

# SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE 2024: WHAT WILL IT DELIVER?

## PURPOSE

Effective global cooperation is increasingly critical to our survival but difficult to achieve in an atmosphere of mistrust, using outdated structures that no longer reflect today's political and economic realities. The Summit of the Future is a chance to get back on track. It will consider how we cooperate both to achieve agreed goals and to tackle emerging threats and opportunities. It will result in an inter-governmentally agreed Pact for the Future. It is an opportunity for initiatives and commitments from a wide array of stakeholders. The Summit can reinvigorate the structures and the trust necessary for effective global governance.

## BACKGROUND

On the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, Member States pledged to strengthen global governance and asked the Secretary-General for his recommendations to address current and future challenges (Resolution 75/1). The Secretary-General responded with Our Common Agenda (A/75/982), calling for solidarity between people, countries and generations and a corresponding renewal of the multilateral system to accelerate the implementation of existing commitments and fill gaps in global governance. In the report, he proposed a Summit of the Future as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take these steps.

The Summit in September 2024 in New York will produce an inter-governmentally negotiated, action-oriented Pact for the Future with chapters on sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security; science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and transforming global governance. It will also produce a global digital compact and a declaration on future generations (Resolution 76/307). Negotiations are underway co-facilitated by Namibia and Germany (Pact), Zambia and Sweden (Digital), and Jamaica and the Netherlands (Future Generations): <https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future>

To support Member States, the Secretary-General provided proposals in 11 policy briefs, deepening ideas initially laid out in the Our Common Agenda report. Many of the policy brief proposals are under consideration in the negotiations: <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs>



## ACCELERATING THE SDGs

The Summit of the Future will build on the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Many proposals will turbocharge the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by improving the "how" of global cooperation to in turn enable us to deliver on the "what" by: (a) getting the Sustainable Development Goals back on track, while also (b) responding to new opportunities and risks.

## (IM)PACT FOR THE FUTURE

The draft Pact under negotiation has the potential to promote a multilateral system that reflects the realities of today and that delivers for everyone everywhere. These are some ways in which the Pact can do so, if it takes forward key proposals in the draft, with strong attention to **human rights, gender and sustainable development** in all chapters:

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING

Implementation of the **2030 Agenda** in full and on time and of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration through urgent and scaled-up action, policies and investments in people and their socio-economic development with the goal to **leave no one behind**.

A step-change in **financing for the SDGs**, including through an SDG Stimulus, delivery of official development assistance and private sector investment, and inclusive tax cooperation, leading to more concrete decisions at the 2025 Financing for Development Conference.

Accelerated efforts on **climate and the environment**, including increased mitigation and adaptation financing, protecting everyone with early warning systems, the conclusion of a legally-binding agreement on plastic pollution, and protecting biodiversity and oceans.

Considerations on how to advance sustainable development beyond 2030.

### INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

An updated collective security system that can better prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts in both **traditional and new domains**. Fuller use of preventive diplomacy and mediation mechanisms, including the Secretary-General's good offices, to forestall confrontation between Member States.

Increased national **whole-of-society prevention** efforts. Strengthened resilience through implementation of the 2030 Agenda, ensuring that military spending does not come at the expense of sustainable development investments. Alignment of international financial institutions' funding with countries' efforts to address root causes of instability.

Better **protection of civilians** in armed conflict and accountability for atrocity crimes and violations, such as gender-based violence and starvation as a weapon of war. Scaled up **humanitarian assistance**, including to eliminate famine.

A world that is measurably closer to being free of nuclear weapons. Revitalized **disarmament and arms control** efforts, including with respect to indiscriminate weapons, biological and chemical weapons, and small arms. A revitalized role of the UN in the field of disarmament and progress towards a 4th Special Session of the General Assembly on disarmament. Measures to coordinate on biological threats, natural and deliberate.

Realistic and responsible use of **peace operations**, and a reflection on their future to ensure they can meet evolving needs. Support to regional peace enforcement through adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing.

Implementation of commitments on **Women and Peace and Security** and steps to address the links between security and climate change.

More effective and preventive **counter-terrorism** efforts addressing all drivers and enablers of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Avoidance and mitigation of weaponization of **emerging domains and technologies** and responsible innovation promoted through:

- a treaty to prevent militarization of outer space;
- a legally binding instrument to prohibit lethal autonomous weapon systems that function without human control or oversight;
- norms to prevent malicious cyber-attacks on public service infrastructure from both State and non-State actors;
- norms and rules around military applications of AI; and
- considerations on biotechnology, nanotechnologies and human enhancement technologies.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI) AND DIGITAL COOPERATION

**Reduced global and gender disparities in capacity and access** to technology, including through increased means of implementation, such as voluntary technology transfer, capacity-building, and strengthened cooperation. Increased funding for SDG-related research and innovation.

Increased use of **science in policy-making**, with steps to ensure more people benefit from science, technology and innovation.

Strengthened capacities at the UN to leverage STI in the work of the organization, including to support developing countries in achieving the SDGs,

A **Global Digital Compact** (to be negotiated separately and annexed to the Pact) to harness the opportunities and manage the risks of digital technologies in a way that protects human rights and leaves no one behind, focusing on: (i) closing digital divides and accelerating the SDGs; (ii) expanding inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all; (iii) fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space; (iv) advancing data governance; and (v) strengthening governance of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, for the benefit of humanity.

## YOUTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Expanded and strengthened **youth participation in global decision-making** through commitments to youth engagement in all UN intergovernmental mechanisms and processes and a global standard for meaningful youth engagement.

An environment at national level that enables young people to fulfill their rights and potential through education, jobs, physical and mental health, national youth consultative bodies, resources for youth-led organizations, removing legislative and policy barriers, and flexible funding, including through a global youth investment platform.

Decision-making at the global level that systematically takes future impact into account, consciously avoiding foreseeable harms to and **safeguarding the interests of future generations** through commitments and means of implementation enshrined in a **Declaration on Future Generations** (to be negotiated separately and annexed to the Pact).

Concrete governance proposals and operational structures to help Member States better consider future generations and inspire long-term anticipatory governance at the international level.

## TRANSFORMING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

A multilateralism that is effective, just and representative, inclusive (intergovernmental but allowing for a diverse range of actors to contribute) and networked to ensure all actors work together.

A **Security Council** with an updated composition and working methods, allowing it to be more effective, representative, and trusted. A revitalized **General Assembly** with a stronger role in peace and security and the aspiration for a female Secretary-General. A stronger **ECOSOC** and steps towards the revitalization of the Commission on the Status of Women. Strengthened **Peacebuilding Commission** that bridges more effectively to other actors, including international financial institutions.

A strengthened **UN human rights** pillar that is better resourced and coordinated. A UN that uses innovation, data, digital tools, foresight and (behavioural) science effectively (**UN 2.0**) and a sustainably financed UN development system. Deepened **partnerships** between the UN and other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, regional organizations, national parliaments and local and regional authorities.

Advanced efforts to develop measures of progress on sustainable development **beyond GDP** (accounting for people, planet, and the future).

An **international financial architecture** that works for everyone and reflects the economic needs and political realities of today, achieved through inter alia:

- a stronger participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, including through enhanced representation at international financial institutions;
- the mobilization of more capital from multilateral development banks;
- a review of the sovereign debt architecture and the implementation of the Common Framework for Debt Treatments;
- a more effective global financial safety net, using special drawing rights; and
- access to concessional climate and development financing that takes into account all forms of vulnerability.

The rapid growth of outer space activities is matched with proper **governance of space** sustainability aspects (exploration, resources, traffic, debris) with new frameworks developed through COPUOS. Broader cooperation with developing countries and non-State actors to ensure sustainable uses of outer space for the benefit of all.

Improved international responses to global shocks of significant scale and severity through the development of protocols for a time-bound whole-of-system **Emergency Platform** to be activated in specific crises and that delivers a coherent, coordinated and multidimensional response, but that does not interfere with existing mandates or sovereignty. Stronger international governance mechanisms for the environment.

## SUMMIT BUILD-UP

A set of campaigns and events in the days before the Summit will aim to mobilize complementary efforts and spur action from a wide array of actors – civil society, private sector, other stakeholders, and Member States – on initiatives that align with the Summit's overarching purpose and future-orientation.

## SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

The draft Pact includes a commitment to review progress at a future General Assembly session.