

LUMEN TECHNICAL BRIEF 1

Political vision, strategic direction and normative anchor

Sovereignty, cooperation and triple legitimacy beyond GDP

TECHNICAL BRIEF

Prepared for the United Nations Beyond GDP consultation · 11 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 ANSWER

A shared direction without a single centre

The objective should be equitable, inclusive and sustainable human and planetary well-being, pursued through institutions capable of learning. LUMEN treats humanity as deeply interdependent without treating it as politically uniform. The “global brain” is an organising metaphor for distributed intelligence: coordination grows from connected, autonomous actors rather than from a central controller.

NORMATIVE ANCHOR

A decision is robust only when it is scientifically viable, legally coherent and socio-emotionally legitimate. These are distinct tests. None is a proxy for the others.

- Scientific viability protects the physical and social conditions of life.
- Legal coherence protects rights, authorised commitments and predictable institutions.
- Socio-emotional legitimacy protects agency, recognition, trust and capacity to act.
- Financial feasibility remains necessary but cannot override a failed sustainability floor.

This approach supports international cooperation because it makes obligations and spillovers visible. It protects sovereignty because national institutions retain ownership of priorities, methods and decisions within the applicable legal order.

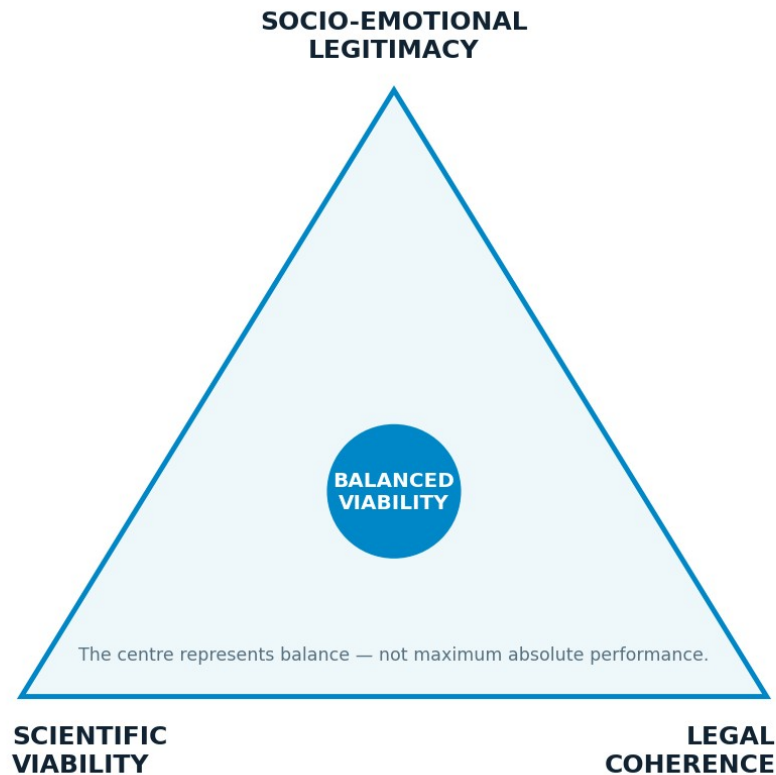
ENGLISH ACRONYMS USED THROUGHOUT

OBI = Organisational Biomimicry Index · NLPI = Net Legal Production Index · CEDI = Collective Emotional Dynamics Index.

GUIDING QUESTION 1

Overarching objective and long-term vision

The long-term vision is a world in which public value is judged by the durable capacity of people, institutions and ecosystems to flourish together. GDP remains useful for market production but ceases to stand in for welfare, legitimacy or sustainability.



- Equity means distribution, voice and access to capabilities are visible.
- Inclusion means marginalised people participate in defining and producing relevant evidence.
- Sustainability means critical natural, legal and institutional foundations are not substitutable.
- Resilience means systems can absorb shocks, learn and transform without abandoning rights or purpose.

GUIDING QUESTION 2

A coherent structure for multidimensional challenges

CCOP supports the HLEG's four-part framework and proposes a nesting rule: foundational principles and non-substitutable floors constrain the appraisal; current well-being describes present outcomes; equity and inclusion reveal distribution; capital stocks and resilience reveal future viability.

Layer	HLEG contribution	LUMEN operational addition
Foundations	Peace, human rights and respect for the planet.	Explicit legal/scientific floor tests and escalation rules.
Current well-being	Multidimensional dashboard of human and environmental outcomes.	Decision materiality and lived-experience interpretation.
Equity and inclusion	Distribution across people, places and generations.	CEDI participation, recognition and agency signals.
Sustainability and resilience	Produced, human, social, institutional and natural capital.	OBI viability profile and NLPI value/capture ledger.

COHERENCE RULE

One architecture, multiple measures: dimensions remain visible; floors precede aggregation; uncertainty follows every result.

GUIDING QUESTION 3

Complement, do not duplicate, the existing architecture

Existing framework	What it already does	LUMEN's complementary role
2030 Agenda / SDGs	Universal goals, targets and indicators.	Connect selected indicators to scenarios, budgets, delivery and feedback.
MVI	Profiles structural vulnerability and lack of resilience.	Add implementation capacity, legal coherence and time-bound response portfolios.
Sevilla Commitment	Mobilises financing for development and reforms the financing architecture.	Expose hidden costs, revenue leakage, value capture and distributional safeguards.
SEEA	Integrates environmental assets and ecosystem services with economic accounts.	Use natural-capital evidence as a floor and portfolio input.
National frameworks	Reflect country priorities and institutions.	Provide a modular operating cycle rather than a substitute dashboard.

The Beyond GDP process should resist framework proliferation. Its comparative advantage is to define a common direction, minimum safeguards and implementation pathway while recognising that the listed instruments have different legal mandates and decision uses.

COHERENT NESTING IN NLPI

Beyond GDP indicators are included as documented evidence inputs. NLPI connects them to the applicable country-owned normative profile and records their authorised decision use without turning every indicator into a legal rule.

GUIDING QUESTION 4

Roles, ownership and subsidiarity

Actor	Primary role
United Nations	Convene, define minimum metadata and safeguards, support pilots, report learning and protect coherence.
Member States	Own priorities, select indicators, authorise decisions, fund implementation and ensure accountability.
International organisations / IFIs	Use the framework transparently, support capacity and avoid automatic scoring-based conditionality.
National statistical systems	Steward official and complementary data, quality, interoperability, disaggregation and professional independence.
Courts, parliaments and oversight bodies	Interpret law, protect rights, authorise resources and review decision integrity.
Civil society, communities and firms	Co-design evidence, reveal impacts, deliver commitments and contest assumptions.

SUBSIDIARITY

Allocate a decision to the lowest competent level, but move evidence and coordination upward when spillovers exceed that level.

GUIDING QUESTION 5

Priorities from the HLEG recommendations

1. National dashboards by 2027, adapted to country contexts and linked to planning and budgets.
2. Foundational principles and safeguards that cannot be reduced to an aggregate indicator.
3. Capital and wealth accounting with explicit treatment of natural-capital non-substitutability.
4. Comparable spillover measures and better distributional evidence.
5. A small set of headline indicators only after scientific review and public debate over normative weights.
6. Investment in national statistical systems, annual reporting and clear metadata on quality, uncertainty and limitations.

LUMEN adds a seventh priority: establish a common operating cycle so that new measures change decisions. Without a budget and delivery pathway, a dashboard risks becoming an additional reporting burden.

PROPOSED SEQUENCE

Floors → dashboard → deliberation → budget → delivery → evaluation → revised evidence.

Make the normative architecture visible



NLPI traces legal and normative sources across international, regional, national and local levels. It does not assign fixed universal weights. Each country publishes a normative profile explaining which sources bind, which guide, where conflicts exist, and how subsidiarity and constitutional review are handled.

CORE EXPRESSION

Potential net lawful value = $\Sigma(V - I + C) \times P$. P is a transparent normative factor derived from the applicable legal order and public priorities; it is not a hidden political preference.

- Binding obligations and fundamental rights are treated as constraints, not percentages.
- Policy and standards may guide prioritisation but cannot override higher-order law.
- Contestation and judicial or parliamentary review remain available.
- Cross-border effects must identify affected jurisdictions and reciprocal duties.

TRIPLE DECISION MATERIALITY

Extend decision quality without confusing reporting law

Materiality lens	Decision question	Evidence examples
Scientific / biophysical	Could the option undermine safe operating conditions or critical social systems?	Planetary boundaries, health evidence, resilience and distribution.
Legal / normative	Does the option respect binding law, rights and authorised commitments?	Treaties, constitutions, legislation, case law and public mandates.
Socio-emotional	Can affected people understand, influence and sustain the action?	Subjective well-being, needs, recognition, trust, motivation and qualitative evidence.
Financial / operational	Can the option be funded, delivered and maintained?	Budget, costs, risks, leakage, capacity and time-bound capture.

The first three lenses form LUMEN's triple decision materiality. Financial and impact materiality retain their established roles in corporate reporting. The categories should be linked, not legally conflated.

LEGITIMACY

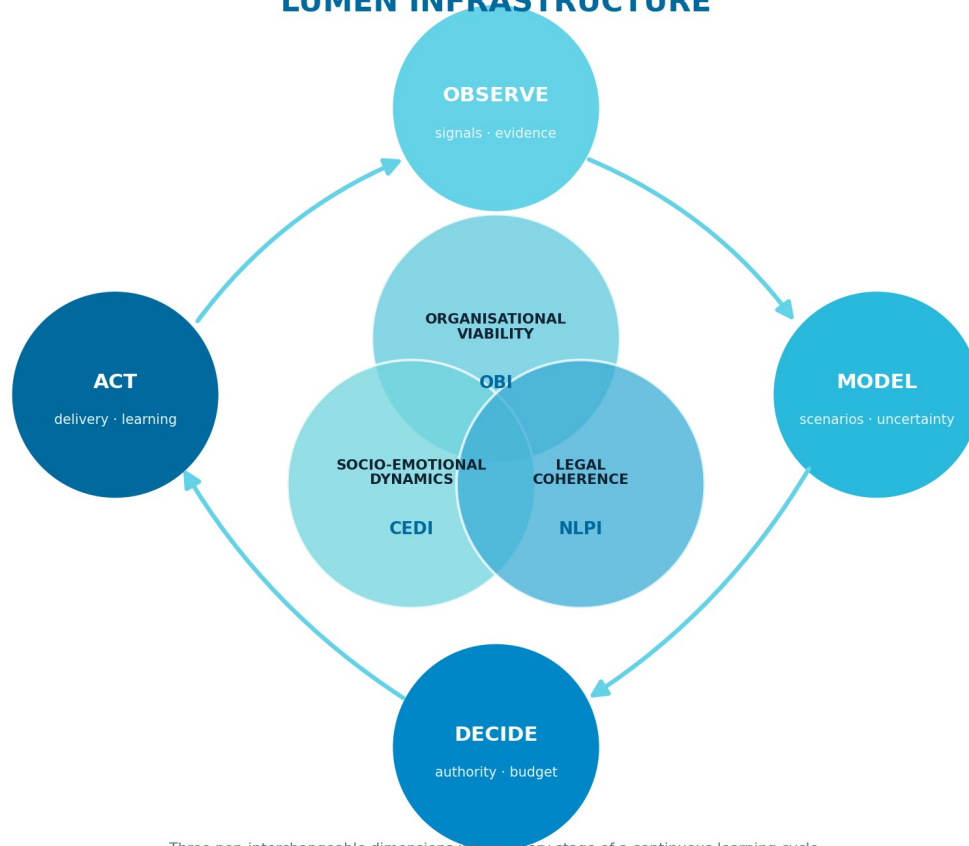
Evidence can be accurate yet politically unusable; authority can be lawful yet socially unsupported. Triple legitimacy makes these failure modes visible.

Test sovereignty-cooperation decisions in public

7. Select one cross-border policy with clear national benefits and spillovers.
8. Publish the applicable legal map and distinguish binding floors from guiding commitments.
9. Assess scientific viability, national priorities and affected communities' experience.
10. Model at least three options, including a baseline, with uncertainty and distribution.
11. Publish the decision rationale, dissent, budget and review date.
12. Evaluate whether the process improved trust, coherence, speed and results.

The accompanying interactive demonstrator shows this logic with fictional inputs. It intentionally blocks aggregation when scientific or legal floors fail. It is not an eligibility tool or an official statistical product.

LUMEN INFRASTRUCTURE



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

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SOURCES

What the elements paper should retain

- Anchor the vision in equitable, inclusive and sustainable human and planetary well-being.
- Recognise national ownership and policy space as design requirements, not exceptions.
- Define scientific, legal and rights-based floors before aggregation.
- Require transparent normative profiles rather than fixed global weights.
- Treat distributed intelligence and participation as safeguards against centralised technocracy.
- Pilot the approach before it influences financing, eligibility or comparative assessment.

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