



Information  
Clearinghouse  
for the UN Summit  
of the Future



# PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

**UN Civil Society Conference 2024**  
May 9-10, Nairobi



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## **UNCSC 2024 Special Bulletin**

The Summit of the Future Information Clearinghouse (ICH) project is hosted by the Coalition for the UN We Need. Project partners include Action for Sustainable Development, the Global Governance Innovation Network, the International Development Law Organization and the Present and Future Institute.

Recognizing the importance and governance possibilities inherent in the Summit of the Future (SOTF) processes, ICH Bulletins monitor and provide objective reporting on the intergovernmental preparations for this September's Summit.

This ICH Special Bulletin has been prepared for delegates attending the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference May 9-10 in Nairobi, Kenya. Use the QR code below to access the ICH website, a digital version of this ICH Bulletin, stand-alone one-page reports on negotiations to date regarding the chapters and annexes to the Pact for the Future, as well as previous ICH bulletins.

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## INTRODUCTION

In September 2024, the United Nations will hold the Summit of the Future in New York, bringing together world leaders to forge a new international consensus on how to, as the UN Summit website describes it, “deliver a better present and safeguard the future.” One of the outcomes of the summit will be a Pact for the Future covering five key areas: 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.

Governments are negotiating this pact in the lead-up to the summit based on a zero draft that co-facilitators Germany and Namibia presented to member states on January 29, 2024. The zero draft is based on more than 500 submissions from member states, civil society groups, and representatives of academia and the private sector. The pact will also include two annexes, which are being negotiated separately: the Global Digital Compact, with negotiations co-facilitated by Sweden and Zambia, and the Declaration on Future Generations, with negotiations co-facilitated by Jamaica and the Netherlands.

The origins of this process are rooted in civil society campaigning. Beginning in 2017, CSO consultations on declining international cooperation across many sectors led to a call for the UN’s 75th anniversary in 2020 to provide not simply an anniversary commemoration, but also an opportunity to take stock of the multilateral system and seek ways to strengthen the United Nations. Additionally, beginning in 2018, a UN Secretariat-supported “global listening exercise” canvassed the views of stakeholders around the world.



The UN 75 Declaration, adopted by governments in September 2020, identified 12 areas of action corresponding to the UN's main functions as an international organization. That Declaration also mandated the Secretary-General "to report back . . . with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges." The Secretary-General's September 2021 Our Common Agenda report included over 90 recommendations to strengthen global governance. General Assembly discussions in 2022 and 2023 focused on the Summit modalities and the scope and elements of the proposed Pact for the Future.

The zero draft of the Pact for the Future that was presented to governments on January 29 has been the subject of "first reading" and "second reading" consultations among Member States in February, March and April this year. A "Rev 1" of the zero draft is expected to be circulated by Germany and Namibia soon after the UN Civil Society Conference (UNCSC) taking place May 9-10 in Nairobi. Zero draft texts of the Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact were circulated in the weeks immediately prior to the UNCSC.

In the pages that follow, this Special Bulletin prepared by the Summit of the Future Information Clearinghouse (ICH) project offers delegates at the 2024 Civil Society Conference in Nairobi summarized information on the main topics and proposals under consideration for the five chapters and two annexes of the Pact for the Future.



## PACT FOR THE FUTURE, CHAPTER 1 - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

### KEY TOPICS

- MS recognized that **eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions**, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
- The G-77 and EU called to add language recommitting to the promotion of a universal, rules based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and **transparent multilateral trading system**, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, as well as meaningful trade liberalization.
- MS were **divided on the balance of human rights language** across the Chapter. While some MS proposed language on the realization of and respect for human rights, others (notably the G-77, China, Russia, and LMG- 1) emphasised the need for balance by referencing the right to development.
- While many MS supported strong language on **gender equality**, language on sexual and reproductive health and rights, adolescents, and sexuality divided the G-77. The G-77 proposed an alternate paragraph reiterating the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, increasing investment to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality.
- MS supported the inclusion of language on **ensuring food security, improved nutrition, eradicating hunger and realizing the right to food**. This was complemented with language on addressing water scarcity and ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- While the G-77 supported language on the **principle of common but differentiated responsibilities**, as outlined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, the UK, and the US opposed singling out one of the Rio principles.
- MS supported language that recognized that the **ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future**, renewing existing commitments and further pledging to close the gaps in ocean governance.
- MS supported language recognizing **the human right to a clean, healthy & sustainable environment**.
- Several delegations did not want to renegotiate language on climate change which is carefully discussed under the auspices of the UNFCCC. The G-77 proposed language on operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund and on urging developed countries to provide concessional, non-debt instruments and grant-based financial resources to assist developing countries; the EU opposed.
- The G-77 further proposed language welcoming the call by the **Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus** proposal and calling on developed countries and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to take the necessary actions to implement the SDG Stimulus of at least 500 billion dollars per year; the EU, Japan, UK, and US reserved.
- Australia, the EU, Switzerland, and the UK proposed language on acknowledging that public finance will not be enough to deliver on climate and development objectives, and the essential nature of **mobilizing private finance**, with institutional investors, IFIs, MS, and other donors to unlock barriers to increase investment.
- The G-77 proposed language on **strengthening inclusive and effective tax cooperation**, ensuring that developing countries participate in equal footing in decision making on such matters, and addressing debt burdens. The EU and US opposed the G-77 proposal, Australia requested to move such discussions to Chapter 5, and Mexico and Japan reserved.
- The G-77 engaged in discussions on the **fulfilment of existing ODA commitments** by developed countries, access to concessional finance, debt treatment, enhanced financing mechanisms including innovative financing, combatting illicit financial flows, as well as larger FDI to the Global South.
- MS recognized the increasing importance and called for a more energetic effort to deepen and **enhance South-South cooperation**, and triangular cooperation.
- While the G-77 suggested language on the **transfer of technology and knowledge**, the EU, UK, and US opposed; Switzerland was open to working on the language; and Australia and Japan reserved. These delegations called for the addition of the caveat language on voluntary and mutually agreed terms.
- MS look forward to the **fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025** to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and to address new and emerging issues that have an impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- MS proposed language committing to continue increasing investment in inclusive and equitable **quality education and life-long learning opportunities** for all.
- The G-77, supported by Belarus and the Russian Federation suggested language to adopt urgent and effective measures to **eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures** against developing countries. Switzerland, the UK, and US opposed such language.



## PACT FOR THE FUTURE, CHAPTER 2 – INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

### KEY TOPICS

- The **New Agenda for Peace** was received by MS with varying levels of interest. MS requested the SG to strengthen the UN's approach to and capacity for preventive diplomacy. Liechtenstein and many other MS welcomed the growing importance of the **International Court of Justice**.
- MS reaffirmed their collective commitment under the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, Children and Armed Conflict agenda and the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda.
- Several MS urged to revitalize the **role of the UN in disarmament**, including by reviving discussions on all weapons and security domains in the Conference on Disarmament and organizing a special session of the General Assembly (GA) devoted to disarmament. MS proposed language committing to achieve universality and implementation of treaties banning inhumane and indiscriminate weapons.
- MS proposed language committing to regional, subregional, and national targets, instruments, and road maps to address challenges related to illicit trade, diversion, proliferation and misuse of **small arms and light weapons**.
- **Coordination with Regional Organizations** – Enforcement action to restore international peace and security authorized under Chapter VII and carried out by regional and subregional organizations and multinational coalitions need to be supported, as appropriate, with adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing, including through assessed contributions.
- MS welcomed the establishment of the **Peacebuilding Account** and the decision to approve \$50 million from assessed contributions. MS called for closer and more strategic cooperation with the International Financial Institutions to assist MS in addressing the underlying causes of instability.
- **UN Peacekeeping Operations** – MS requested the SG to develop new models of peace operations that are able to respond to the evolving nature of conflict while also continuing the reforms outlined in the Action for Peacekeeping agenda. Canada and Norway proposed, with LMG-2 opposing, to address the capability gap in peacekeeping in terms of emerging technologies & disinformation, among others.
- Several measures to combat **terrorism** were proposed by MS including suppressing financing of terrorism; combating illicit trade of small arms, light weapons, and their ammunition; and concluding negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
- The need to implement existing **nuclear disarmament** commitments arising from NPT, CTBT and TPNW treaties, and to elaborate on next steps for further reduction came up several times.
- The zero draft as well as a broad group of MS proposed to develop international norms, rules, and principles on peaceful uses of **outer space**, including a legally-binding instrument.
- Language on responsible state behavior in the use of **Information and Communications Technology** (ICTs) was a recurrent theme. MS did not oppose language which sought to ensure that infrastructure needed for the delivery of essential public services and for the functioning of society must never be subject to malicious ICT activity.
- **Autonomous Weapons and AI** – MS committed to commence negotiations and/or conclude without delay a legally binding instrument to prohibit lethal autonomous weapons that cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law and regulate all other types of autonomous weapons.



## PACT FOR THE FUTURE, CHAPTER 3 – SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AND DIGITAL COOPERATION

### KEY TOPICS

- Member States emphasized leveraging on science and technology in fostering inclusive development to achieve SDGs, while also recognizing its transformative potential in addressing global challenges.
- MS recognized the potential of **peaceful nuclear technology** in addressing development issues and expressed support for collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency to advance new nuclear technologies.
- Several MS called for the enhancing of partnerships, sharing of best practices, and promotion of research and technology transfer, especially to developing nations.
- MS welcome the establishment of the **Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board** and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, emphasizing the importance of **balanced representation** across gender, and by developing countries.
- MS advocated for responsible business conduct, adherence to human rights principles, sustainable supply chains, and flexible intellectual property rights to support sustainable development and address global crises.
- Some MS express their commitment to managing risks associated with new technologies to ensure societal and environmental benefits.
- MS express their commitments to **bridging digital divides** and promoting digital , particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and rural communities.
- MS advocated the importance of boosting South-South and triangular cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, focusing on areas like **food security, pandemic prevention, vaccines, and open-source AI**, while also increasing support to research institutions in developing countries.
- MS committed to promote transparent, inclusive norm-setting process for new technologies. Some emphasized adapting technology to local needs, **respecting traditional knowledge**, and ensuring inclusivity in digital cooperation.
- Member States advocated evidence-based policymaking, enhancing use of science, and investing in quality data. They support initiatives like the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Global Pilot Program on Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs Road Maps.
- Some MS emphasized responsible research respecting human rights and ethics, emphasizing **researcher autonomy, freedom, and safety** for accuracy and objectivity.
- The focus of the discussion was also centered on addressing specific challenges like gender-based violence, healthcare accessibility, and sustainable agriculture through technology and innovation.
- Several MS called for global support for providing STEM education and research opportunities, particularly for youth and women in developing countries. They stressed the importance of improving working conditions to **prevent brain drain** and adapting to technological advancements through upskilling programs.

## PACT FOR THE FUTURE, CHAPTER 4 – YOUTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

### KEY TOPICS

- Strengthening the **meaningful engagement of youth**, including in intergovernmental processes. LMG-4 caveated this with references to in-line with the rules and procedures of the relevant UN body or organ.
- There was a **notable absence of language on children** with the LMG-4 group stating that children were not in the scope of the Pact as agreed by Member States last summer. Some delegations encouraged the inclusion of language on children, while others (Africa Group and LMG-4) wanted to caveat language in-line with the UN Convention the Rights of the Child.
- There was general agreement among Member States to **refer to 'young people' or 'young persons' instead of 'youth'** to highlight the diversity of this constituency.
- The **Declaration on Future Generations** is to be annexed to the Chapter, signifying an intergenerational commitment to benefiting future generations and addressing global challenges.
- Emphasizing **Indigenous youth's**, full, meaningful, equal, and effective participation in decision-making processes, as well as access to health services, education, employment, preserving traditional knowledge and languages, capacity building, and raising awareness of their rights.
- Recognizing the **underrepresentation of young people in formal political structures**, particularly young women, calls for states to address legislative or policy barriers hindering young persons from running for public leadership positions.
- Calls to provide sustainable and **flexible funding tailored to the needs of youth organizations**, supporting small-scale projects and innovative programmatic approaches.
- Creating a **Global Youth Investment platform** to attract financing for youth-related programming, deepen collaboration, and strengthen existing UN funds supporting youth.
- Urging States to establish **national youth consultative bodies** with mandates and resources to engage in national policy making and decision-making processes, with support from the UN.
- Prioritizing **positive youth development and well-being** today while proactively addressing challenges and injustices impacting future generations, including through implementing **UN2.0**.
- Recognizing the importance of **intergenerational collaboration and dialogue**.
- Recognizing the importance of the **UN Charter, international treaties, and the rule of law** as crucial for promoting intergenerational equity and protecting future generations..
- Investing in and expanding opportunities for **decent work, quality employment**, and universal, accessible, lifelong inclusive, and **quality education** to address youth poverty.
- Ensuring that the mandate of the **UN Youth Office** is resourced and implemented.
- Providing a **safe, enabling, and empowering environment for young people**, including protecting civic and political space both offline and online
- Strengthening existing **United Nations funds and programs** that support youth, especially from developing countries, and United Nations youth initiatives.
- Establishing **monitoring mechanisms** to track progress.



## PACT FOR THE FUTURE, CHAPTER 5 – TRANSFORMING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

### KEY TOPICS

- MS were supportive of reviewing the role of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the **Revitalization of the General Assembly (GA)**. Japan & Singapore proposed to allow the GA to take action on international peace and security issues, when necessary, with the US adding “consistent with the UN Charter”.
- MS reaffirmed that no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any MS or group of States. Given that the UN has not yet had a **women SG**, MS were encouraged to nominate female candidates.
- The Russian Federation and several other MS raised the need to ensure **equitable geographical representation** in senior management positions as well as in the composition of the UN Secretariat.
- MS reiterated their commitment to strengthening the **Peacebuilding Commission** and look forward to the outcomes of the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review. The role of the Commission in supporting countries, at their request, during and after a peace operation was noted.
- MS noted the benefits of greater interaction of the UN with **regional and interregional bodies** and mechanisms. Belarus called for further cooperation between the UN and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- The EU, Paraguay, and a few more MS proposed language to double the regular budget resources for the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** and also requested the SG to propose options for adequate, sustainable, and predictable financing of the OHCHR at its 79th session.
- MS resolved to strengthen the UN Human Rights System with the EU proposing and the US opposing upgrading the **Human Rights Council** to the status of a principal organ of the UN.
- MS encouraged the SG to develop a set of protocols and to convene and operationalize an **Emergency Platform** in consultation with MS.
- The G-77 proposed to strengthen the **role of the UN in global economic governance**, while the US, Australia, Japan, Mexico, and Canada want the UN to work in partnership with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and for the global economic organizations to consult more and align with the UN.
- The G-77 proposed, with the US, EU, Japan, and the UK opposing, to develop by June 2025 possible approaches for further **quota realignment of the IMF** and to urgently conduct a **shareholding review of the World Bank** to better reflect members’ relative positions in the world economy.
- MS encouraged a comprehensive review of the **sovereign debt architecture** and to present recommendations at the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025.
- MS welcomed efforts to re-channel **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** with G-77 expressing concern regarding the slow progress in fulfilling existing pledges. The G-77 called for an additional allocation of \$500 billion of the SDRs and called for a mechanism for more automated and accelerated SDR issuance and reallocation in a countercyclical manner or response to shocks.
- MS did not oppose language on negotiations for a framework convention on **international tax cooperation** but differed on the level of emphasis ranging from “take note of” to “fully supporting”.
- MS welcomed or took note of the SG’s proposal to convene a biennial summit at the level of Heads of State or Government of the G20, members of ECOSOC, the SG, and heads of the IFIs.
- Acknowledging the rapidly expanding activities in **outer space**, MS recognized the urgent need to increase international cooperation and develop new international regulatory legal frameworks.

## PACT FOR THE FUTURE ANEX - DECLARATION ON FUTURE GENERATIONS

### KEY TOPICS

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) emphasized the importance of **respecting international law** as a foundational principle for international cooperation. There was a call for a **strong multilateral system** to address global challenges, along with an emphasis on intergenerational collaboration to ensure sustainable development.
- The European Union (EU) expressed support for efforts to **integrate foresight and science policy into decision-making processes**, highlighting the potential benefits of gender equality. Overall, the EU endorsed the **action-oriented and ambitious approach** proposed.
- El Salvador raised concerns regarding **migration and development**, emphasizing the importance of careful follow-up actions, particularly in light of ongoing liquidity crises. Cuba stressed the importance of the **right to development** as a fundamental human right. Pakistan expressed support for the concise nature of discussions but noted a **lack of economic language** in certain areas.
- Vietnam and Mexico highlighted the importance of **intergenerational solidarity and dialogue**, with a focus on youth empowerment and engagement. Argentina emphasized the **multiplier effect of decisions on future generations** and called for enhanced intergenerational dialogue and knowledge transfer. The United States underscored the need to prioritize the UN Charter, human rights, and gender equality, advocating for strategic foresight and data collection within existing institutional frameworks.
- China emphasized **the needs of developing countries** and proposed the inclusion of text in the Beijing Declaration. The UK emphasized the importance of meeting present needs without compromising the future, particularly in the context of **gender equality and social agency**. Morocco emphasized the digital environment for future generations and demographic trends, supporting the **establishment of a future generations envoy and standing forum**.
- Korea called for a structured approach to addressing future generations' needs, with specific suggestions for modifications to the text. Jordan emphasized the importance of **comprehensive cultural representation** and the need for a **safe online and offline environment**. Switzerland echoed the call for conciseness in communication.
- Iran emphasized the importance of a full intergovernmental process and the need to address **unilateral coercive measures**.
- There was a renewed commitment to **fulfilling the UN Charter** in good faith, along with a recognition of the equality of all states and the right to self-determination. The importance of preserving historical truth and cultural heritage was also emphasized.



## PACT FOR THE FUTURE ANEX - GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT

### KEY TOPICS

The compact aims to provide a foundational framework through international cooperation and governance, with five clear objectives for global digital cooperation: i) Close digital divide and accelerate progress on the SDGs, ii) Expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy, iii) Foster inclusive open, safe and secure digital space, iv) Advance equitable international data governance v) Govern emerging technologies, including AI for humanity. It also has 10 cross-cutting principles of being Inclusive, Development-focused, human rights-based, gender equal, environmentally sustainable, accessible and interoperable, responsible and accountable, innovation-friendly, multi-stakeholder and forward-looking. This is to ensure that it identifies practical commitments and targeted actions to achieve the set objectives:

- **Connectivity:** Achieve universal and meaningful connectivity to accelerate progress across the SDGs, including innovative financing to connect everyone to the internet by 2030, particularly targeting vulnerable and marginalized populations.
- **Digital Literacy and Skills:** Ensure comprehensive digital literacy and skills development by reforming educational curriculum and boosting digital skills training to facilitate effective use of the internet and digital technologies.
- **Digital Public Goods:** Promote safe, inclusive, and interoperable digital public infrastructure through open-source software and platforms, aiming to enhance social and economic opportunities for all.
- **Digital Economy Inclusion:** Expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy by developing enabling environments that support innovation and nurture digital skills.
- **Safe and Secure Digital Space:** Promote human rights in the digital space, ensuring that digital technologies uphold the rights of all individuals and prevent abuses such as cyberbullying and online child exploitation.
- **Data Governance:** Advance equitable and interoperable data governance frameworks that ensure privacy and security while maximizing the benefits of data use.
- **Emerging Technologies:** Govern emerging technologies like AI to ensure they are safe, secure, trustworthy, and aligned with human rights and sustainable development.

### MEMBER STATES INITIAL INTERVENTIONS

- The Zero draft of the GDC was positively received by Member States (MS) and Stakeholders, with MS asking for more time to consult and coordinate their positions on the draft the Compact. The first reading will be held on 2 May 2024. Initial interventions welcomed the inclusion of measurable commitments and concrete deliverables saying it's a good basis for promoting inclusive development and leveraging AI and emerging technologies for sustainable development. They called for the UN to play a leading role in AI governance, but questioned the lack of explicit clarification on who would be for the commitments.



# PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

## UNCSC 2024 Special Bulletins

### RESOURCES

- Letter from the co-facilitators – 26 January 2024 (<https://bit.ly/26JanLetter>)
- Zero draft of the Pact for the Future (<https://bit.ly/PftFZeroDraft>)
- Compilation text, as of 3 April 2024 (<https://bit.ly/CompilationText>)
  
- A Declaration on Future Generations (<https://bit.ly/DFGpage>)
- Issues Paper on the Intergovernmental Process for the Declaration on Future Generations (<https://bit.ly/DFGIssuesPaper>)
- Letter from the President of the General Assembly – Declaration on Future Generations Roadmap (<https://bit.ly/26MarPGAletter>)
- Our Common Agenda Policy Brief on Future Generations (<https://bit.ly/pbfuturegen>)
  
- Zero Draft of the GDC (<https://bit.ly/GDCzerodraft>)
- Policy Brief on Global Digital Compact (<https://bit.ly/pbGDC>)
- Letter to Member States and other Stakeholders, outlining the structure and elements of the GDC (<https://bit.ly/23FebGDCLetter>)