

UNITED NATIONS BEYOND GDP CONSULTATION

From multidimensional measurement to reflexive governance

A LUMEN contribution for equitable, inclusive and sustainable human and planetary well-being

OFFICIAL INTEGRATED SUBMISSION

Prepared for the United Nations Beyond GDP consultation · 12 pages · English contribution

EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE DEMONSTRATORS

https://ccop.world/data/files/un/lumen_beyondgdp.html

Live LUMEN minisite: architecture, OBI, NLPI, CEDI and implementation modules.

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EXECUTIVE SUBMISSION

The missing link is not another dashboard

The High-Level Expert Group offers a strong measurement compass. LUMEN proposes the management layer that turns it into public action.

CCOP supports the HLEG's overarching objective of equitable, inclusive and sustainable human and planetary well-being, its dashboard logic, its recognition of foundational principles, and its insistence that produced or human capital must not conceal losses of natural capital. The core implementation challenge is now to connect multidimensional evidence to legal authority, social legitimacy, budgets, delivery and learning.

LUMEN PROPOSITION

Add a country-owned Observe → Model → Decide → Act cycle around the HLEG dashboard. Three diagnostic instruments — the Organisational Biomimicry Index (OBI), Net Legal Production Index (NLPI) and Collective Emotional Dynamics Index (CEDI) — provide distinct signals on organisational viability, net lawful value and lived experience.

BEYOND GDP INDICATORS WITHIN LUMEN

The Beyond GDP indicator set is incorporated into NLPI as a governed evidence layer. NLPI does not relabel those measures as law: it records their source, unit, quality and uncertainty, connects them to the applicable normative profile, and makes their decision use traceable. The same evidence may also feed OBI or CEDI when it measures organisational viability or lived experience.

- Use non-substitutable scientific, legal and rights-based floors before any aggregation.
- Keep a dashboard of dimensions; use headline indicators only as communication devices with public metadata and limitations.
- Make normative weighting transparent, reasoned and contestable; never impose universal fixed legal weights.
- Integrate Beyond GDP measures into budget appraisal, delivery contracts and ex-post review.
- Pilot through diverse countries and levels of government before standardising methods.

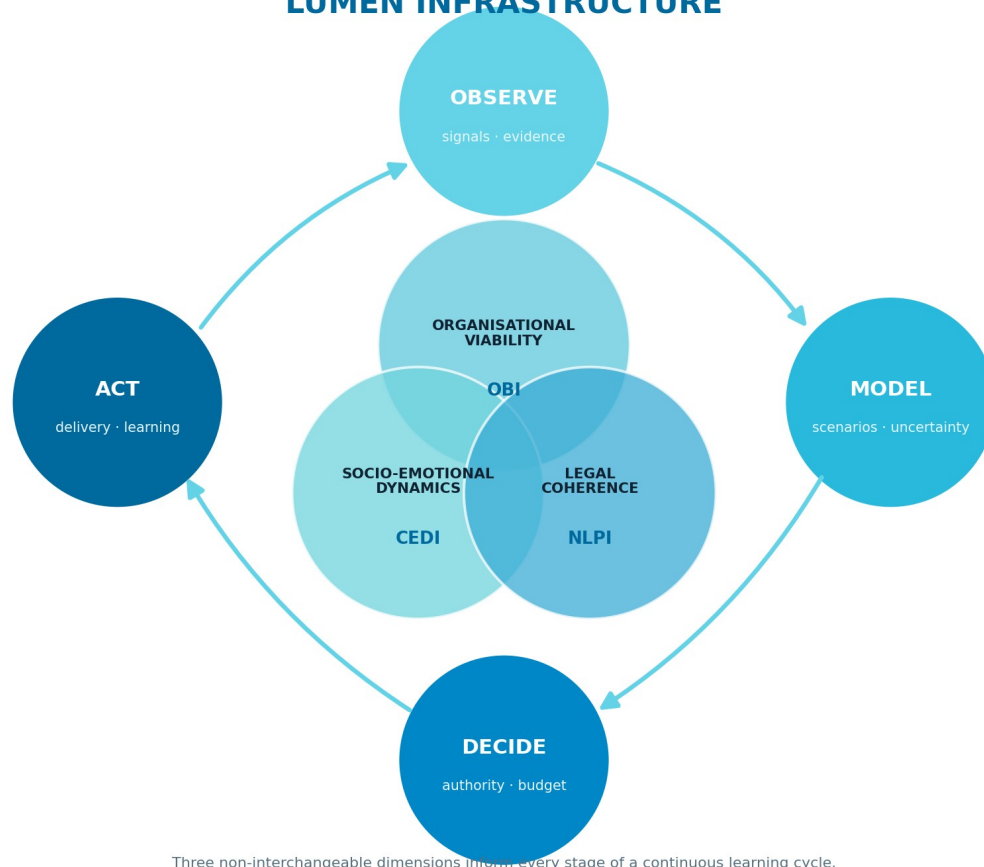
The proposal complements the 2030 Agenda, the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, the Sevilla Commitment, the SEEA and national well-being frameworks. It does not replace GDP, official statistics, courts, parliaments or democratic judgement.

RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

Four consultation themes, one operating architecture

UN theme	LUMEN answer	Practical output
1 · Political vision	A normative compass combining scientific viability, legal coherence and socio-emotional legitimacy.	Public normative profile; floor tests; decision rationale.
2 · Framework, measurement and governance	Three sensors linked by a reflexive observation–decision–operation architecture.	OBI, NLPI, CEDI dashboard; scenario ledger; learning loop.
3 · National implementation	A country-owned cycle embedded in planning, budgeting, delivery and evaluation.	National pilot; portfolio appraisal; capability plan.
4 · International applications	A common protocol for transparent, fair use without a global composite ranking.	Safeguards; interoperable metadata; peer-learning network.

LUMEN INFRASTRUCTURE



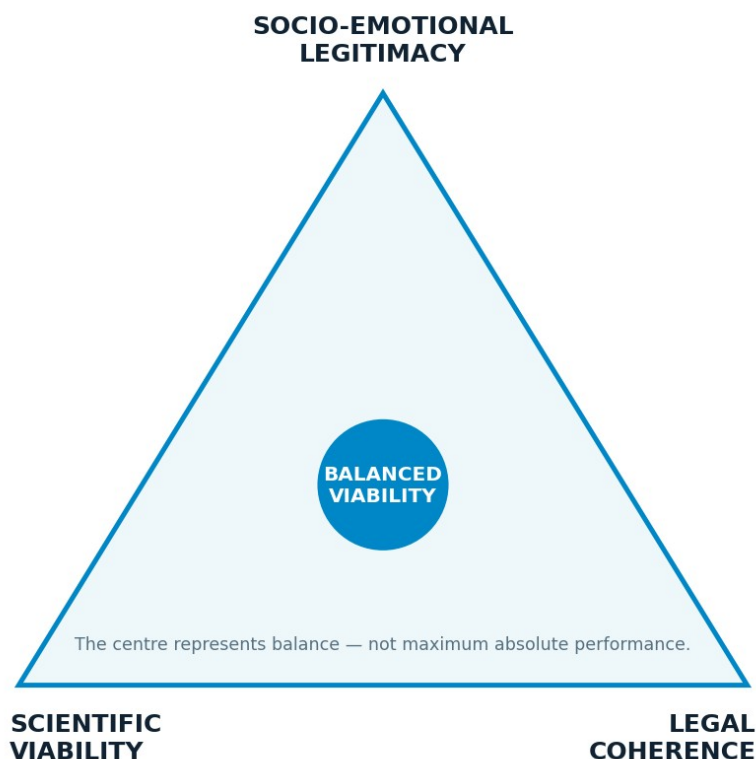
STRATEGIC FIT

HLEG = measurement compass. LUMEN = decision and delivery cycle. The relationship is complementary and testable.

THEME 1

A political vision anchored in triple legitimacy

The long-term vision is a global system capable of increasing human and planetary well-being while preserving the autonomy, diversity and policy space that make legitimate collective action possible. The “global brain” is used here as an organising metaphor for distributed intelligence: no central controller, no uniform culture, and no transfer of sovereign authority to an algorithm.



Test	Question	Status
Scientific viability	Is the option compatible with evidence-based biophysical and social limits?	Non-substitutable floor
Legal coherence	Is it compatible with binding obligations, rights and the applicable legal order?	Non-substitutable floor
Socio-emotional legitimacy	Can affected people understand, contest and support it?	Decision-quality signal

THEME 1

Sovereignty and cooperation through a transparent normative profile

International law can support national objectives when it is treated as a source of authorised commitments and coordination rather than as an externally imposed score. LUMEN's Net Legal Production Index (NLPI) maps the applicable hierarchy and interaction of obligations, policies and standards. Legal precedence depends on ratification, constitutional arrangements and regional legal architecture; fixed universal weights would be legally unsound and politically counterproductive.

COHERENT NESTING

Beyond GDP indicators enter NLPI as documented evidence inputs. Their normative relevance is then assessed against the country-owned hierarchy of binding obligations, agreed commitments and policy objectives. This places the UN initiative inside LUMEN without replacing national legal judgement.



- Country ownership determines priorities, institutional routes and implementation sequence.
- Binding obligations and non-derogable rights establish explicit constraints.
- Subsidiarity allocates decisions to the lowest level capable of handling their effects.
- Cross-border spillovers trigger cooperation and reciprocal accountability.
- All weights, thresholds, evidence and uncertainties are published and open to challenge.

MATERIALITY

LUMEN proposes triple decision materiality — scientific, legal and socio-emotional — as a complement to financial and impact materiality, not as a redefinition of ESRS or other reporting law.

THEME 2

A dashboard that can govern without becoming technocratic

LUMEN accepts the HLEG framework as an appropriate global reference: foundational principles; current well-being; equity and inclusion; and sustainability and resilience through capital stocks. It adds an operating architecture that preserves the dashboard while making decision rules explicit.

INDICATOR INTERFACE

The HLEG and future Beyond GDP indicators are included in NLPI's evidence registry, with source, unit, metadata, uncertainty, normative link and authorised decision use. Inclusion does not imply monetisation, automatic weighting or legal status. Relevant measures can simultaneously inform OBI or CEDI.



LUMEN operational translation inspired by metacybernetics; terminology remains explicitly attributed and contestable.

Instrument	Primary function	What it must not do
Organisational Biomimicry Index (OBI)	Assess organisational viability through 7 biomimetic principles and 63 indicators.	Treat nature as a decorative analogy or produce a single unqualified score.
Net Legal Production Index (NLPI)	Trace value, negative impacts, positive contribution, legal coherence and time-bound capture.	Monetise every value or substitute calculation for legal judgement.
Collective Emotional Dynamics Index (CEDI)	Capture lived experience, needs, recognition, support and motivation.	Claim representativeness without a valid sampling and participation design.

THEME 2

Strong sustainability, separate scales and disciplined aggregation

A standard ternary plot's centre represents balance, not the maximum of all three dimensions. LUMEN therefore separates absolute performance from balance. Each domain retains its own units and uncertainty; the triangle displays imbalance only after scientific and legal floors are checked.

NLPI EQUATIONS

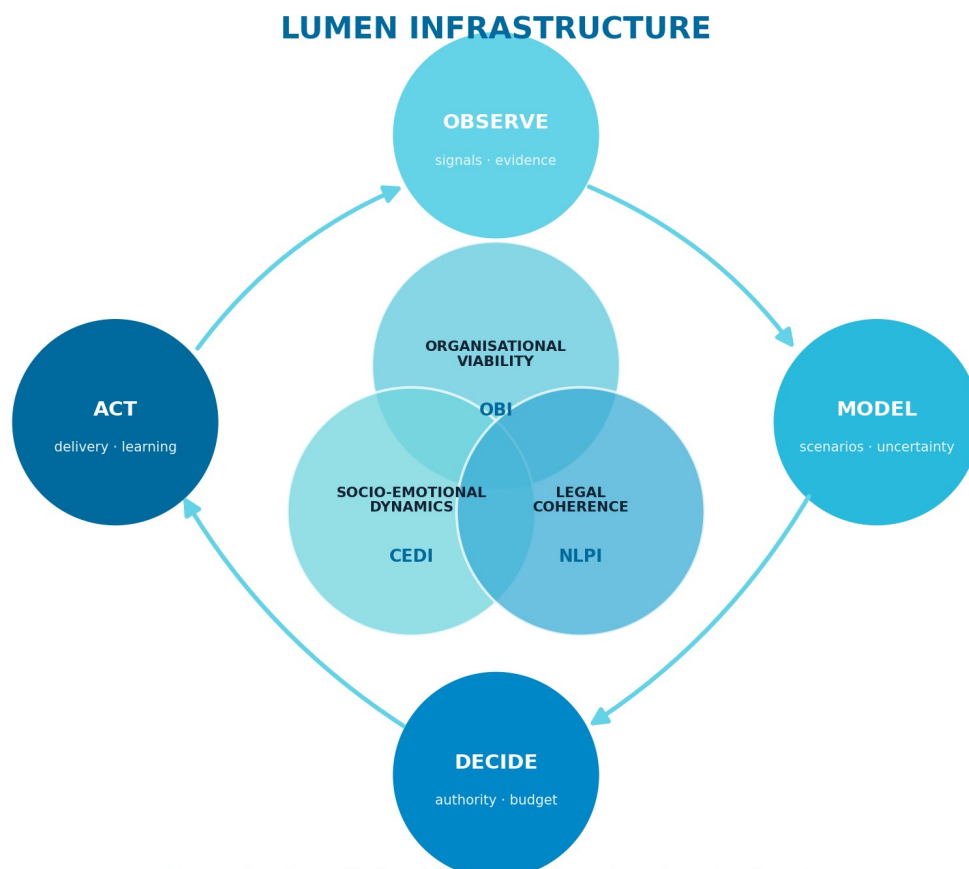
Potential = $\sum_i [(V_i - I_i + C_i) \times P_i]$. Capturable value at horizon $T = \sum_i [(V_i - I_i + C_i) \times P_i \times \tau_i(T) - M_i(T)]$. Here i is the evaluated action, policy, impact or other unit of analysis; $\sum_i$ sums all evaluated units; V_i is gross value produced or protected; I_i is negative impacts, hidden costs, externalities and risks; C_i is positive contribution beyond direct output; P_i is the transparent normative factor; $\tau_i(T)$ is the realistic capture rate at horizon T ; $M_i(T)$ is implementation and transition cost; and T is the stated time horizon. Units and conversion rules must be declared.

Aggregation rule	Purpose	Safeguard
1 • Floors	Exclude options that breach ecological ceilings, fundamental rights or binding obligations.	No compensation by other capitals.
2 • Dashboard	Keep material, health, education, security, subjective, social, institutional and environmental dimensions visible.	Disaggregation and uncertainty metadata.
3 • Balance	Reveal excessive dominance or neglect across LUMEN's three decision tests.	No claim of absolute performance.
4 • Headline	Communicate a small number of signals when useful.	Weights published; underlying dashboard always accessible.

- A scientific committee can review methods, but elected or otherwise legitimate authorities retain decisions.
- Citizen data can complement official statistics when consent, quality, privacy and stewardship are governed.
- Indicator sets should be modular for organisations ranging from sole traders to the UN system.

THEME 3

National implementation: embed the loop in existing institutions



Three non-interchangeable dimensions inform every stage of a continuous learning cycle.

Cycle	Lead responsibility	Minimum output
Observe	National statistical office + ministries + rights and citizen-data partners	Baseline, distribution, stocks, spillovers, lived experience and data gaps.
Model	Planning/finance ministry + scientific advisory capacity	Scenarios, floors, uncertainty, implementation capacity and capture horizons.
Decide	Constitutionally competent authorities	Published rationale, budget allocation, safeguards and delivery mandate.
Act	Delivery ministries, local authorities, firms and civil society	Milestones, open progress data, corrective action and ex-post evaluation.

Implementation should begin with a diagnostic rather than a wholesale institutional redesign. Countries map existing indicators, budget rules, legal duties, participation channels and delivery capabilities; they then select a bounded policy portfolio for a 12–18 month pilot.

THEME 3

Recover fiscal space by reducing hidden costs and revenue leakage

Beyond GDP will influence decisions only if it speaks to budget constraints. NLPI translates multidimensional effects into a transparent value-and-capture ledger without forcing every capital into money. It distinguishes potential value from what can realistically be captured over short, medium and long horizons after implementation costs.

Horizon	Typical focus	Budget use
0–12 months	Leakage control, compliance, prevention, procurement and operational waste.	Fund quick implementation and improve credibility.
1–3 years	Service redesign, workforce capability, circular flows and infrastructure efficiency.	Medium-term expenditure frameworks and delivery contracts.
3+ years	Natural, human and institutional capital restoration; resilience and avoided systemic loss.	Capital budgeting, fiscal risk statements and intergenerational review.

- Companies participate through sector data, delivery commitments and benefit-sharing — not through self-certified public value.
- Independent audit distinguishes assumptions, observed results and distributional effects.
- Intermediary bodies connect local experience with national, regional and international coordination.
- Capacity support prioritises methods, data stewardship and decision routines rather than software procurement alone.

INTEGRITY RULE

Potential is not a result; profitability is not austerity; audit is not sanction. The model supports public judgement and never substitutes for it.

THEME 4

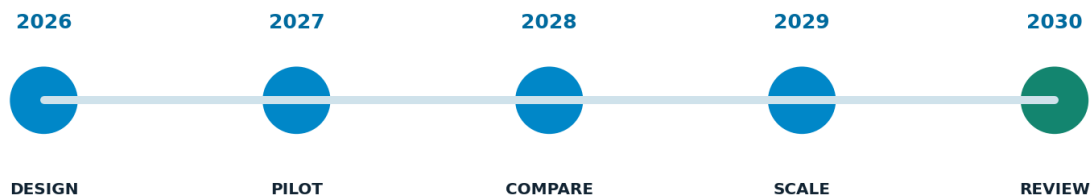
International use: transparent, fair and accepted

LUMEN can inform international policy if used as a common decision protocol, not as a universal ranking. Comparability should attach to definitions, metadata, safeguards and process quality; national dashboards may remain context-specific. No state should lose access to finance through an opaque aggregate score.

Application	Appropriate role	Required condition
Development cooperation	Align support with country-owned results and delivery capacity.	Consent, national leadership and mutual accountability.
Concessional finance	Complement income with vulnerability, resilience, rights and transition capacity.	No automatic eligibility; transparent appeal and review.
Debt and fiscal risk	Reveal hidden liabilities, natural-capital loss and resilience investment.	Accepted methods and prudent uncertainty treatment.
UN Development System	Provide a shared learning architecture across country teams.	Interoperability with UN planning and reporting; no parallel bureaucracy.
Partnerships	Match needs, offers, knowledge and resources across sectors.	Open standards, conflict-of-interest safeguards and benefit-sharing.

POST-2030 PATHWAY

Build evidence before building a standard



Progressive standardisation: common safeguards first, methods only after independent evaluation.

1. 2026 — Design: agree a minimum protocol covering floors, metadata, uncertainty, participation, legal traceability and audit.
2. 2027 — Pilot: select a diverse portfolio of voluntary country, local and organisational pilots; publish baselines and learning questions.
3. 2028 — Compare: commission independent evaluation of decision usefulness, costs, equity, legitimacy and interoperability.
4. 2029 — Scale: fund statistical, legal, participatory and delivery capacity; standardise only the elements supported by evidence.
5. 2030 — Review: decide which modules should support a post-2030 framework, UN country programming and international finance.

SDG 17

The proposal directly advances target 17.19 on measures beyond GDP and statistical capacity, while supporting resource mobilisation, policy coherence, country ownership, technology cooperation, partnerships and disaggregated data across Goal 17.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SOURCES

Five decisions for the elements paper

6. Adopt the HLEG objective and dashboard as the shared measurement compass while explicitly requiring a decision-to-delivery cycle.
7. Define non-substitutable ecological, rights and legal floors before any headline aggregation.
8. Invite voluntary LUMEN-style pilots that integrate official statistics, qualitative evidence and quality-assured citizen data into budgeting and implementation.
9. Create a scientific and governance protocol for metadata, weighting transparency, uncertainty, audit, appeals and learning.
10. Use the 2026–2030 period to test interoperability with the MVI, Sevilla Commitment, SEEA, national frameworks and UN Development System rather than create another parallel architecture.

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