



## Road to the Summit Discussion Series

### Road to the Summit Discussion Series Meeting 16 Summary | 20 September 2024

#### “Beyond September – After the Summit of the Future”

##### **This moment in history**

- Over the past two years, Member States, UN agencies, and Civil Society have participated in many conversations in the lead up to the Summit of the Future (SotF), taking into account various global issues, and considering how to address numerous global challenges.
- These processes have all pointed to the need for a long-term vision for multilateral reform.
- The challenges of our time are the consequence of history. Looking back can help with understanding root causes to our challenges and avoiding repeating past mistakes.
- The country-first mentality present among many countries must be challenged.
- Projecting future challenges does not mean we lose sight of present needs.
- See [film](#) of youth voices around the world speaking to this moment in history (see also [trailer](#) for the film).

##### **The Summit of the Future (SotF)**

- The SotF can be seen as three Summits: negotiations and their outcomes; the Summit itself through world leaders, their statements, and the interactive dialogues; and civil society processes including the Action Days.
  - Each of this can give rise to new actions that can be continued into the future.
- The SotF will not be defined by what happens on 22 and 23 September, but by what comes after—how the international community builds on the Summit’s outcomes.
- The SotF can/must be a starting point for transformative change. The commitments made must become concrete actions that can change the lives of people around the world.

##### **The [Pact for the Future](#)**

- The Pact may not be perfect, and may not respond to all the demands of the international community, but it establishes a framework and begins the work of aligning peace and security efforts more closely with sustainable development.
- The Pact needs to be approached in its entirety; its value comes from the sum of its parts—it is ultimately a forward-looking document.
- Notable advances:
  - The Pact aims to make multilateralism more inclusive.
  - The Pact provides language on reform of the international financial architecture as well as closing the SDG financing gap.
  - The Pact provides new language in the areas of emerging technology and artificial intelligence (Global Digital Compact), peace and security, as well as emerging issues such as outer space governance and global shocks.
  - The Pact provides the strongest language we have in decades on Security Council reform—for greater inclusivity, transparency, representation, and accountability; it also

- opens space to consider the scope and use of the veto.
- The Pact offers new content on youth and future generations. The Declaration on Future Generations requires the interests of future generations to be embedded in long-term thinking in policymaking processes.
- The Pact notably incorporates 56 discrete actions (see [summary](#)).

### **Beyond the SotF**

- Strengthening the multilateral system is part of an ongoing marathon; the process of institutionalizing recommendations will take time.
- Reforms made in one area can have a domino effect: Security Council reform will unlock the door to many other necessary reforms that ensure the power and responsibilities of the UN organs are rebalanced.
- Key ingredients that are necessary following the SotF:
  - A shared narrative around the Pact's implementation needs to be developed—social ownership is required.
  - Multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential, including with civil society and the private sector.
  - Civil society presence is vital in ensuring that actions remain on track, and that progress is transparent and measurable.
  - Follow-up mechanisms including clear pathways and timelines must be developed.
  - In order to boost credibility, complexity must be unpacked, acronyms must be avoided, and actions must be implemented.
  - The UN must be well-funded as an expression of political will, although financial resources should not be an end in themselves.
  - Any effort that strengthens trust in the multilateral system should be encouraged.
  - Optimism and hope are not naive considerations, they are essential strategic tools to make sure the UN is relevant for all.
- The SotF and its outcomes will need to be connected to other processes. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Social Summit as well as the climate conferences are important next steps for governance. Other events will also emerge following the Pact.

### **Purpose of the Road to the Summit Series**

- This was the final installment of a 16-part series which was carried out over two years, and drew in some 1,200 participants from nearly 80 UN Member States, 20 UN agencies, and over 500 civil society organizations.
- A [perspective piece](#) distills lessons learned from the series, particularly focusing on means to move from consultation to effective collective action.