



SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

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Informal Consultations on Chapter 4: Youth and Future Generations, 11 December 2023



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Closed Informal Consultations on Chapter 4 (Youth and Future Generations) – Conference Room 2, 11 December 2023

ABOUT: The co-facilitators of the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future (SOTF), Germany and Namibia, convened closed informal consultations on Chapter 4: ‘Youth and future generations’ of the Pact for the Future on 11 December 2023. The objective of this meeting is for the “*co-facilitators to hear directly from Member States on the substantive issues that they would like to see reflected in the zero draft of the Pact for the Future on a chapter-by-chapter basis*”.

NOTE: Since the 11 December consultation was closed to civil society and not broadcast on UN Web TV, this bulletin relied on secondary accounts from representatives present in the room and statements made available online.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On “Chapter 4: Youth and future generations”, the co-facilitators noted that the discussions would not be focusing on the Declaration on Future Generations to avoid duplications, as the Declaration will be discussed at a later point. The consultations showed broad agreement on several key issues: as “agents of change” youth should take an important role in decision-making processes at national, regional and international levels. Many States specifically called for increased support for the UN Youth Office and the establishment of a Special Envoy on Youth, to further facilitate youth engagement in the UN and the streamlining of youth issues across decision-making bodies. Most Member States focused on the involvement of youth in decision-making processes and how to improve the lives of current generations. The absence of references to climate change was also notable.

HEADLINES:

- Language on future generations in Chapter 4 will be concise and will instead refer to the Declaration on Future Generations which will be annexed.
- Importance of meaningful participation of youth in UN processes was highlighted, including by removing barriers to young people’s engagement.
- The importance of poverty eradication, quality education, decent work and employment, and skills training was mentioned.
- Youth are agents of change in peace and security issues, recognising the importance of the Women, Peace and Security and the Youth, Peace and Security Agendas.
- Member States welcomed the establishment of the UN Youth Office, the appointment of the first ASG for Youth Affairs, and pointed to the need to resource the Office adequately so that it can fulfill its mandate.

RESOURCES:

1. [Draft Decision on the Pact for the Future \(revision. 3\)](#)
2. [Political Declaration adopted at the SDG Summit](#)
3. [Secretary General’s Policy Brief on Meaningful Youth Engagement](#)
4. [Resolution A/RES/76/306 on the Establishment of the UN Youth Office](#)

KEY REMARKS:

Co-facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The co-facilitators noted that to streamline the work, language in Chapter 4 of the Pact will reference the Declaration on Future Generations but will not duplicate language. • Consultations with other stakeholders will take place in January and regional consultations with groups of Member States in February. • How will chapter 4 and the Declaration on Future Generations fit together? It is foreseen that language in Chapter 4 where it relates to future generations will be short, concise, and will refer to the annex. • The annex will be inserted after negotiations on the Declaration based on the timeline.
Egypt <i>(on behalf of Arab States)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are agents of change in prevention and resolution of conflict and need to be included in peacekeeping. • Fulfillment of the human rights of youth is essential, and there is a need to protect, promote, and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights. • The interests of future generations are closely interlinked with those of present generations. • No discussions on future generations can take place without referencing common-but-differentiated responsibilities, the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and the importance of technology in empowering future generations. • There is a need for enhanced ODA mechanisms and increased technical assistance. • Affirm the need for the right to development. • Decent work and employment are the biggest challenges. • Need to invest more in (higher) education.
Indonesia <i>(on behalf of ASEAN)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome the appointment of the first ASG for Youth Affairs. • Note the importance of empowerment and capacity building of youth. • Regional and global youth engagement on peace and security and the implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas.
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation is enshrined in declaration on rights of the child, young people, in particular women, should be engaged in policy making at national, regional and global levels, including at MUN. • Remove barriers to youth participation. • The UN should stimulate intergenerational dialogues, increase funding for youth-led and centering organizations, and establish clear monitoring to track progress. • Integrate youth across all three UN pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peace and security: integrate in peacebuilding consistent with WPS and YPS agenda; ○ Development: foster health, education, digital and transferable skills, employment in green sectors and gender equality. Youth are agents of change to achieve all SDGs; ○ Human rights: need to protect them online and offline through combating stereotypes and hate speech.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a concise and action oriented Declaration on Future Generations that contains commitments to safeguard their interests, encourages all levels of governments to include awareness of future generations into all decision making, remain attentive to future generations, and maybe appoint a Special Envoy on Youth.
Zambia <i>(on behalf of the African Group)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa is the most youthful continent and experiences many challenges, especially lack of employment opportunities. • Importance of creating sustainable livelihoods to prevent conflict and instability. • Africa will become central to production pointing to the imperative of investing in more resilient education systems. • Systemic approaches are paramount, especially to promoting nutrition and ending hunger, and preventing communicable and non-communicable diseases. • Importance of technology as an essential enabler for development. • Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue to counter hate speech, as well as teaching the history of humankind, racial discrimination and xenophobia to enhance collective cognizance.
Iceland <i>(on behalf of the Nordics)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure real inclusivity and the full, effective, and meaningful participation of youth. Decision making should be made accessible to all youth, especially those facing multiple forms of marginalization. • Young people are important actors in peace and security. Review working methods of the Security Council to strengthen youth engagement to make their voices genuinely integrated. • Importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights, artificial intelligence, and access to quality education for all. • Need to address climate change. Young people are active agents for climate change and so youth-led engagement should be supported. • Importance of acting for future generations, through long-term approaches that safeguard the rights of future generations. • Welcomes a Special Envoy for Future Generations.
Kenya <i>(on behalf of Group of Friends on Education and Lifelong Learning)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of education as a tool to address global challenges to sustainable development. Efforts should focus on delivering quality education. • Member States should promote strengthening different sectors to improve educational systems, including peace education, developing curricula that are more inclusive and responsive to future generations.
Pakistan <i>(on behalf of the Like-Minded Group)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future generations should only be dealt with in the Declaration on Future Generations. • Need to safeguard the interests of future and current generations and the priorities of the Global South should form the basis of all discussions on future generations. • We must promote global youth leadership and create an enabling environment at the international level. • Mainstream the youth agenda across the UN system.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the eradication of poverty, decent jobs, and the right to development. • The mandate and scope of the UN Youth Office has been defined, so the resources must be given to them now so that they can start their mandate before broadening it further. • Underscore the need to strengthen cooperation on youth issues and sustainable development.
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage technology to show the value of the UN for young people. • Principles of inclusiveness, greater diversity, and representation. • Remaining steadfast in commitments to deliver the 2030 agenda, striving to ensure they inherit a just, equal, and livable world.
Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SDGs should be implemented with a view towards young people. This means having more internships and employment opportunities at the UN for young people from the Global South.
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on youth development, quality education, and poverty reduction.
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge intersectional approaches and the importance of the YPS agenda.
Costa Rica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN Charter mentions future generations already, but the principle of accountability needs to be included.
Honduras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of youth ownership and participation in decision-making in development.
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of strengthening and institutionalizing youth engagements at local, national and international levels - the preparations for the Summit of the Future should serve as an example of youth inclusion. • Commitments should be made that are focused on and benefit youth. • Request an opportunity to discuss the Secretary General's Policy Brief on meaningful youth engagement with the UN membership. • Establish best practices for youth engagement.
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth need to have more opportunities to be involved and to make decisions. • Young leaders should be empowered to work on policies, especially from the Global South, SIDS and LLDCs.
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradication of poverty and quality education are cornerstones of future generations. • Youth are agents of change to achieve sustainable development. • Empowering them is essential, including through confidence building and capacity improvement. • Importance of meaningful participation of youth in the UN.
Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include references to Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s. • Providing safe online space for children and students.
Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of sexual and reproductive rights and the need to further gender equality. • Include references to the digital sphere and addressing hate speech.
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference youth in armed conflicts.
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are drivers of innovation and entrepreneurship.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of community elders must be recognised, as well as deepening intergenerational ties. • Youth should be equipped with skills such as digital literacy. • Promote the effective promotion of youth in global and national decision making, rejuvenate organization, and develop policy frameworks that bring together stakeholders to empower youth.
Liechtenstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising the cross-cutting nature of climate ambition, the Pact must use this opportunity to address the triple planetary crisis. • Recommendations in Action 6 of the New Agenda for Peace are an important starting point. • Importance of upholding statehood of inundated states. • Empower youth and future generations as agents of change.
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of education and social skills development.
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests a study to determine legal obligations that relate to future generations.
Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make references to youth participation in decision making, evidence-based policy making, enhancing the human and social capital of youth (education and health), and the operationalization of the UN Youth Office.
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge youth in all their diversity and youth facing intersecting forms of discrimination.
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of education, technological advancements, promotion of equality and inclusion.
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True, strong, and just institutions are important. • The Pact of the Future should build on the SDG Political Declaration and contain action-oriented commitments.
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must take into account the needs of young people and listen to their ideas and concerns. Meaningful participation that is rights-based and inclusive is necessary.
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower youth by increasing investments into education.
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to UCMs. • Importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, as well as references to xenophobia.
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pact should outline the means for the UN Youth Office to design policies targeting youth, address grouped issues of mutual concern, and acknowledge the role of the Youth Office in including youth in peace and security.
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of the greater economic inclusion of youth, recognizing the enabling value of education.
Türkiye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of preserving the interests of current generations without compromising future generations, recognising the key role of youth for a better future.
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 should recognize equitable access to technology and to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse and cyberbullying. • Committed to good health and well-being of youth.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mechanisms for financial support for youth using lessons learned from developing countries.
Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalize the work of the UN by investing more in youth.
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 should be informed by those that it impacts, specifically girls, and encourages the UN Youth Office to facilitate this process. • Need for better system-wide use of data for programming design and evaluation.
USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of youth engagement and leadership within and outside of the UN, as well as the value of education and skills training.
ASG Youth Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a once in a generation opportunity to strengthen youth engagement at all levels. • The doors of the UN Youth Office will remain open to hear the views of Member States.