SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE: WHAT WOULD IT DELIVER?

How would a Pact for the Future that adopts the proposals of the Secretary-General change our world?

PURPOSE

Strengthen international cooperation so it delivers fully and fairly on existing agreements, while enabling us to respond effectively to new threats and opportunities for present and future generations. In so doing, restore trust in multilateralism and in each other.

BACKGROUND

The 75th anniversary of the UN came at a time when the whole world was confronting the shared threats of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, the risks and opportunities of technological advances, and stagnation on the Sustainable Development Goals. In recognition of these trends and our unprecedented interconnectedness, Member States pledged to strengthen global governance and asked the Secretary-General for his recommendations to address current and future challenges (A/RES/75/1). The Secretary-General responded with Our Common Agenda, calling for solidarity between people, countries and generations, and a corresponding renewal of the multilateral system to accelerate implementation of existing commitments and fill gaps in global governance that have emerged since 2015. The report proposed a Summit of the Future as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take these steps.

The General Assembly decided that the Summit of the Future would take place in September 2024, building on the 2023 SDG Summit, and that its outcome would be an intergovernmentally negotiated, action-oriented Pact for the Future, comprising a chapeau and five chapters on 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. At the invitation of Member States, the Secretary-General issued eleven Policy Briefs containing more detail on certain proposals from Our Common Agenda, to support Member States in their preparations for the Summit.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

The proposals in Our Common Agenda aim to turbocharge the 2030 Agenda. The specific ideas from the report that are suggested for consideration at the Summit of the Future focus on the "how" of global cooperation, to in turn enable us to deliver on the "what" by: (a) getting the SDGs back on track, while also (b) responding to new opportunities and challenges. Details on how the proposals accelerate implementation of each Goal are in the Annex.

IMPACT

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

Decision-making at global level consciously avoids foreseeable harms to and safeguards the interests of future generations through an **Envoy** to represent them, a **political declaration** (as part of the Pact for the Future) with clear commitments, a **dedicated intergovernmental forum** to debate progress, and better use of **foresight, data and science** to evaluate the future impact of policies and actions. Present generations also benefit from this longer-term thinking.

MANAGING GLOBAL SHOCKS

International responses to complex global shocks of significant scale are improved through **standing authority** of the **Secretary-General to convene** a time-bound **Emergency Platform** that would add value through high-level, multi-sectoral coordination, advocacy, and accountability for the contributions of participating actors. This would not displace or duplicate existing mechanisms.

MEANINGFUL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth participation, and consequently trust, in decision-making is expanded and strengthened through dedicated **national youth consultative bodies,** a **global standard for meaningful youth engagement,** a **framework to track progress,** avenues for **youth participation in UN decision-making processes,** and a **standing UN Youth Townhall.**

MEASURING WHAT WE VALUE

We measure what really matters for sustainable development impact, progress and resource-allocation, based on a set of critical metrics that complement GDP to cover what is needed for prosperity, human well-being, and protecting our natural environment. This is achieved through a **political commitment** to **value what counts** accompanied by a **dashboard** of key indicators, and support to countries on related **statistical and data capacities.**

OPEN, FREE, AND SECURE DIGITAL FUTURE

We harness the opportunities and manage the risks of digital technologies by adopting a Compact, as part of the Pact for the Future, that outlines a vision of an open, free, and secure digital future for all **anchored** in global cooperation for **human development** and **SDG progress**, **human rights**, and **governance**

by humans for humans. The Compact offers a digital governance **framework to guide global, regional, and national approaches** around shared principles, priorities, and objectives – such as accelerating digital connectivity for all, building digital public infrastructures, strengthening public regulatory capacities, and nurturing AI governance. It promotes **sustained multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation** via existing forums, an annual **Digital Cooperation Forum**, and **a new AI Body** to align artificial intelligence with human rights, the rule of law, and the common good.

A GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR ALL

A transformed international financial architecture is fit for purpose, more inclusive, just, representative, effective, and resilient, responsive to the world today rather than as it looked following the Second World War. This architecture **invests up-front in SDGs, climate action, and future generations.** This entails reforms in the following six areas: (i) **global economic governance**, including enhancing the voice and representation of developing countries in decision-making of the international financial institutions and setting up an apex body bringing together the entire system under the United Nations to enhance its coherence and align its priorities with the 2030 Agenda; (ii) lasting solutions on **debt relief and lowering the cost of sovereign borrowing,** including through the creation of a Debt Workout Mechanism and ultimately a sovereign debt authority; (iii) **international public finance,** including massively scaling up development and climate financing, including through Multilateral Development Banks; (iv) **global financial safety net,** including by ensuring that all countries have access to the full capital account toolbox, revamping the role and use of SDRs, ending surcharges, and setting up a multilateral currency swap facility; (v) **addressing short-termism** in capital markets and sustainable finance; and (vi) an **inclusive and equitable global tax architecture** that combats tax avoidance and evasion.

SHARING THE BENEFITS OF SPACE

The benefits associated with the rapid growth of outer space activities are harnessed in the most inclusive way, while the risks are mitigated, through (i) a regime or frameworks for **space sustainability** covering space traffic management, resource activities, and debris removal; (ii) an international agreement on peace, security, and the **prevention of an arms race** in space; (iii) more **inclusive governance approaches;** and (iv) **strengthened UN system collaboration.**

A NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE

Our collective security system can better prevent, manage and resolve conflicts in both traditional and new domains, guided by principles of trust, solidarity and universality. **Prevention at the global level** is bolstered by addressing strategic risks and geopolitical divisions, including nuclear disarmament. Prevention at the national level is strengthened through focusing on underlying drivers and redoubling investment in sustainable development. An **updated approach to peace operations and peace enforcement** recognizes the realities of today's conflicts and the value of regional approaches. We are better equipped to **prevent the weaponization of emerging domains and promote responsible innovation,** e.g. in cyberspace, outer space, lethal autonomous weapons, AI, and biorisks. A **stronger collective security machinery** includes a reformed Security Council, a revitalized General Assembly, and an enhanced Peacebuilding Commission.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

A new vision for the creation of learning societies emerges, with education and life-long learning universally recognized as a **global public good.** International cooperation is strengthened to advance the vision and support delivery of commitments made at the 2023 Transforming Education Summit.

INTEGRITY IN INFORMATION

The digital space is safer and more inclusive with all stakeholders protecting human rights, guided by a voluntary **UN Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms,** with **enhanced understanding** of information integrity globally, as well as a **dedicated capacity in the UN Secretariat** to support the implementation of the Code and to respond to online mis- and disinformation and hate speech affecting UN mandate delivery and substantive priorities. These developments might be acknowledged in the Pact for the Future.

UN 2.0

The UN System is better able to support Member States, including on the above changes through **cultural and skills transformation in UN System entities.** "UN 2.0" is about upgraded expertise in **innovation, data, digital, foresight,** and **behavioural science** to enhance UN System results, help build similar Member State expertise, and accelerate shared **progress towards the SDGs**. These developments might be acknowledged in the Pact for the Future.

READ THE 11 FULL BRIEFS

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

The Secretary-General's proposals for the Summit of the Future could, if adopted, accelerate implementation of each of the Sustainable Development Goals in the following ways:

1 NO POVERTY

Achieving SDG 1 to reduce poverty requires preventing conflict, building resilience of vulnerable populations, engaging youth, employing digital technologies for social protection, using tools for disaster response, and crafting targeted responses to poverty risks with demographic and non-traditional data. The goal of eradicating extreme poverty must address income inequality and uphold "leave no one behind."

2 ZERO HUNGER

In our increasingly connected world system, regional conflicts accelerate hunger elsewhere, while pervasive climate change threatens the food security of future generations. Tackling global hunger in SDG 2 entails fast, common solutions via digital technologies (drones, apps) that enhance agricultural productivity, sustainable policies and resource mobilization and financing of food services.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Achieving SDG 3 through comprehensive, inclusive healthcare for all means new metrics on well-being, investment in youth health, international cooperation on sustainable healthcare financing, less public health disinformation, digital and space innovations for vaccine production and delivery, disease monitoring and health advancement research.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Progress on SDG 4 means investing in human capital and wellbeing by advancing accessible, inclusive and affordable learning. Digital platforms and satellite-based remote learning furthers connectivity and skills training, while economic growth via tax cooperation finances such education.
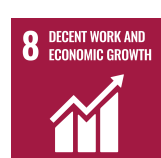
5 GENDER EQUALITY

Advancing SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment entails measuring unpaid care work, recognizing climate and pandemic impacts on vulnerable women, ensuring their financial access, combating gender-related disinformation, harnessing digital technologies for their benefit, promoting gender integration in global finance and putting women and girls at the center of security and peace policies.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Achieving SDG 6 will require using digital technologies and reliable metrics for water management, addressing clean water access in policy, mitigating sanitation challenges posed by natural disasters, affordably financing water sanitation in developing countries and investing in long-term infrastructure for water and sustainable environments.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Accessible, affordable and clean energy for all can lift present and future generations out of poverty. Getting there means applying next-gen digital networks and AI to energy efficiency; advancing solar research in space; addressing access to energy resources as a potential underlying source of conflict; transitioning to an innovative, ethical economy after pandemic setbacks; preparing green energy jobs and fostering norms on energy conservation through behavioural science.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Achieving SDG 8 through sustainable economic growth and job creation requires promoting internet access, refining GDP measurements, preparing future generations through skill development, engaging youth, ensuring information integrity and preventing financial crises.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SDG 9 requires expanding use of mobile digital technologies in underserved areas, establishing new metrics to harness innovation, combating digital misinformation, investing in expanded access to sustainable financial systems and contributing to decent work and economic growth.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Achieving SDG 10 requires leveraging digital tools for financial access, metrics to expose disparities, anti-discrimination policies, reduction in misinformation and international financial reforms for the elevated representation and voice of developing countries in global economic decision-making.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

In SDG 11 sustainable cities offer eco-friendly lifestyles and economic opportunities as intelligent systems and data usage optimize transportation, urban planning, waste management and vulnerability reduction, supported by financing from public development banks. This vision of sustainable urbanization, which would also meet the needs and interests of future generations, largely hinges on having peace and security guarantees.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

To achieve SDG 12, digital technologies with information integrity must enable a circular economy, resilient supply chains and satellite-aided resource management. New measures beyond GDP, youth activism for behavioral changes and institutionalized climate standards can concertedly help efficient resource use and reuse for future generations.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

For SDG 13, metrics exposing vulnerabilities must be used alongside digital solutions for climate monitoring, emissions reduction and disaster response. Foresight techniques help communities near rising sea levels to anticipate flooding, while climate standards, sustainable finance regulation, youth mobilization and less climate disinformation benefit all—including future generations—who face danger to their health, livelihood and environment.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Tracking ocean plastic pollution and monitoring marine health with digital and space technologies, implementing key metrics, addressing disinformation and integrating climate standards for more sustainable financial architecture are crucial strategies for progress on SDG 14.

15 LIFE ON LAND

Achieving SDG 15 requires leveraging digital technologies (Internet of things, blockchain, cloud platforms) and space data for monitoring biodiversity and addressing deforestation. Economic decisions must account for natural resources and biodiversity while aligning financial architecture with sustainability standards.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

To achieve SDG 16, we must start with the eradication of all forms of violence and the promotion of peace in all domains. Addressing forced displacement, upholding the rule of law and human rights, engaging youth and countering disinformation contribute to building just societies. Digital technologies can enhance public access to governments and reduce corruption. Strengthened financial systems must support conflict-affected countries.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Progress on SDG 17 calls for robust international cooperation to develop measurements of progress that complement GDP and clarify SDG data gaps, as well as use outputs accordingly to inform priorities and resource mobilization in fairer partnerships. Addressing debt burdens, engaging youth and upholding information integrity are also essential for effective partnerships that advance the SDGs.