

UNITED NATIONS BEYOND GDP CONSULTATION

# From multidimensional measurement to reflexive governance

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

**REVISED INTEGRATED SUBMISSION**

Prepared for the United Nations Beyond GDP consultation · Concise revised contribution · 8 pages

**EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE DEMONSTRATORS**

[https://ccop.world/data/files/un/lumen\\_beyondgdp.html](https://ccop.world/data/files/un/lumen_beyondgdp.html)

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

|              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
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| PROGRAMME    | LUMEN                                |

**Revised 1 August 2026**

## EXECUTIVE SUBMISSION

# The missing link is not another dashboard

The High-Level Expert Group offers a strong measurement compass. LUMEN proposes an optional traceability and management layer through which that evidence can inform 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

Offer a country-owned Observe → Model → Decide → Act cycle through which indicators selected by the intergovernmental Beyond GDP process can inform scenarios, deliberation, budgets, delivery and learning. OBI, NLPI and CEDI are proposed diagnostic components, not substitutes for the HLEG dashboard or national statistical systems.

## TRACEABILITY LAYER FOR BEYOND GDP INDICATORS

LUMEN provides an optional traceability and governance layer that can be applied to indicators selected through the intergovernmental Beyond GDP process. Each indicator retains its institutional ownership, definition, unit, methodology, metadata, quality assessment and uncertainty. LUMEN documents its links to country-owned normative commitments and its authorised decision uses; relevant evidence may also inform OBI or CEDI without changing the indicator's status.

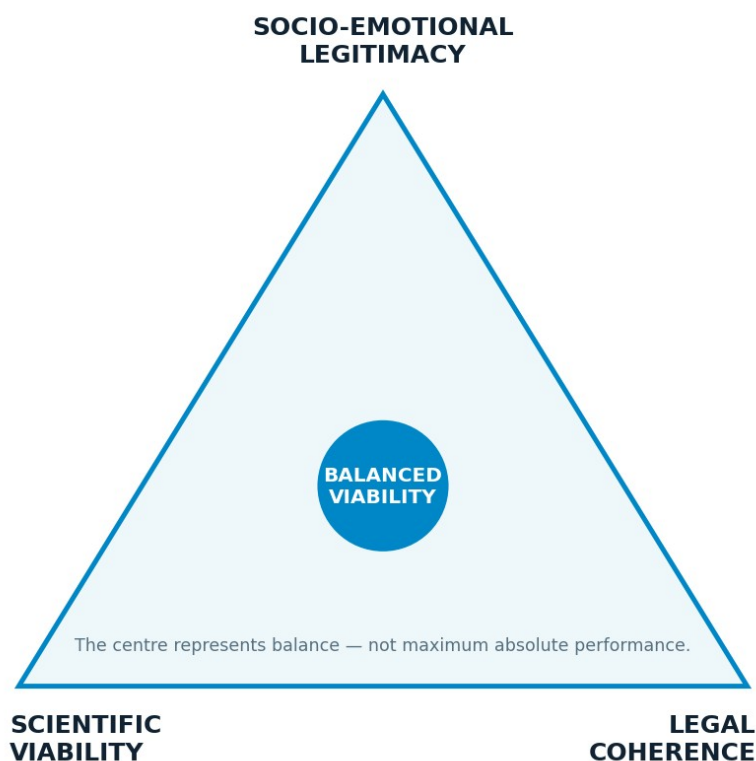
- Use non-substitutable scientific, legal and rights-based floors before any aggregation.
- Keep a dashboard of dimensions; use headline indicators only as communication devices with public metadata and limitations.
- Make normative weighting transparent, reasoned and contestable; never impose universal 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.

## 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 required for legitimate collective action. Cooperation should strengthen distributed learning among autonomous institutions rather than centralise political authority.



| Test                              | Question                                                                          | Status                  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Scientific viability</b>       | Is the option compatible with evidence-based biophysical and social limits?       | Non-substitutable floor |
| <b>Legal coherence</b>            | Is it compatible with binding obligations, rights and the applicable legal order? | Non-substitutable floor |
| <b>Socio-emotional legitimacy</b> | 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.

## AN OPTIONAL TRACEABILITY LAYER

For each HLEG or future intergovernmental Beyond GDP indicator, LUMEN can attach a traceable record of provenance, quality, uncertainty, links to the country-owned normative profile and authorised decision uses. The indicator remains a product of its originating framework and mandate; LUMEN neither absorbs it nor changes its legal or statistical status.



- 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 TRACEABILITY AND AUTHORISED USE

LUMEN can be applied to HLEG and future intergovernmental Beyond GDP indicators as an optional metadata and decision-use layer. It preserves their original definitions, ownership and quality documentation while recording normative links and authorised uses. No inclusion, automatic weighting, monetisation or legal status is implied; relevant evidence may also inform OBI or CEDI.



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

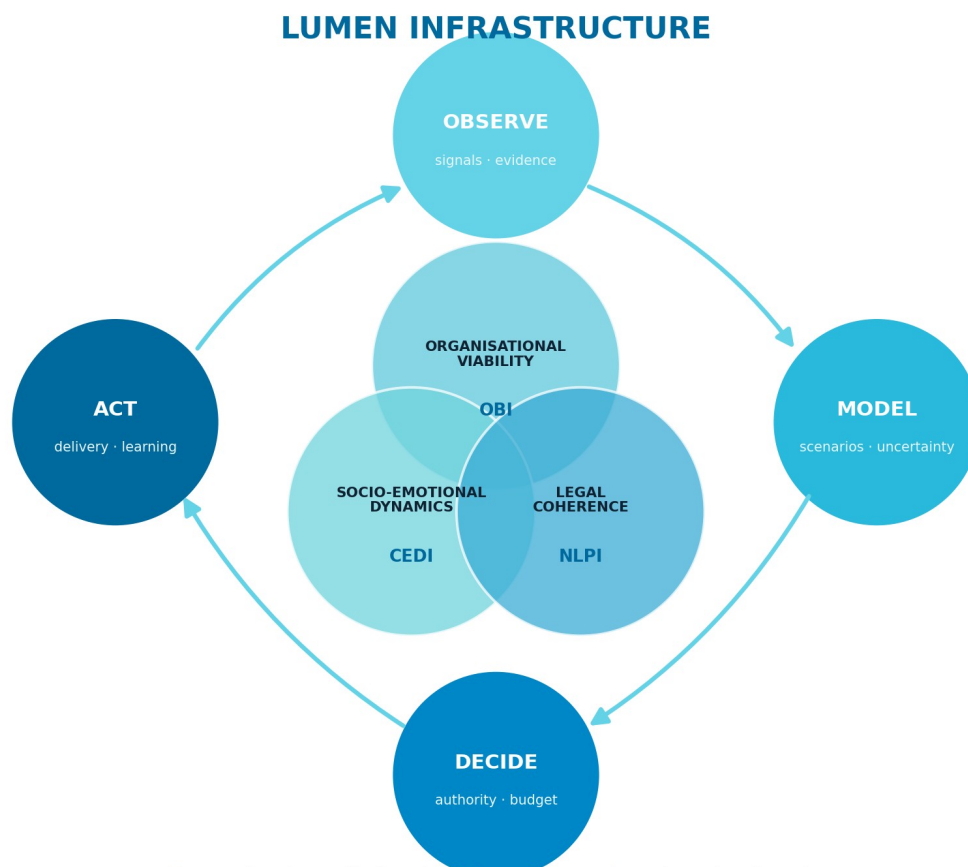
| Instrument                                        | Primary function                                                                              | What it must not do                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------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

## EVIDENCE STATUS

LUMEN, OBI, NLPI and CEDI are proposed pre-standardisation instruments. Their integrated architecture has been developed conceptually and through demonstrators, but its reliability, interoperability, usability and economic effects have not yet been independently validated across institutional contexts. Voluntary pilots are proposed to test these properties and identify required revisions.

## 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                                                                |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Observe</b> | National statistical office + ministries + rights and citizen-data partners | Baseline, distribution, stocks, spillovers, lived experience and data gaps.   |
| <b>Model</b>   | Planning/finance ministry + scientific advisory capacity                    | Scenarios, floors, uncertainty, implementation capacity and capture horizons. |
| <b>Decide</b>  | Constitutionally competent authorities                                      | Published rationale, budget allocation, safeguards and delivery mandate.      |
| <b>Act</b>     | 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 4

## International use: transparent, fair and accepted

LUMEN could be tested as an optional decision protocol for international policy, not used 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                                                        |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Development cooperation</b> | Align support with country-owned results and delivery capacity.                   | Consent, national leadership and mutual accountability.                   |
| <b>Concessional finance</b>    | Complement income with vulnerability, resilience, rights and transition capacity. | No automatic eligibility; transparent appeal and review.                  |
| <b>Debt and fiscal risk</b>    | Reveal hidden liabilities, natural-capital loss and resilience investment.        | Accepted methods and prudent uncertainty treatment.                       |
| <b>UN Development System</b>   | Provide a shared learning architecture across country teams.                      | Interoperability with UN planning and reporting; no parallel bureaucracy. |
| <b>Partnerships</b>            | Match needs, offers, knowledge and resources across sectors.                      | Open standards, conflict-of-interest safeguards and benefit-sharing.      |

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND SOURCES

## Five decisions for the elements paper

1. Adopt the HLEG objective and dashboard as the shared measurement compass while explicitly requiring a decision-to-delivery cycle.
2. Define non-substitutable ecological, rights and legal floors before any headline aggregation.
3. Invite voluntary pilots of traceability and decision-to-delivery protocols that integrate official statistics, qualitative evidence and quality-assured citizen data into budgeting and implementation; LUMEN could serve as one test implementation.
4. Create a scientific and governance protocol for metadata, weighting transparency, uncertainty, audit, appeals and learning.
5. 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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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author thanks Benjamin Aubouy for his careful and constructive review of an earlier version, particularly his observations on institutional framing, indicator traceability and the conditions under which procedural proposals can be incorporated into the Beyond GDP process. Responsibility for the final content and any remaining errors rests with the author and CCOP.

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