

The Co-facilitators of the Preparatory Process of the Summit of the Future virtual consultation with Major Group and other Stakeholders (MGoS) and Civil Society representatives on 13 December 2023

ABOUT: Resolution 76/307 tasks the co-facilitators of the preparatory process of the Summit of the Future, Antje Leendertse, the Permanent Representative of Germany, and Neville Melvin Gertze, the Permanent Representative of Namibia, to facilitate open, transparent and inclusive consultations on the preparatory process of the Summit of the Future. The Co-facilitators therefore called for a virtual informal meeting with Major Group and other Stakeholders (MGoS) and Civil Society representatives to allow them to express their expectations on the Summit and contribute input for the zero draft of the Pact for the Future. This marks the initial session in a series of opportunities for stakeholders to provide input on the Pact of the Future.

COMMON THEMES

Civil Society Engagement

- CSOs call for more open, inclusive and transparent modalities to engage with the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit of the Future and look forward to actively participating in the various consultations related to the drafting of the Pact for the Future.
- Call for clear focal points for civil society engagement to be established and strengthened in each and every UN agency.
- Indigenous Peoples are still only being seen as marginalized or vulnerable groups and not as rights holders and key partners for sustainable development at the local, national, regional, and global level. CSO want the Pact for the Future to highlight Indigenous Peoples as well.

Expectations of the Summit of the Future

- The Summit should be action-oriented, where every discussion and outcome document coming out of the Summit should be based on actionable decisions with clear timeframes, responsibilities for different actors, and indicators that help to track its progress.
- The Summit should examine current procedures for following up on the global agenda, aiming to merge endeavors and foster coordinated action. It is essential to establish links between the outcomes of the Summit of the Future and the activities of entities such as the Human Rights Council, the High-Level Political Forum, the COPs, and other relevant scenarios.
- The Summit is an opportunity to bring the world back to an honest dialogue in which each part looks at the others as equals, where diversity is an opportunity and not a reason for fear.
- The Summit should address the fundamental origins of the numerous interconnected and systemic challenges confronting the world today. These challenges stem from unchecked economic growth, territorial expansion, and profit-driven greed exhibited by nations and corporations on the planet. Additionally, the inadequacy of multilateralism in providing financial support for the development of developing countries contributes to these issues.
- We must ensure that the narratives shaping our global discourse are founded on truth by incorporating the voice of citizens.
- The summit provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to come together to leverage previous efforts and renew their commitment to multilateral processes and cooperation to promote an open free and secure digital future for all.
- The Summit can serve as a platform to encourage diverse and meaningful stakeholder participation in decision-making to achieve its outcomes. Promoting future engagement and action will be essential.

- The outcomes of the Summit of the Future should not duplicate previous processes and efforts but rather acknowledge the progress of past UN work streams and align future work to build on this foundation of cooperation.

The UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi

- The UN civil society conference in Nairobi should be aligned with the Summit of the Future to include as many voices from the global south as possible, especially from the grassroots and those who feel unseen and unheard worldwide.
- The purpose of the Nairobi Conference is not only to adopt a declaration, it is to launch a process to make the United Nations work better, particularly in implementing the SDGs, so we need to have an effective process of implementation. This should involve a commitment of all countries to have national strategic plans, but also having the UN as the center of the global governance system and providing the necessary global support.
- The conference should highlight local organizations that are championing the localization of SDGs and Agenda 2030 and give them the opportunity to showcase their vision for the future.
- The Nairobi Conference is a critical opportunity to decentralize the Summit of the Future process to bring in National voices that reflect the lived realities of women, youth, girls and gender diverse people including those from excluded communities in the global South, especially as it relates to sexual reproductive health rights and gender equality.

Pact for the Future

- The Pact should not only be a list of good wishes, but a new global deal, which should be perceived as a win-win for all.
 - The Pact is literally about the future of children and youth. Do not let them down.
 - The legitimacy of the Pact for the Future lies in the capacity of member states to reflect on the needs and solutions of the most vulnerable and marginalized people such as children, women youth and other traditionally left behind groups.
 - The Pact must reflect accelerated implementation of existing commitments and not regress on existing gender related agreed language and commitments and should go further than the political Declaration of the SDG Summit.
 - The Pact must maintain strong preferences and introduce concrete commitments to sexual and reproductive health, and rights address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and gender-based violence for women and girls, while reflecting the language of equality, intersectionality of human rights and gender responsiveness in all their diversity.
 - The Pact must amplify the voices of people worldwide to help craft a vision for a flourishing Earth that benefits all humanity and future generations.
 - The Pact should include a specific commitment to universal social protection and tangible progress on social protection law by 2030.
 - The Pact must include bold transformative accelerated actions to deliver on gender equality and uphold human rights for all including for children and youth as separate and distinct groups. It must clearly and without caveat reaffirm all existing Frameworks and standards.
 - The Pact for the Future should be a short and easy-to-understand document. We don't want another large, cryptical document only experts could understand. Democratizing the UN also means using language that is accessible to all audiences.
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- **Human rights and fundamental freedoms** enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International

Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and other relevant human rights instruments should be reaffirmed and recognize that the effective implementation of the international human rights law framework is a necessary precondition to ensure the achievement of the Agenda 2030, and that adherence to both is necessary to ensure the realisation of an open, free and secure digital future for all.

- **Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women:** It is crucial that gender equality and women and girls rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, are both mainstreamed and prioritized independently across the Pact for the Future.
- **Youth Participation:** Young people in all their diversities are equal partners in achieving a sustainable future. Therefore they must be at the forefront for accelerated transformation and action to enable accelerated sustainable solutions through young people's leadership, meaningful participation and support for empowering intergenerational Partnerships.
- Commitments to underrepresented communities must be explicit. These commitments should encompass global solidarity with actions that protect human rights, thereby ensuring the well-being of current and future generations.

RESOURCES

1. [Letter from the Co-Facilitators](#) inviting **Major Group and other Stakeholders (MGoS) and Civil Society representatives to the consultations**

CO-CHAIR STATEMENTS

Neville Melvin Gertze, the Permanent Representative of Namibia

- The informal consultations with Major Group and other Stakeholders (MGoS) and Civil Society representatives were the last session in a series of informal consultations that the co-facilitators were having to inform their preparations of the zero draft for the pact for the future.
- This will not be the last discussion on the Pact for the Future, but just the process towards developing a zero draft.
- Here are some highlights of statements prominently mentioned by member states on what they would want to see reflected in the zero draft:
 - Member states agree that the Summit will be an opportunity to recommit to the basic principles and values of the Charter, to accelerate the implementation of existing commitments, such as the 2030 agenda, and to find multilateral solutions to emerging challenges in new domains, such as outer space or the digital sphere.
 - There is also strong consensus that multilateralism is not an option, but a necessity, and that we need to make global governance more inclusive, equitable, and effective to meet our most pressing challenges.
 - That the SDG Summit political declaration is a valid foundation for the Pact of the Future.
 - There was a challenge to find common agreed language on certain issues concerning human rights, unilateral coercive measures and climate finance. A number of member states pointed out that the eradication of poverty had to go hand in hand with policies regarding climate change.

- Chapter 2 focusing on peace and security: many groups of countries and individual member states spoke in favor of strengthening the UN's focus on prevention, through the support of nationally led and owned prevention strategies.
- Strengthening the role of the Peacebuilding Commission and the UN's cooperation with regional organization found also far-reaching support, including in relation to peace operations of different sorts.
- The inclusion of civil society and mainstreaming of human rights, women peace and security, and youth peace and security agendas was emphasised.
- There was broad convergence that Chapter 3 needs to focus on the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) while the aspect of digital cooperation should be dealt with by the Global Digital Compact, co-facilitated by Sweden and Zambia, to be negotiated separately.
- On Chapter 4, member states highlighted the importance of meaningful youth engagement and participation in UN mechanisms and processes.
- Many delegations also stressed the importance of education and development. They underlined that youth unemployment is a major impediment for equal and inclusive youth engagement and that sufficient funding is required to make effective participation a reality for young people from all parts of the world.
- Member states welcomed the new Assistant Secretary General for Youth Affairs Dr. Philippe Poullier and stressed the importance of the newly established UN Youth Office for the advancement of youth participation throughout the UN system.
- On Chapter 5, there was a strong focus on different aspects of the reform of the international financial architecture.
- The Summit is also seen as an opportunity for reforming and revitalizing the Security Council, the General Assembly and the ECOSOC by building on and not duplicating specialized processes.
- Other topics like the emergency platform, a possible reform of the Commission on the Status of Women, the peaceful use of outer space, and a metric beyond GDP were also mentioned.

Antje Leendertse, the Permanent Representative of Germany

- While Member States are the ones who will make the final decisions on the Pact for the Future, inspiration, leverage, encouragement and constructive voices must also come from civil society organizations and other partners.
- Encouraged CSOs to remain engaged throughout the preparatory process through the following avenues.
 - Provide written inputs to the zero draft of the Pact for the Future.
 - Participation in the UN Civil Society Conference led by the UN Department of Global Communications and a conference planning committee that will take place 9-10 May 2024 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference will be focused on the Summit of the Future and its outcome will serve as a consolidated input for member states' consideration to the Pact for the Future.
 - There will be further opportunities for CSOs to give feedback on the different chapters of the Pact for the Future after the circulation of the zero draft to be released January 2024.