IoT frameworks for real-time coastal defense in vulnerable regions;

- 33. *Recommends* international volunteering organizations, such as PETA, Greenpeace, etc. to reach initiatives in the Global South and exchange expertise in fundraising, organizing, and taking action;
- 34. *Encourages* the expansion of the IMO's Global Maritime Energy Efficiency Partnerships Project (GloMEEP) to other regions, to assist Member States in reviewing their current sustainability frameworks and developing roadmaps and policies to support maritime energy efficiency;
- 35. Calls for the expansion of the drip irrigation systems in drought-prone and semi-arid areas through:
  - a. Financial incentives provided by the government, including subsidies and microcredit schemes, to support smallholder farmers in adopting drip irrigation technology, in partnership with institutions such as the World Bank or IFAD;
  - b. Technical training programs on installation, maintenance, and water management, supported by FAO, UNDP, and local NGOs like One Acre Fund;
  - c. Collaboration with local universities and research centers to adapt irrigation to local crop and soil needs;
- 36. Suggests multinational enterprises partner with the OECD Due Diligence for Responsible Business Conduct for recommendations to ensure their supply chains are free of human rights abuses and environmental harm;
- 37. *Recommends* governments to mainstream into seafood supply chains through market and policy mechanisms and partnerships with the overarching goal of rebuilding and protecting fish stocks and livelihoods through:
  - a. Purchasing policies, sustainable marine commodity platforms, and fisheries improvement projects;
  - Following the example of the UNDP inter-regional initiative Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities (GMC), which is led by the fisheries and planning authorities of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, and the Philippines;
- 38. Suggests developing a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization annually to select three focus value chains in different regions and use the Al-powered supply risk tool to assess risks and patterns.