Commons Cluster
of the UN NGO Major Group

<u>Organization's name</u>: Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group

<u>Organization's Website</u>: www.allwinnetwork.net;

Under construction: https://www.commonsfortheun.org

<u>Focal Point name, title and email here</u>

Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska, Co-coordinator of the Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group; lisinka.ulatowska@gmail.com

<u>Chapeau</u>

Introductory remarks:

In preparation for the *Summit of the Future 2024,* the Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group submits this statement based on the collective voice of diverse populations from the four continents from dialogues and workshops succeeding the 2023 High Level Political Forum. Our contribution is in response to key questions contemplating the three pillars of Unity and sustainability- **Nature, Society and Economy -** as outlined in our recent paper **Building Unity as a Prerequisite for Achieving the SDGs**:

1. Society: How do we create an equitable, just and peaceful Society in harmony with Nature? What systemic and historical barriers need to be healed/uprooted to do this?
2. Nature: What policy and practice solutions maximize Nature's abundant, restorative and regenerative capacity?
3. Economy: How can we provide for all human needs and live a high quality of life, enabling people to realize their full potential while administering, distributing, and replenishing our natural resources with minimal harm to all beings on the planet?

Chapeau

The problems humanity faces continue to grow. In line with Einstein's thinking, problems cannot be solved with the same thinking that created them. We observe that today's thinking has overemphasized exact and goal-oriented thought processes and underemphasized the relational aspects, such as intuition, empathy, etc. This has created capacity bottlenecks far outstripping the resources available and has led to social tipping points being crossed that now fuel resistance, social unrest, conflict and loss of trust in our institutions. Effective solutions are available from Nature, such as practices for going about bottlenecks and when tipping points are crossed.

In our responses to Chapters 1-5, we have therefore emphasized Nature-based structures. Examples are ecosystems, commons, cooperatives which are characterized by co-creation and a spirit of one for all and all for one.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development.

The Secretary General at the G20 meeting in February 2023 called for radical transformation of the global financial system to tackle pressing challenges, while achieving sustainable development. We propose the following:

1. Build an equitable, stable system based on a commons/cooperative approach, including:
    a. a sustainable parallel digital global economy next to existing ones for the exchange of sustainable goods and services;
    b. a global digital currency to facilitate barter within this parallel economy using fundamental economic principles for currency creation; and distribute that among *all* people worldwide;
    c. provide access to all people to this economy digitally by connecting the 67 percent that have internet connectivity, the 78 percent that use smartphones; and those who may gain access through local offices of UN and its Special Agencies, and civil society organizations;
    d. a global campaign for all to learn how to fulfill their individual potential and live sustainably using all educational, recreational and commercial modalities available. See SIFA Plan.

2. Prepare for emerging economic changes through:
    a. Participation in building Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) across human functions which will replace systemic redundancies, diverting resources and attention to nurture humanistic capacities, and remodeling technology-led systems for

governance, business design, institutional provisions and societal cultures, as deliberated in the World Future Forum 2023 Dubai;

b. Replicating Nature's quality of equitability for maximum thrivability and using Nature inspired, commons-based systems to build a leisure and caring based economy on what already exists, e.g.:

- The fast-growing sharing economy on the Internet;
- The love-based home economy that exists in almost all homes worldwide and is based on care for one another provided for free.

3. Drive equitable multi-medium value exchange within existing economies, using digital currencies, mutually beneficial bartering, renewable voucher systems and more, like a sustainable version of the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI) - 1.7 billion adults do not have a bank account, but an estimated 1.1 billion have a mobile phone. These actions would further minimize inequalities, economic disparities, control hoarding and power-based aspirations, and empower masses through common yet personalized digital inclusion.

4. Ensure full support of the loss and damage fund, adopted at the 2023 UNFCCC COP 28, as the first step taken to empower nations towards climate action and to evolve into care-based societies.

5. Revisit sources and materials of manufacturing, supply chains, advertisement narratives, transportation mediums, alternate energy sources, education and awareness-based human practices to ensure a gradual transition from unsustainable manufacturing, availability and consumption of goods worldwide, to sustainable, life and value worthy products and services.

6. Integrate true Nature equity, compliance and accountability by making neglect, contamination or misuse of Air, Water, Land and other commons resources punishable by Global Law, such as the Bolivian Rights of Nature legislation.

Chapter II. International peace and security.

Our world is wasting significant resources and energy on all-pervading conflicts. This is undermining our capacity to build the unity needed to implement solutions that prioritize peace and security. We propose the following:

1. Proclaiming Ecocide, a Crime against Humanity that should be enforced by the ICC.

2. Implementing the Proposal by Professor Jeffrey Sachs on November 20, 2023 by, among other actions:

   a. the immediate cessation of all armed conflicts, thereby saving lives, livelihoods and money;

   b. The immediate implementation of all Security Council resolutions pertaining to the situation;

   c. the direct commencement of peace negotiations to address underlying political and economic causes;

   d. the creation of a Peace and Development Fund for rebuilding and economic reintegration of war-torn areas, financed by 10% of the military spending of major powers which is saved through the cessation of war.

3. Ensure that the positions of all Security Council members are so transparent that when a vote that has received a two thirds majority is vetoed, Security Council Members are able to negotiate a new resolution, rooted in the needs of all Members.

4.Cessation of international wars strongly supported, using the IHRC the ICC (which all countries are urged to join), negotiation and diplomacy, and the imposition of sanctions on those who represent a threat to international peace.

5. Truth and Reconciliation Commissions that include all parties involved in a dispute for the benefit of all, including vulnerable groups like refugees, women and girls, people with disabilities, indigenous and people of color.

6.The peaceful resolution of conflict at all levels centered on human rights without distinction; rooted in the Implementation of the principles of international law, including Security Council resolutions, if necessary by invoking Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

7.Provide humanitarian assistance to people in war areas, if necessary with the backing of the Security Council.

8. A culture of peace embedded in education to help all to contribute to the building of peaceful societies.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Science, technology and innovation present both positive prospects for solving our common challenges and unprecedented existential threats to both Nature and humanity.

We propose:

1. An institutional approach to establish meaningful standards and regulations to promote the ethical benefits while leaving no one behind and without transgressing the negative tipping points.

2. Building meaningful global connectivity by connecting three overlapping networks mentioned in *Chapter 1, 1c.* to increase sustainable productive capacity, strengthen social institutions, and accelerate awareness of the global climate crisis, discourage mis informers and polluters, and boost the information-sharing of solutions towards achieving the SDGs among people worldwide.

3. Allocating financing mechanisms to support safe and sustainable technological and AI implementation that does not harm natural ecosystems, but rather innovates towards preserving biodiversity through natural processes such as the MIT Media Lab and those presented at the World Future Forum 2023 Dubai.

4. Acknowledging and incorporating solutions for the mental health crisis, we advocate for connectivity and advancement that support Well-being. This stems from studies associating tech, AI and social media use with increase in youth and teen depression, anxiety, isolation, body image issues, eating disorders, physical health symptoms from overuse and gender-based violence.(WHO, GSDR 2023).

5. A gender-informed mechanism for estimating the social cost of technological advancement, per above, to forecast and mitigate the negative impact on mental health, productive capacities, relational and social Unity and Well-being.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Our common future is contingent upon holistic and hybrid solutions for active youth engagement, empowerment and leadership. We thus propose robust investment in youth Well-being and human capacity to be resilient stewards of Nature, Society and Economy through:

1. Equitable access to inclusive, learner-centered, inspiring and impactful education rooted in cultural and ontological diversity.

2. Gender-informed design of learning environments and workspaces, and gender justice in STEAM opportunities.

3. Intergenerational learning labs that transfer traditional knowledge of resource management, community governance, lived experience, and cultural heritage to better inform sustainable socio-economic innovation, growth and transformation.

4. Integrating and accepting the value of home- and family-making in education and work environments to build meaningful leadership, productive and emotional intelligence capacities for youth, in alignment with Nature's ecosystems. See One Family, One Earth, One Future.

5. Multi-tiered physical, mental and emotional supports that prevent the negative impact of technology, but empower youth to mindfully participate in the emerging technological landscapes.

6. Whole-person, global citizen experiential curricula aligned to primary, secondary, and tertiary education standards, and SDGs, that include:
   a. Cultural intelligence by exposure to, appreciation and perspective-taking of various cultures and worldviews through travel, food, family traditions, music and art;
   b. Emotional intelligence tools for intrapersonal and interpersonal Well-being, and community and planet care;
   c. Applying restorative, peace-building, nonviolent communication practices for conflict resolution and collaborative problem-solving;

        d. Green social entrepreneurship incubators, innovation labs, and community service leadership projects that apply Unity principles to be supported by multi-stakeholder mentorship and funding.

7. National service programs incentivizing and mainstreaming paid trained youth representation in school leadership, or as advisors appointed to boards of private and public sector entities with decision-making capacity.

8. Structured afterschool enrichment with peer leadership opportunities (Well-being, community- and peace-building peer circles; agricultural and nature-steward clubs on subsistence eco-farming, soil regeneration, green entrepreneurship clubs, etc.

9. School and community learning spaces built following green "future-of-LEED" guidelines with 70 percent safe outdoor education structures and features.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Sustainable global governance should promote harmony with Nature, ecological citizenship, global ethics, collaboration for the Well-being of all, and a spirit of *all for one and one for all.* It should:

1. Counter the Sixth Earth System Collapse by applying a commons approach to all levels of governance whereby all co-create Well-being for the benefit of the whole and of each part.

2. Prioritize Nature-based solutions, and financially and legally reinstates the leadership of indigenous and other nature-centered cultures, honoring their expertise.

3. Integrate technology and Internet-based education in schools, augmenting face to face lessons with all- round development, enhanced communication and participation.

4. Take a top-down approach to Unity-building by:
        a. sharing knowhow, and services provided by the UN System to encourage all to co-create for the good of humanity and Nature;
        b. strengthening collaboration between and among the departments of Intergovernmental Organizations;

    c.   inspiring people through education and harnessing their individual and collective capacities;

    d.   simplifying policies and frameworks, so that all are able to align their individual passions to the global goals and take the required actions.

5. Take a bottom-up approach to unite people worldwide so that they derive social, educational and financial benefit from:

    a.   [International Telecommunications Union's (ITU's)](#) mission, when achieved, for equitable digital interconnectivity;

    b.   The global sharing economy via the Internet;

    c.   thinking and living as world citizens, learning peaceful conflict resolution and understanding the working of the UN system.

6. Respect and accept the productivity of home-making in building robust families thus building peaceful societies.

7. Mainstream Nature-based approaches to human health and those rooted in ancestral wisdom.

***

In summary, we are grateful for the opportunity to share the perspectives of the Commons Cluster to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments including the SDGs and the United Nations Charter.

Signatories: All Win Network, AHAM Education Inc, Ecocivilisation, Law of Nature Manifesto, Mulika Afrika, Plastic Free Peru, Plenitude LLC., Vision Search, Women Rights and Development, Institute for Planetary Synthesis, Association of World Citizens.