

Informal Consultations with Member States on the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future: Scope and Elements (20 April 2023)

ABOUT

On April 20th, 2023, the Co-Facilitators of the Summit of the Future (SOTF), H.E Ms. Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative (PR) of the Federal Republic of Germany, and H.E Mr. Neville Melvin Gertze, PR of Namibia, organized Informal Consultations with Member States (MS) to discuss the preparatory process for the SOTF. This first exchange allowed MS to address pressing priorities for elements to be included in the summit and The Pact for the Future.

To define the scope of the summit, the co-facilitators proposed a guiding framework through a concept note and updated [Road Map](#) that MS' proposals should meet. They reflected on the elements proposed by the Secretary-General (SG) in Our Common Agenda (OCA) and its related policy briefs, and preliminary ideas about a possible format of the ministerial meeting in September. Additionally, the consultations aimed to reinvigorate the multilateral system, address gaps in global governance, and boost the implementation of UN-75 commitments.

HEADLINES

Scope and Elements of the SOTF – The Co-facilitators gave guiding principles to MS on the scope and elements, to consider the following:

- ✦ That the proposed element should reinvigorate the multilateral system and strengthen Global governance to respond to current and future challenges in line with the U.N Charter and international law
- ✦ MS should identify and address gaps in global governance especially those that have emerged as obstacles to the achievement of Agenda 2030.
- ✦ MS should boost the implementation of the UN-75 commitments that are not sufficiently addressed through existing intergovernmental processes including those related to the full implementation of the 2030 agenda
- ✦ Agree on the preparatory ministerial meeting on September 21st to help pave the way towards a concise and action-orientated SOTF by agreeing on important guard rails for a feasible scope and concrete deliverables of the Summit in 2024
- ✦ The Co-Facilitators of the SOTF have acknowledged the request for a substantial reduction in General Assembly meetings. In response, they have agreed to temporarily suspend the meetings, enabling MS to prioritize the upcoming SDG Summit, scheduled for September 2023. This pause will also allow them to consult with their respective capitals and allocate sufficient time for the review and analysis of new proposals, policy briefs, and reports
- ✦ Prior to the meeting, the SG had published the Policy Brief on [Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policy Making and Decision-Making Processes](#) (March 8, 2023) and the High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Effective Multilateralism launched their report [A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future](#) (April 11, 2023)

COMMON THEMES

Prioritizing SDG Summit:

- ✦ All MS were in agreement that the SDG Summit and the SOTF are twin summits intrinsically linked and mutually reinforcing, and the priority over the next few months should be the SDG Summit set for September 23, 2023. They said that the Declaration issued during the SDG Summit should serve as a crucial component towards achieving a conclusive outcome at the SOTF in 2024. To this end, MS called on all the co-facilitators of the processes related to the OCA and the Secretariat to significantly reduce the

number of meetings they convene to avoid jeopardizing the due attention that should be given to the SDG summit

- ✚ MS also said that there is a need to review and analyze new proposals within a short time and therefore, called for an incremental validation process to conduct preliminary consideration of the documents upon submission, while reserving a comprehensive review of all elements until after the submission of all policy briefs and reports.
- ✚ The SOTF must prioritize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and develop a clear implementation plan for fast-tracking achievements

SOTF Ministerial Meeting:

- ✚ MS say that the meeting should serve a triple purpose of providing a link between the SDG Summit and the SOTF; defining the scope of the SOTF without closing doors on any work stream, and taking stock of gaps and opportunities in OCA processes that could support the fulfillment of the SDGs beyond what was agreed in 2015.
- ✚ They also suggest three objectives that MS could take to the ministerial preparatory meeting for agreement: strengthening and updating the multilateral system, addressing urgent global threats and challenges, and meeting emerging and future challenges.
- ✚ The co-facilitators will determine the mode and format that will allow for the most effective and efficient use of the Minister's time
- ✚ MS believe that intergovernmental negotiations leading to the ministerial meeting should exclusively focus on consultations regarding the scope, topics, and other elements of the SOTF, allowing a full year to fill in gaps and comprehensively consider proposals to effectively reposition the United Nations.
- ✚ At a minimum, the Ministerial Preparatory meeting should reach an agreement on and outline the objectives of the SOTF. MS require sufficient time to determine a scope that aligns with these objectives.

UN Reforms – MS express their appreciation for the UN 2.0 initiative presented in the OCA report and acknowledge their duty to build on the current political momentum and take advantage of this exceptional chance to assess if the present UN is both desirable and suitable for the future. They anticipate the SG's policy brief on this matter to deliberate on practical measures and actions to reinforce the UN's function under the charter and international law.

- ❖ Most MS align themselves with the [statement](#) made by the PR of Cuba, on behalf of the G77 and China
- ❖ Other pressing elements to be addressed at the SOTF as suggested by the MS include: New Agenda for Peace; focus on future generations; reforms in the International Financial Institutions; mechanisms for managing future crises; digital transformation, technology, and how to make multilateralism inclusive and efficient

RESOURCES

1. [Recordings of the Meeting](#)
2. [Our Common Agenda](#)
3. [SDG Summit](#)
4. [HLAB Report \(Summary report\)](#)
5. [Policy Brief on Youth Engagement](#)

MS STATEMENTS

6. [G77 and China](#)
7. [European Union](#)
8. [Group of Friends of the Rule of Law](#)