

THE 69TH UNITED NATIONS CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

in support of the Summit of the Future

9-10 MAY, NAIROBI, KENYA



United
Nations

The Civil Society Conference Report comes in two parts, the first part contains the conference report prepared by the United Nations Department of Communications.

The second part is the Civil Society's ImPACT for the Future Outcome Package prepared by the Conference Co-Chairs and contains extracts from part 1.

Organized by the United Nations Department of Global Communications in close coordination with the civil society community represented through the Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN), the Global NGO Executive Committee (GNEC), the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), and, the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) Coordination Mechanism

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Foreword

The 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future, held in Nairobi, Kenya on 9 and 10 May was a key milestone ahead of the Summit of the Future scheduled to take place in New York on 22-23 September. The Conference was an inclusive platform for dialogue that served as an opportunity for meaningful engagement for civil society and other stakeholders with UN leadership, the co-facilitators of the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations and others. The 2024 Civil Society Conference was conceived as a moment to showcase civil society contributions towards a true networked and inclusive multilateralism and was recognized as having achieved that objective.

Of the 69 civil society conferences organized by the United Nations Department of Global Communications in the past seven and a half decades, the Nairobi Conference was the most inclusive and successful in bringing together a wide range of stakeholders from civil society, governments, international organizations, academia and the private sector for two days of active engagement, discussions and impact.

The selection of Nairobi as the venue was part of the strategic positioning. It not only lowered barriers to attendance from civil society representatives in the global south, but holding in in the continent with the youngest population sent a strong message on the power of and commitment to youth. Impressively, some 70% of conference participants were from African countries and 43% of the CSO participants were youth. This was a clear demonstration of the vibrancy and high ambitions of civil society in Africa and the global south and a reflection of the region's thirst for engagement in global affairs.

Overall, the UN Civil Society Conference saw very impressive registration and attendance records with more than 2,150 civil society representatives, academia and the private sector attending from over 1,400 civil society organizations (CSOs), representing 115 nationalities. Over 350 other attendees represented governments, United Nations and other international organizations.

The idea of a civil society conference dedicated to and focused on the Summit of the Future was born in early 2023 following informal discussions and consultations with key representatives of civil society networks, the Summit of the Future team in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the Co-Facilitators of the preparations for the Summit and the Pact for the Future - the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Namibia to the United Nations.

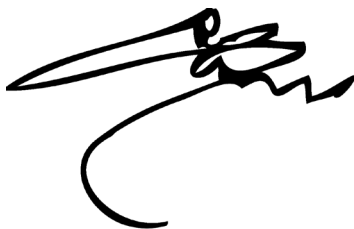
The Department of Global Communications led a consultative process with civil society partners to identify candidates from across civil society to lead the conference and various committees. The interest was wide and strong with over 280 nominations received to serve as co-chairs of the conference and over 1,400 nominations to serve in the sub-committees. In mid-February, the Department announced the selection of Ms. Carole Osero-Ageng'o, Global Initiatives Lead and Africa Regional Representative at HelpAge International, and Ms. Nudhara Yusuf, Executive Coordinator of Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center, as the two civil society Co-Chairs of the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future.

As a Co-Chair of the Planning Committee alongside Carole and Nudhara, I had the privilege to witness their dedication and hard work and greatly appreciate their commitment. I also appreciated the work by members of the sub-committees and my DGC colleagues in New York and Nairobi. The success of the Conference can be attributed to the collaborative and creative spirit of the planning committee, under Carole and Nudhara's able leadership.

The Conference would not have been possible without the generous contributions from the European Union, the Government of Denmark, the Ford and United Nations Foundations. Contributions from the Open Society Foundations and the SDG Action Campaign played a key role in strengthening civil society participation from across the globe.

Unlike past civil society conferences, the 2024 Civil Society Conference in Nairobi did not adopt an outcome document, but introduced an innovative and new approach by creating ImPACT Coalitions that are detailed in the attached report. United Nations Secretary-General Guterres, who spoke at the closing session of the Conference, welcomed the Conference's ImPACT Coalitions that promise a new era of engagement and he invited the participants to bring with them the spirit of the Nairobi Conference to the Action Days preceding the Summit of the Future.

I am humbled and proud to have played a key role in conceiving and organizing the 2024 Civil Society Conference in Nairobi and entrust its legacy to all the young participants who inspired me and others to create a space for them to shine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maher Nasser', with a long, sweeping underline that curves back to the left.

Maher Nasser
Director, Outreach Division, UN DGC &
Co-Chair of the Planning Committee of the 2024 Civil Society Conference in
Support of the Summit of the Future



2024 UNITED NATIONS
**CIVIL SOCIETY
CONFERENCE**

9 - 10 MAY 2024
NAIROBI, KENYA



Conference Highlights



(Photo: UNIS Nairobi)

The 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference in support of the Summit of the Future was held 9-10 May 2024 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi Kenya, marking the first time a United Nations (UN) Civil Society conference was held in Africa.

More than 2,150 civil society participants from NGOs, academia and the private sector attended, representing 115 nationalities, from over 1,400 civil society organizations (CSOs) headquartered in 99 countries. Governments and the UN were also well represented with the attendance of UN officials from 37 UN entities and more than 350

representatives from 64 Member States (including 29 Permanent Representatives to the UN).

Also attending were the Co-Facilitators of the Summit of the Future, Ambassador Neville Gertze from Namibia and Ambassador Antje Leendertse from Germany, as well as the Co-Facilitators of the Declaration on Future Generations, Ambassador Yoka M.G. Brandt from The Netherlands and Ambassador Brian Wallace from Jamaica, and the Co-Facilitators of the Global Digital Compact, Ambassador Anna-Karin Eneström from Sweden and Ambassador Chola Milambo from Zambia.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The conference had three primary objectives, with an agenda designed to produce tangible outcomes, collaborative initiatives, and actionable plans.

Three main objectives:

- Inclusivity by amplifying diverse voices and initiatives.
- Impact through the formation of multi-stakeholder ImPACT coalitions.
- Innovation in civil society's engagement with intergovernmental processes.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Opening Plenary Session

Statements by Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the UN Office at Nairobi, and Guy Ryder, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy stressed the pivotal role of civil society in shaping the Pact for the Future and its two annexes, urging global collaboration for meaningful outcomes and underscoring the importance of inclusive partnerships towards the upcoming SOTF. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General, and Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly highlighted via video messages, civil society's role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through inclusive engagement and accountability. Addresses by two civil society representatives, Karimot Odebode, from the 2022 Cohort of Young Leaders for the SDGs, and Florence Syevuo, Executive Director of the SDG Kenya Forum, highlighted the importance of civil society leadership in shaping global progress aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the conference as a major moment in mobilizing civil society toward action.

Workshops and Interactive Dialogues

51 workshops took place at the conference and online, creating a forum for civil society to discuss issues related to the draft versions of the Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact. The workshops resulted in a comprehensive list of civil society recommendations shared by civil society representatives during an interactive dialogue directly following the workshops. This dialogue enabled all participants, including representatives of Member States and the UN, to better understand the views of civil society in respect to the SOTF outcome documents. A second dialogue directly followed led by the co-facilitators of the Pact and its two annexes, to examine potential engagement of civil society in the ongoing processes and options for civil society's involvement in such negotiations.

Panel, ImPACT Coalitions and Closing Town Hall

A Panel was held to hear stakeholder feedback, with key participants including Guy Ryder, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy, on potential actions ahead of and beyond the SOTF, and explore new approaches to multilateralism, including creating unique ImPACT Coalitions, that bring together stakeholders working on various issues to create a space to champion Member States on specific reforms toward the Summit and the implementation process beyond.

These 24 ImPACT Coalitions are geographically and organizationally diverse, transdisciplinary, with well-articulated objectives and are designed to be spaces to coalesce different initiatives with similar goals toward the Pact for the Future through hosting virtual briefings and consultations, implementing communications and social media strategies, and compiling relevant data and information to be released to the general public. During a Closing Town Hall, these coalitions reported on their sessions' outcomes and initial priorities and plans aiming to translate conference

pledges into concrete actions, emphasizing inclusivity and sustainability while rallying in favor of more global engagement for significant impact. Representatives from regional organizations, the private sector and philanthropic institutions stressed the need to involve all critical stakeholders in multilateral processes.

Closing Plenary Session

His Excellency Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, and United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres made in-person remarks highlighting the need to recognize CSO's roles as key agents of change and the potential power of ImPACT Coalitions.

H.E. Ruto highlighted both the crucial role networked social movements and civil society play as policy shapers and how non-state actors are vital for inclusive growth, social justice, sustainable development, advocating for the protection of minorities, transparency, and accountability. He also reinforced the importance of civil society in defining Kenya's policies and actions to deliver on sustainable development.

Secretary-General Guterres made a call to revitalize multilateralism, so contributions of civil society are acknowledged as central, while commenting on the challenges and risks faced by civil society activists. He also praised civil society's know-how, its networks, knowledge, and desire to find innovative solutions and methods to persuade governments to act.

Melissa Fleming, UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications and moderator of the session, described the conference as a major moment to harness innovative ideas to drive impact for the Summit while the conference co-chairs, Nudhara Yusuf and Carole Ageng'o, highlighted civil society's passion and dedication in shaping multilateralism and emphasized the need for innovative thinking and collaboration ahead of the Summit and beyond.

Mithika Mwenda, civil society representative and co-founder of the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance, spoke of how the conference represented a unique opportunity to galvanize action and renew the commitment to creating a just and sustainable world.

Other Conference Activities

- An Intergenerational Hub created a space for conversation for CSOs on intergenerational inclusion and collaboration towards #OurCommonFuture.
- 46 Exhibits were organized by CSOs and UN entities on a wide range of topics, including gender, climate, social activism, humanitarian affairs, health, education and technology.
- 62 Offsite Events including assemblies, consultations, dialogues, festivals and panel discussions were also held in the lead-up to and during the conference.
- A Mobilization Day, organized by civil society took place in Nairobi on the day before the opening of the conference to engage Kenyan civil society organizations.

Conference Outcomes and Next Steps

In addition to the accompanying full report, 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference "Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress", an outcome package was published by the conference co-chairs (presented at UN Headquarters in late May 2024). It contains reflections from the co-chairs, a summary of conference proceedings, a full list of the ImPACT coalitions, key recommendations, proposed next steps, and a timeline.

The 24 ImPACT Coalitions formed at the conference and designed to help innovate the way civil society engages with intergovernmental processes will continue their multistakeholder work following the adoption of outcome documents at SOTF, focused on the implementations of such documents.

EXCERPT FROM THE NARRATIVE

Why a Civil Society Conference in 2024

Civil society continues to play a fundamental role in shaping a future that, today more than ever, needs multilateral approaches to ensure an inclusive, sustainable, and safe society for all.

This 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference (UNCSC) was an opportunity for multi-stakeholder engagement aimed to provide preliminary discussions and data ahead of the Summit of the Future and a venue for civil society to participate in the preparations process. The Summit represents an opportunity to strategize the path forward for the United Nations and the global community to advance the work of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to build a world where no one is left behind.

Civil society is an essential partner in the global effort to come up with solutions and approaches from all sectors in society in the spirit of collaboration and multilateralism. The UNCSC gave civil society an additional platform to speak out and to share ideas to contribute to the Pact for the Future negotiations, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 17 and Our Common Agenda's (OCA) vision of multilateralism.

The UNCSC produced tangible outcomes and positive contributions to the deliberations ahead of the Summit of the Future. These contributions include policy recommendations, action plans, initiatives, collaborations, and proposed projects that address specific challenges and issues relevant to the Summit of the Future's objectives. Additionally, several engagement and contributing opportunities took place after the Nairobi conference.

Such opportunities, in close collaboration and coordination with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), included a Town Hall to discuss the path forward to ensure a stronger engagement of civil society in the lead up to the Summit, as well as briefings for United Nations Information Centres, Resident Coordinator's offices and Country Teams, and special sessions with the civil society focal points across the UN System, as part of the recommendations in the OCA report.

It is precisely in the OCA that United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres asks Member States to give serious consideration to greater engagement with civil society and to expanding the civic space at the United Nations "in keeping our quest for a multilateralism that is more networked, inclusive, and effective" (OCA, paragraph 130). The report is intended to be a wake-up call to speed up implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



The OCA also provides recommendations to address strategic gaps in global governance arrangements and calls for a Summit of the Future to forge a new global consensus on multilateral solutions to current and future problems.

Host Country and Theme

The Department of Global Communications (DGC) has convened, in collaboration with civil society organizations, sixty-eight civil society conferences since 1947. Until 2007, the conference took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York. In 2008, the conference was hosted in Paris, France. Since then, the conference has been held in Mexico City, Mexico (2009); Melbourne, Australia (2010); Bonn, Germany (2011); Gyeongju, Republic of Korea (2016); and Salt Lake City, United States (2019).

In considering the host country and theme for the next civil society conference, DGC recalled the request made to Member States to focus on Africa, as expressed in Resolution 1297 of the Economic and Social Council. DGC also thought it important to build on the work carried out in implementing the OCA recommendations, particularly DGC's leadership in fulfilling recommendation #64 - identifying civil society focal points across the UN System.

The recommendation aimed to create the space necessary for civil society actors to make contributions at the country and global levels, as well as within United Nations meetings, networks, processes, and arrangements. (OCA paragraph 121). Conversations between the Director of the Outreach Division in DGC and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) led to a preliminary agreement that UNON would be the ideal place to convene the conference.

As part of following through on OCA, and recognizing the potential for engagement ahead of the Summit of the Future in September 2024, it was decided that, in collaboration with the Summit co-facilitators, the next UN Civil Society Conference

would support preparations for the Summit. The Summit is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance.

The Summit is also intended to reaffirm existing commitments, including to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the United Nations Charter, and to move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system positioned to positively impact people's lives. For DGC, it is a continuation of its role in mobilizing non-state actors and other stakeholders in support of the Summit of the Future, with the goal of building on the momentum of the 2030 Agenda.

Such a mobilization is taking place within the framework of the global conversation on the future of our planet and is engaging key actors implementing these efforts at the grassroots level. The Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) led the accreditation of organizations in accordance with the General Assembly's resolution and as requested by the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) and EOSG.

This included creation and dissemination of communications materials informing about the Summit, as well as engagement opportunities for civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, and other relevant organizations. NGLS guides these entities through the process to enable their engagement in the intergovernmental event. Following the circulation and approval of the list of these organizations, NGLS opened registration for the representatives of accredited organizations for the Summit of the Future.

This call, aimed at inclusive and meaningful participation, advances civil society's participation in the Summit in September, as well as the call for expressions of interest in speaking opportunities outlined in the Summit modalities, specifically for stakeholder participation in the interactive dialogues occurring alongside the Plenary.



Concept Note

Civil society plays a fundamental role in shaping a future that, today more than ever, needs multilateral approaches to ensure an inclusive, sustainable, and safe society for all. Since 1947, sixty-eight United Nations-supported civil society conferences have taken place. Growing out of these interactions with civil society organizations over the years, the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future was held in Nairobi on 9 and 10 May.

The Summit of the Future will take place on 22 and 23 September at United Nations Headquarters in New York, resulting in an inter-governmental Pact for the Future, annexed with a Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact, which all hope to deliver a United Nations for people and planet in the 21st century and beyond. The convergence of these processes represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strategize the path forward for the United Nations and the global community, aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Civil society is an essential partner in the global endeavor to come up with solutions and approaches from all sectors in society, in a spirit

of collaboration and networked and inclusive multilateralism. The conference in Nairobi aimed to achieve three main objectives, as follows:

- > **INCLUSIVE:** Increase awareness, ambition, and accountability for the Summit of the Future beyond New York and support the amplification of diverse voices and initiatives for an inclusive Pact for the Future.
- > **IMPACTFUL:** Build multi-stakeholder ImpACT coalitions consisting of Member States, civil society, academia, think tanks, foundations, and the private sector, to champion, act on, and push forward specific issue areas or important reforms proposed in the Pact's consensus language. These coalitions seek both to raise the expectations of the Pact for the Future and encourage implementation and action.
- > **INNOVATIVE:** Innovate the way civil society interacts with intergovernmental processes, to showcase an effective model of intergenerational cooperation and solidarity, championing diverse expertise, and introducing new elements in a civil society-hosted multi-stakeholder forum.

Day 1

9 May 2024

08:00 - 09:00 **Stakeholders Group Caucus**

09:00 - 10:00 **Opening Session**

10:00 - 10:15 **Break**

10:15 - 14:30 **Workshops**

14:30 - 14:45 **Break**

14:45 - 15:45 **Civil Society Recommendations on the 5 Chapters of the Pact for the Future, Declaration on Future Generations, and Global Digital Compact**

15:45 - 17:30 **Interactive Dialogue on the 5 Chapters of the Pact for the Future, Declaration on Future Generations, Global Digital Compact, and Cross-cutting Issues**

18:00 - 20:00 **Welcome Reception**

Day 2

10 May 2024

08:00 - 09:00 **Stakeholders Group Caucus**

09:00 - 10:00 **Interactive Dialogue: Looking ahead to the Summit and Beyond**

10:30 - 10:45 **Break**

10:45 - 12:15 **ImPACT Coalitions 1**

12:30 - 14:00 **ImPACT Coalitions 2**

14:00 - 14:45 **Incubation period for ImPACT Coalitions**

14:45 - 15:00 **Break**

15:00 - 16:00 **Closing Town Hall**

16:00 - 17:30 **Closing Session**



2024 UNITED NATIONS
**CIVIL SOCIETY
CONFERENCE**

MAY 9 - 10 | NAIROBI, KENYA

Opening Session

"Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress"

Opening Session

Overview

On 9 May 2024, the Opening Plenary Session kicked off the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference organized under the theme “Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress.” Speakers highlighted the importance of convening the conference in the Global South, taking place for the first time on the African continent.

Welcoming remarks were made by several United Nations officials, including Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Maher Nasser, Director of the Outreach Division in the United Nations Department of Global Communications, who also served as the Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair; and Guy Ryder, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy. In addition, Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, participated via a video message.

Also participating virtually through a pre-recorded message was His Excellency Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. From the civil society community, the two Conference Co-Chairs took the floor, namely Carole Ageng’o, Global Initiatives Lead for HelpAge International, and Nudhara Yusuf, Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center.

The two keynote speakers from civil society were Karimot Odebode, Member of the 2022 Cohort of Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals, and Florence Syevuo, Executive Director of the SDGs Kenya Forum. Both stressed the critical role of civil society as a key stakeholder in the intergovernmental processes within the United Nations and beyond, particularly given the existing global challenges and the need to accelerate the path towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENTS AND VIDEO MESSAGES

Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, said that the conference was a unique opportunity for global civil society and multi-stakeholder engagement, and an additional platform to contribute to the negotiations on the Pact for the Future, thereby being a vital prelude to the Summit. Ms. Bangura also said that civil society represents and advances peoples’ aspirations across countries, regions, continents, and around the world. On that note, she asked participants to make their voices heard and collaborate towards meaningful outcomes for the world’s more vulnerable populations.

Maher Nasser, Director of the Outreach Division in the United Nations Department of Global Communications and Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, highlighted that the UN had never organized a civil society conference that attracted this level of interest. He pointed out that over 3,600 civil society representatives and around 400 representatives from governments, international organizations, and the UN were registered. Civil society, he stressed, embodies the opening words of the UN Charter, “We the Peoples of the United Nations,” and its voices reinforce the values and principles on which the Organization was created.

Carole Ageng’o, Global Initiatives Lead for HelpAge International and Conference Co-Chair, commented that while the organization of the event in the Global South is noteworthy, there was an underlying inequality and lack of inclusion. She argued that civil society representatives from this region faced challenges in accessing previous conferences. She said that organizers had put a premium on inclusion in the conceptualization, preparation for, and participation in this event. She also said that civil society in the Global South should use its numerical strength to collaborate for more significant impact, looking strategically and radically towards the Summit.

Nudhara Yusuf, Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center and Conference Co-Chair, emphasized that the Summit of the Future is a critical moment. She called for civil society to demonstrate ambition and innovation, raising the bar on multilateralism, and rethinking how it works. In Ms. Yusuf’s view, civil society must be open to “push the envelope” on how it engages with inter-governmental processes and the actions it can take. She reiterated the importance of the conference’s follow-up ahead of the Summit and beyond, and the convening of so many participants engaging, mobilizing, and generating impact.

Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, in a video message, underscored that civil society works tirelessly to advance the Organization’s goals. The conference, she said, was a testament to civil society’s strong voice despite rising threats and shrinking space, and she reaffirmed that the Summit must resonate with civil society’s priorities, concerns, and expectations while accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. That opportunity could be seized with civil society’s engagement, which is why its views are essential. Civil society must help to “connect the changes



we need to see in multilateralism with the changes people need to see in their lives,” she added.

Karimot Odebode, Member of the 2022 Cohort of Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals, said that the conference was an urgent gathering to commit to building another roadmap to a sustainable future. She said that when talking about shaping a future of global and sustainable progress, it is vital to acknowledge the critical point where we are now. She highlighted that civil society leaders have a responsibility to lead the way in shaping such a future and that the 2030 Agenda was not just a to-do list but a reality to which civil society must commit. As we move forward to the Summit, she called “on all actors to work alongside civil society.”

Guy Ryder, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy, said the conference was a vital step in the journey towards the Summit, considering civil society’s commitment, insights, and persistent and principled calls for action. Civil society, he explained, has played a crucial role on the road to the Summit, and the path to it offers continued opportunities to build new forms of cooperation among all stakeholders, including through the ImpACT Coalitions. In this regard, he highlighted the Summit’s Action Days, enabling additional actions and commitments and showcasing partnerships across regions and sectors.

Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, through a video message, said that the conference would help shape the Summit of the Future, which aims to provide a pivotal moment to forge a new global consensus. He affirmed that civil society was indispensable in mobilizing affected communities, advocating solidarity and accountability, and driving inclusive progress. He also commented on the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach and sustained engagement and collaboration for the critical implementation phase of the Summit’s outcomes.

Florence Syevuo, Executive Director of the SDGs Kenya Forum, said that the conference would catalyze civil society’s engagement in sustainable development, given the critical juncture and the impact of climate change, as well as the need for concerted action and resilience-building measures. In her view, the complex issues at hand require a unified approach to leverage the strengths and expertise of all stakeholders, in addition to a civil society that drives meaningful change and supports collaboration across sectors, while championing solidarity and justice.



Statement by Zainab Hawa Bangura

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi

It gives me the greatest pleasure to warmly welcome you all to our magnificent and environmentally friendly UNON Gigiri complex, where the ‘greening the blue’ initiative comes vibrantly to life!

First, in the context of the recent heavy floods experienced in Kenya that have ravaged the country and the broader East Africa region, I would like to extend the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ message of support and condolences

to the Governments and people of the countries affected, especially the families of those who have lost loved ones or sustained injuries as a result of the floods.

The United Nations and its partners are working very closely with national authorities to address humanitarian requirements. Our thoughts remain with those that have been affected.

UNON, as the only UN Headquarters office in the Global South and the largest UN compound in the world at 140 acres, is particularly honored to host this 69th Civil Society Conference here in Nairobi, as it is the first time it is being held in Africa! This conference provides a unique opportunity for global civil society and multi-stakeholder engagement and an additional platform to contribute to the negotiations of the Pact for the Future. The conference is therefore a vital prelude to the world leaders' Summit of the Future, scheduled to take place in September 2024 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Civil society plays a fundamental role in shaping a future that, today more than ever, needs multilateral approaches to ensure an inclusive, sustainable, and safe society for all.

As a former civil society leader in my own country, Sierra Leone, I personally know the importance of the critical role civil society plays in representing and advancing the aspirations of peoples across countries, regions, continents and around the world. I therefore encourage each and every delegation here present to make its voice heard and collaborate towards meaningful outcomes for the more vulnerable populations of the world.

As the main service provider to the global operations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Habitat and the Resident Coordinator System in 165 countries around the world, UNON remains a key partner in supporting

UN operations globally and a trailblazer in its sustainability walk, being the first-ever UN Secretariat entity to be awarded the prestigious ISO 14001 certificate in January 2023 for environmental management.

Similarly, as part of the Secretary-General's Efficiency Agenda, UNON became the first pilot of the Common Back Office (CBO) initiative which went live on 01 January 2024 - a strategic shift towards greater operational coherence and efficacy among the UN's many agencies based in Kenya, to better support programmatic engagement and delivery to those who need our services most.

UNON is currently undergoing a historical transformation that will not only boost our journey towards energy neutrality, but also biodiversity with the complex-wide reforestation initiative launched by the Secretary-General exactly 1 year ago. Also bringing much-needed improvements to the UNON complex infrastructure are two key capital construction projects. First, is the replacement of office blocks A-J, which includes the refurbishing of all existing office blocks as well as the construction of six new office blocks. Second, is the significant planned upgrade of our conference facilities coined the Gigiri Master Plan (GMP). With a combined value of approximately USD 340 million, these two projects represent the single largest capital investment undertaken by the UN Secretariat to date in Africa.

I take this opportunity to thank Member States for their unwavering support to date, as well as acknowledge the Government of Kenya for its continued collaboration and significant contributions toward this milestone effort in the form of road network and infrastructure improvements in, around and leading to the Gigiri area.

Once again, allow me to welcome you all to our beautiful Gigiri complex, and I wish you very successful deliberations.



Statement by Maher Nasser

Director of the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Global Communications and Co-Chair, 2024 UN Civil Society Conference

Last week's heavy rains and flooding left death and havoc across Kenya and neighboring countries - extreme weather conditions once again demonstrated that the impact of climate change is harming the least responsible for creating the climate crisis. On behalf of all of us coming to Nairobi for the Conference, I extend deep condolences to the victims and solidarity with the impacted communities.

We have never organized a conference of this size, or that attracted this level of interest, in such a short period of time.

Yet, here we are, over 3,600 civil society representatives from 2,750 entities registered, along with around 400 representatives of 64 governments, 7 intergovernmental organizations, 37 UN entities, and over 100 media reporters. 70% of those registered are from Africa and 40% of all registrations are youth, in the age group 18 to 34.

I started my day in the early hours yesterday with a fun run organized by the local committee that included a warm-up led by none other than Captain Warm-up – but as you are not here to run,

the warm-up I suggest is to ensure that we listen to each other, respect the time allocated for each session and to the extent possible, be on time. We have a packed agenda to go through over the next two days, and I hope that your expectations from this conference are achieved.

(Following the welcome remarks by the Director-General of UNON:)

The five minutes I have are insufficient to provide a detailed account of how we got here and why this conference matters, but suffice it to say that everyone I approached about organizing a Civil Society Conference in support of the Summit of the Future as a key platform for meaningful engagement and inclusion encouraged the idea, and even more so when I said we should do it in Nairobi.

But encouragement and words needed to be accompanied by funding - to cover the costs associated with organizing a conference and to ensure that attendance was not limited to those who can afford to travel and attend it.

That is why we are grateful to the European Union, the Government of Denmark, the Ford Foundation, and the UN Foundation for their generous financial support, without which we would not have been able to convene this conference. Thank you.

Similarly, we are grateful to Director-General Bangura, UNON, UNEP, UN Habitat, and our own UNIS for their unfettered support in hosting us here. Thank you.

No less important, if not even more so, we are very grateful to the civil society partners who have worked with us as part of the planning process, the co-chairs of the conference, sub-committee co-chairs and all member of the planning committee and volunteers. Without their contributions, generosity with time and ideas, we would not be here. Thank you.

We are also very grateful and appreciative of the presence here with us of the co-facilitators of the Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future

Generations, and the Global Digital Compact, and the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and the team from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and other senior leaders from across the United Nations system. Your presence here with us and openness to engage with civil society representatives on these important issues is in itself a sign of success for the conference. Thank you.

To give you an idea of what is on the minds of those who registered for the conference, my colleagues shared interesting data with me last night.

Over 80% of registrants reported working with vulnerable groups. Over 60% of registrants identify as human rights defenders.

Climate was the top issue for youth registrants. Those over 35 years old identified gender as the top issue. The third most identified topic of interest was youth/children. There are more details in the report prepared by NGLS that we would be happy to share with those interested in looking into this further. The data is broken up by region, age, gender, and so on.

As you prepare to engage in today and tomorrow's discussions, please remember that today is yesterday's tomorrow and last year's future.

If we are to look back at today's problems and challenges, what would we, what should we, have done differently to avoid them? What lessons can we learn from not paying early attention to issues that have come down to haunt us?

Carbon and greenhouse gas emissions - climate change. Rising income inequalities and persistent gender inequalities, selective application of the rule of law and the resulting erosion of the universality of such concepts.

Before I joined the United Nations in Gaza in 1987, I worked for civil society organizations focused on development and human rights, so this conference takes me back to how I started my career after university. Civil society is the embodiment

of the opening words of the Charter of the United Nations, "We the Peoples of the United Nations". You are here because you care, we are here because we believe that your voice reinforces the values and principles on which the United Nations was created to uphold and champion. Do not waver in your advocacy and actions to hold us and everyone in power accountable.

And now, and in keeping with the tradition we have had over the past sixty-eight civil society conferences organized by the Department, I now step back from my role as Co-Chair of the Planning Committee and hand over to the Co-Chairs to deliver their welcoming and opening remarks. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Carole Ageng'o and Ms. Nudhara Yusuf.



Statement by Carole Ageng'o

Global Initiatives Lead and Africa Regional Representative for HelpAge International and Co-Chair, 2024 UN Civil Society Conference

Allow me to add my voice and register my solidarity with my compatriots affected by the devastating floods that we been experienced over the last few weeks. Karibuni Nairobi, the green city in the Sun. Welcome to our beautiful continent, Africa.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference as it makes its first stop in the Global South. We are standing on the land of immense diversity and wealth, creativity and resilience, hospitality, culture, and sport.

Whereas the arrival of this conference in the Global South is noteworthy, I would be remiss if I did not mention the underlying inequality and lack of inclusion that this reality represents. Civil society representatives from the Global South have undoubtedly faced challenges in accessing previous conferences for various reasons including visas.

Reflecting on this, we have put a premium on inclusion in the conceptualization, preparation for, and participation in the conference.

To prepare for the conference my Co-Chair Nudhara and I set up a Planning Committee consisting of ten sub-committees, whose diversity is inspiring in terms of gender, geography, disability, age, and themes of interest. We further conceptualized inclusivity in our three objectives that seek to level up inclusion, impact, and innovation.

Today and tomorrow will, in addition to the meetings here in UNON, see sixteen online events that add on to several others that took place in the lead up to this momentous day. The workshops cover the broad range of issues and themes and will be delivered by organizations from the across the globe in all our diversity. We have also facilitated and supported several activations, participated in a range of meetings around the world to ensure that the conference concept reached as many people as possible.

Yesterday, we held a successful youth activation alongside a Kenya Mobilization Day for civil society organizations that saw the participation of over 400 delegates from around the country. In terms of participation, the conference received over 4,000 applications from around the globe.

In seeking inclusivity, I reflect on an Akan proverb that says it is only by the strength of their numbers that the ants in the field can carry their prey to the

nest. We must therefore as a globe, as organizations in the Global South, unleash the power that sits in our numerical strength to collaborate for greater impact strategically and radically as we look towards the Summit of the Future.



Statement by Nudhara Yusuf

Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center and Co-Chair, 2024 UN Civil Society Conference

Jambo! Let me first stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Kenya who have suffered deeply from the recent flooding. And acknowledging the many around the world who are amidst crisis and reminding us of, every day, why the need for change our lowest hanging fruit for consensus is.

I look out at this room and am reminded of a saying we have in Tamil, Yaadhum Oorey Yaavarum Kelir – which means, every country is the people's country, and all peoples are our people's. I am sure I speak for Carole too when I say we are thankful – really – for the staggering numbers of people who have dedicated their time and energy to organize around this moment and be here today, online or in person. This right here, this... is we the peoples.

When we were appointed co-chairs of this conference back in February, Carole and I were tasked

with convening, in about nine weeks, a meeting that meaningfully and intentionally supported the Summit of the Future process. It is safe to say it has been a sprint and a marathon at the same time, and we are overwhelmed by the drive, enthusiasm, patience (sometimes forgiveness), and many times encouragement from every individual that has engaged in the process of this conference.

I think many of us are here because we know the Summit of the Future is a critical moment. The ask that civil society has had to Member States in the Summit and its outcomes has been one of ambition and innovation. To raise the bar on multilateralism. To genuinely rethink the way multilateralism works.

So, when tasked to design a conference that supported such a process, we realized we need to practice what we preach. We, as civil society, must also be willing and open to push the envelope on how we engage with multilateral and intergovernmental processes. How do we make our biggest statement not just one of what we expect, but what we can offer to a process.

This fundamental idea is in every ounce of the organized-chaotic-glory we will see unfold over the next two days. We have thirty-eight onsite workshops, as well as additional online workshops, twenty impact coalitions, around fifty exhibits, the intergenerational hub, the media zone, and so much more that has unfolded ahead of this conference through offsite events, briefings, local mobilization day and all the other processes civil society groups have embarked on toward the Summit of the Future that are bringing with them to this space.

What we hope to start over the next 48 hours is the story of what happens next. What happens between May and September, and what happens after September. A story of inclusion, innovation, and impact, in a civil society convened space where no matter what entrance you use at the UN, today we join together as participants, people

who care about the types of ancestors we are, to engage, mobilize, and generate impact.

Day one of this conference is PACT day where workshops will focus on the themes of the chapters in the Pact for the Future and annexed Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations, and day two is ImPACT day where ImPACT coalitions will bring together champion civil society, academia, think tanks, UN entities, member states, those already leading processes, and others, around specific ideas in the Summit of the Future and its outcomes.

Look, this conference is a process. It is new, we are trying something different, and we are so thankful to all of you willing to try that with us. We just convened the space. You are going to be the people and have been the people that make that space meaningful. Welcome, have fun!



Video Message by Amina Mohammed
United Nations Deputy Secretary-General

I am happy to join you virtually at the first United Nations Civil Society Conference on the African continent. Let me begin by expressing my deep condolences to the victims of the devastating floods here in Kenya and reiterating the United Nation's continued commitment to supporting the Government of Kenya in this challenging time.

Let me also lend my voice to the Secretary-General's call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, and safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid.

Friends,

“We the Peoples” – the powerful opening of the UN Charter – is a commitment to come together for the benefit of all peoples. It is also a commitment by governments to establish an organization that works for and with the peoples of the world.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will join your deliberations, underlining the deep connection between civil society and the United Nations.

Every day, civil society groups around the world work tirelessly to advance the goals of the United Nations. You fight for global justice, for social justice and for climate justice. For peace, for gender equality, for human rights and for the SDGs. You stand in solidarity with the vulnerable and the marginalized. And you work hand-in-hand with UN agencies, UN Country Teams, UN missions, and UN bodies.

This conference is a testament to the strong voice of civil society, despite rising threats and shrinking space. It also reaffirms that the upcoming Summit of the Future must resonate with your priorities, your concerns and your expectations.

Dear friends,

September's Summit is a generational opportunity to update international institutions and build a more inclusive multilateralism that serves the interests of all peoples. That helps accelerate SDG progress. And that better responds to new and emerging challenges – on peace and security; on reforming the global financial architecture; on digital governance and more.

But that opportunity can only be seized with your active engagement. Between now and September, we need your views and active participation.

We need a movement for the people and by the people.

I urge you to fully engage with Member States and leaders in New York and in capitals. To join forces with your civil society colleagues across regions and causes. To connect the changes, we need to see in multilateralism with the changes people need to see in their daily lives. And most of all, to make your voice count now and for the future.

In the words of Madiba: “It always seems impossible until it's done.” Thank you for your unwavering commitment. I wish you all the success at this conference.



Statement by Karimot Odebode

Member of the 2022 Cohort of
Young Leaders for the SDGs

My name is Karimot Odebode, and I am one of the seventeen Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals recognized by the United Nations, and most importantly, a young person leading a civil society organization in Nigeria.

It is a pleasure and honor to be delivering the civil society keynote for the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference here in Nairobi Kenya. As a relatively young person, I take this role seriously

- as an opportunity to convey the dream and hope for the future that we want.

To this, I say Karibuni, Ekaabo, Bienvenue, you are welcome.

Today, we are gathered here as a matter of urgency, to commit to building another roadmap to a sustainable future.

When we talk about shaping a future of global and sustainable progress, it is important to recognize and acknowledge the critical point that we are at the moment. We need to look around, at how the progress we have spent years at, undoing before our own eyes.

As civil society leaders, we have a unique responsibility to lead the way in shaping this future of global and sustainable progress.

Today, we are faced with an urgent humanitarian crisis across the world, from girls denied education in Afghanistan, to civil unrest in Sudan, to genocide in Palestine, to people displaced from their homes in Northern Nigeria to an urgent climate crisis in Kenya, Somalia, and Yemen.

I need us to pause for a minute, and ask ourselves - are we truly on the pathway to shaping a future of global and sustainable progress?

It is less than a decade - to be exact six years to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda is not just a to-do list, it is a reality we need to commit to. Achieving global and sustainable progress requires more than just grand promises; it requires concrete actions and tangible results.

As we move forward to the Summit of the Future, I call on all actors to work alongside civil society across the world. Getting to the goal requires a multilateral approach. For international organizations, the government should join hands together with civil society to build a sustainable society today and tomorrow.

This year and going forward - it is a multilateral solution for a better tomorrow. I urge you all to remember that none of us is equal until all of us are equal. No future is safe until all futures are safe. No country is safe until all countries are safe. It is our collective effort to build this global and sustainable future.

As we go on to deliberate, we should ask ourselves - How do we cooperate better to deliver on our aspirations and goals? How do we meet the needs of today while also preparing for tomorrow?

I want to hand my civil society keynote speech with a poem titled "The Journey Ahead":

Today,
We come together as one
Irrespective of gender or age.
Country and religion
We come as a coalition of people
Who wants a future that is worth
leaving for generations to come

Today,
We come as one
As a voice
As the ears and eyes of over
7 billion people across Mother Earth

Today,
We come as one
To shape the future that is sustainable
A future free of violence, hun-
ger and climate crises

Today,
We sit around the table
Putting pen to papers
Pushing voices out of our mouth
And clamoring for a sustainable future
And a better today

The journey ahead is not a walk in the park
It is not just grand promises
It is action and collaboration
Like my people would say

Agbajowo la fi gberu dori, ajeji owo
kan ki n gberu dori (yoruba proverb)
A single stick of broom can
never sweep a room clean
So let us commit
To multilateral approach to peace
To sustainability
To progress
My generation is tired
We want real change
Are you ready to commit to peace
Are you ready
because I commit
Do you commit?



Statement by Guy Ryder

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy

Good morning to you all. It is truly a privilege to be here in Nairobi and at this conference, above all to witness the power of activism and partnership, evident in this room.

My first words are words of sympathy, solidarity and support to the Government and people of Kenya in the wake of the terrible flooding that struck the country. And I want to thank our

co-chairs, Carole Ageng'o and Nudhara Yusuf for their leadership as we open this 69th United Nations Civil Society Conference. Thanks also to the organizing committee for all their work and the generous contributions that have supported participation and made the conference possible.

This level of participation is extraordinarily encouraging, and I want to recognize particularly the presence of the co-facilitators of the Summit of the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact, as well as other Member States. Thank you for coming, your presence adds value and meaning to the proceedings. And above all, thanks to every single one of our civil society representatives and organizations.

Let's be clear. The next two days are a vital step in our journey towards the Summit of the Future in September and towards a better future. Vital because your commitment and your insights, your persistent and principled calls for action are indispensable to the decisions and the processes that lie ahead.

We are all acutely aware that we need to work together if we are to have any chance of meeting today's global challenges: ongoing conflicts, escalating geopolitical tensions, multiplying humanitarian crises, rising inequalities, mistrust, the threats posed by the unregulated advancement of technologies, the climate emergency and so much more. We need cooperation and we need solidarity at all levels and for that we need systems, institutions and mindsets that are up to the task and that reflect contemporary realities.

And at the same time this is exactly why we need to realize the extraordinary opportunities — let's not forget them — that our fast-changing world offers, opportunities in particular to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the United Nations Secretary-General has said repeatedly: today's world demands a more effective, more inclusive and networked

multilateralism. The Summit of the Future in September is our opportunity to shape just that. A once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Civil society has played a fundamental role on the road to the Summit. The path from this conference to September's summit offers continued opportunities to build new forms of cooperation between the United Nations, its Member States and you, the peoples, the entirety of the global community.

At the Summit itself, facilitated by Germany and Namibia, world leaders will come together to forge an international consensus and to agree a Pact for the Future. A Pact which needs to be high on impact, on ambition and on action.

As you are aware, it will focus on five 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.

Poverty eradication, human rights and gender will cut across each and every one of these issues.

Do not forget that two vital documents will be annexed to the Pact: A Declaration on Future Generations, facilitated by Jamaica and the Netherlands; and a Global Digital Compact, facilitated by Zambia and Sweden.

Your work and the discussions today around the Pact for the Future and its annexes will continue to inform these intergovernmental processes. And the ImpACT Coalitions can take us further giving us real examples of what this inclusive, networked multilateralism actually looks like and how it can function to make the commitments of the Pact become a reality, and more particularly, how these agreements can and must impact people's lives across the world.

Between now and September, we need to keep working together through the ImpACT Coalitions and your other diverse networks, championing ideas and driving up ambition.

And the Summit of the Future Action Days, which will take place immediately before the Summit itself on the 20th and 21st of September, is one way that we can do just this.

These two days are designed to bring you together with Member States, the private sector, academia, local and regional authorities, creative communities, young people, and many more.

They are to be organized around the themes of digital and technology; peace and security; and sustainable development and financing, with a particular emphasis on youth leadership.

Colleagues,

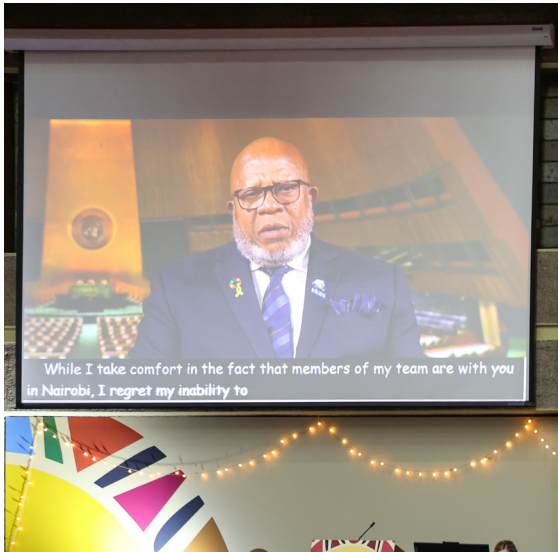
We want these Action Days to spur additional action and commitments and showcase partnerships across regions and sectors, and we are counting on you to help us make that happen.

According to the agreed modalities for the Summit itself, there will be opportunities for you to participate in the opening segment and the planned interactive dialogues. So let me use this opportunity to urge and encourage all of you -and particularly young people- to get involved in all of these.

I thank the co-facilitators for their readiness to create spaces for discussion and participation throughout the Summit.

And let me again encourage all of you, civil society representatives here today to ramp up the engagement with your governments in the run-up to September. Governments need to hear what you have to say, they need your inputs and guidance, and they need to feel your determination to achieve truly meaningful results at the Summit.

The United Nations system is here to support you -our agencies, our programs, our Resident Coordinators and our Country Teams. Please, reach out and let's work together to make the most of the fantastic opportunity before us.



Video Message by His Excellency Dennis Francis
President of the 78th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

Warm greetings to you all – energized participants in this milestone 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference.

At the outset, I express my sincere gratitude to Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Global Communications, Melissa Fleming, for your kind invitation to participate in this most important Conference.

While I take comfort in the fact that members of my team are with you in Nairobi, I regret my inability to attend in-person, due to other conflicting commitments. Be assured however of my keen interest in the conference’s agenda and indeed in its outcome.

It is no exaggeration that this important gathering is poised to shape the highly anticipated Summit of the Future in September – a monumental opportunity at the United Nations to redefine our collective path towards a sustainable, just, and prosperous world.

The Summit provides a pivotal moment for us to work in unison to forge a new global consensus – driving transformative action that will mobilize

and scale up support for accelerated progress towards the completion of the SDGs and other related commitments. You – civil society organizations, youth change makers, academia, public opinion-makers, and media – are indispensable in mobilizing affected communities on the ground, advocating for solidarity and accountability, and driving inclusive progress.

Your advocacy, dedication and commitment to serve humanity in the far-flung corners of the globe is very much appreciated – as we all strive to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

At a time when our multilateral system and international cooperation faces major obstacles, the significance of the Summit of the Future as a critical juncture to revitalize – and even to restructure global multilateral frameworks to be more inclusive, flexible effective, and equitable – cannot be underestimated.

However, with the best of intentions, such an undertaking cannot be fulfilled by Member States acting alone – it requires a multi-stakeholder approach – an all-hands-on-deck effort, in unrelenting pursuit of our shared well-being and shared future.

For the Summit to serve as a catalyst for impactful global action, we need robust collaboration and buy-in from those directly affected to drive its action-oriented outcomes: namely, the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, if inter-governmentally agreed – and we need you, civil society, to play a critical role in this process. But our journey must continue past the convening of the Summit itself – into the crucial implementation phase, which will also require your sustained engagement and collaboration among all stakeholders beyond governments.

Dear friends and colleagues,

As you embark into your two-day intensive work program, let me conclude by inviting you to be thorough in your reflections – unleashing your

usual candor, as steadfast advocates for our multilateral system in the service of those in need and support. In doing so, we count on your contribution to safeguard inclusivity in the preparations and outcomes of this important Summit – ensuring a people-centered outcome, that prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable, with gender and youth perspectives, in the true spirit of leaving no one behind.

And with this, I reiterate my gratitude to the co-facilitators – the Permanent Representatives of Namibia, Germany, the Netherlands, Jamaica, Sweden and Zambia for their dedication to engaging with Member States, civil society and other stakeholders throughout the three tracks of this Summit process. I eagerly await the outcomes of your deliberations – and you can all count on my full support to ensure that your important voices are not ignored or overlooked. Together, let us direct our efforts towards achieving transformative change – crafting an indelible legacy of peace, progress, prosperity and sustainability for the present and future generations.



Statement by Florence Syevuo

Executive Director of the SDGs Kenya Forum

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and Karibu sana (Most welcome to Nairobi and bravo for

traveling to Kenya despite the ongoing heavy rains). Allow me to stand on existing protocol. During this historical gathering Let's observe a moment of silence for the lives lost due to the heavy rains in Kenya and many other parts of the world.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this pivotal gathering aimed at catalyzing collaboration and reinforcing civil society organizations' engagement in sustainable development. As we convene here today, let us take cognizance of the fact that our generation stands at a critical juncture, where every action we take can significantly shape the trajectory of our shared planet. Let us also recognize that the urgency to address climate change has never been more tangible, particularly as our country Kenya and many others grapple with the devastating impacts of flooding, underscoring the imperative for concerted action and resilience-building measures. Experts' prediction in the current Kenya's case, it's highly likely that the positive Indian Ocean Dipole and climate change explain the ongoing flood-inducing rainfall. Ladies and gentlemen, these are the effects of our human interaction with the planet and a major reminder of why the outcome of this conference really matters.

I speak to you today on behalf of the Local Host Committee for the United Nations Civil Society Conference, the Coalition for Sustainable Development (SDGs Kenya Forum) – a coalition of civil society organizations championing sustainable development with the ambition of leaving no one behind– and as a Co-Chair of the Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN), an independent global civil society platform dedicated to bringing together civil society organizations and other stakeholders to advance and follow-up to the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" report and other related processes designed to strengthen the United Nations system. At the midway mark towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, it is imperative for us to reflect on our collective efforts and brace our commitment towards these global targets. While

significant strides have been made, there is still much ground to cover. The challenges we currently face are multi-faceted and complex, ranging from climate change and poverty to gender inequality and access to quality education.

These issues thus require a unified approach, one that leverages the strengths and expertise of all stakeholders, including government, private sector, academia, and civil society. From a civil society perspective, the desired outcome by the organizers of the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference taking place today recognizes that this year provides a turning point for multilateralism and the institutions mandated to advance international cooperation on global problems. This Nairobi summit makes a great deal of sense and will lead to a number of ImPACT coalitions that will provide organized civil society advocacy vehicles to support Pact for the Future commitments as well as other measures to strengthen global cooperation.

We recognize in this Summit the opportunity - what the United Nations Secretary-General describes as a "once in a generation opportunity" - to strengthen the system. But the question civil society organizations need to ask is whether the commitments depicted in the proposed Pact for the Future (and its two associated outcome documents, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations) are commensurate with the challenges we are facing in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and responding to the growing menu of global challenges.

We welcome the proposed language in the draft Pact for the Future that anticipates a Summit implementation phase and stock-taking during the 80th session of the General Assembly. Anticipating a longer timeline for implementation now, while negotiations are ongoing, enables more ambitious outcomes at the Summit and afterward. We are delighted that so many foundations, Governments and United Nations agencies have prioritized their attendance to join civil society organizations in this Nairobi summit. We urge

that all participants take forward sharing the conference outcomes in your respective countries in the weeks and months following the conference and in New York before-during the Summit of the Future in September. In a world grappling with complex challenges and growing divisions, civil society can and should be the dynamic force capable of driving change that is meaningful, supporting collaboration across sectors, and championing the values of solidarity and justice. We are in for the long haul. Our hard labor is of great essence to this process.

Why the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference matters:

1. Call to address global governance inequalities once and for all. To date 68 similar conferences have been held in the Global North. This clearly showcases the need to address global governance inequalities that we are well aware of between the Global North and Global South. Let's put a stop to power dynamics that have kept millions of generations in deep poverty.
2. Nothing for us without us. For the first time in history 70% of participants in the United Nations Civil Society Conference are from Africa. Those who have been left before outside of the New York bubble can now participate and actualize. Inclusivity, diversity, innovation and advocacy for locally owned and driven sustainable development processes.

As I conclude, in Swahili and native languages, a good number of African proverbs push for unity, devotion and solidarity. As it is the first time in Africa, cradle of mankind, may this conference inspire our individual and collective spirits for joint meaningful action to provide equal opportunities for all humanity. Let it be on record that the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference was a landmark in solving the world's persistent challenges in our generation.



Workshops



On site

Related to Chapter 1 of the Pact for the Future

1. A New Global Deal to Implement the Sustainable Development Goals

Organized by	Stakeholders Group Caucus
Description	This panel discussed how global governance reforms should inform a “New Global Deal”, to enable countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), considering the slow pace of the 2030 Agenda implementation and with a view to the Pact for the Future. It also touched upon social and digital policies.
#WeCommit	To undertake reflection for the benefit of all and to promote the human principles of freedom, equality, solidarity, democracy, and respect of human rights.
Recommendations	A “New Global Deal” is needed to enable all generations to improve their future. The current global challenges can only be overcome with a new development model entailing the convergence of countries and people towards better living and sustainable development standards.

2. A Seat at the Table for 1 Billion Persons with Disabilities: Building a Truly Inclusive Future for All

Organized by	International Disability Alliance
Description	This session focused on how we can collectively advance a future that is inclusive of persons with disabilities. It brought together organizations of persons with disabilities, NGOs, and UN agencies, and highlighted innovative ways to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities, including youth with disabilities.
#WeCommit	To advance accessible, inclusive, and meaningful participation of diverse persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all development and humanitarian processes, from decision-making to implementation – not just as beneficiaries but as equal partners.
Recommendations	Ensure consistent, systematic, and deliberate inclusion of persons with disabilities. Guarantee specific and targeted funding for persons with disabilities in international cooperation. Create avenues for youth with disabilities to build an inclusive future. Acknowledge the disability-gap in technology, data, and financing. Provide access as a precondition for meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities.

3. Building Resilient Communities: Rethinking Humanitarian Support and Care Initiatives for Sustainable Development in Africa

Organized by	Oxfam International and Oxfam Africa
Description	The workshop focused on reimagining humanitarian support and care initiatives in Africa for sustainable development. Participants explored innovative strategies to empower communities, address challenges, and promote long-term resilience. The session aimed to foster collaboration and catalyze positive change in the region.
#WeCommit	To advance accessible, inclusive, and meaningful participation of diverse persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all development and humanitarian processes, from decision-making to implementation – not just as beneficiaries but as equal partners.
Recommendations	To deepen understanding of the connections between the care economy and women's access to resources, leadership positions, and economic involvement; to address financing needs for care and for humanitarian responses; to model best practices and provide policy recommendations, especially amplifying women's roles.

4. Strengthening Family Bonds: Addressing Breakdown in Marriage and Birth Rates

Organized by	Fòs Feminista
Description	The discussion covered strategies against pushback on certain issues, to align gender and sexual and reproductive health rights with the Pact, and formulating forward-looking recommendations for equitable, feminist policies. Speakers shared diverse and intersectional feminist Global South analysis on lessons learned from past global commitments. They discussed how multilateral solutions can create equitable futures that achieve gender justice for future generations and advance the rights of all women, girls, and gender-diverse people on the ground. Since the Pact does not have a standalone chapter on gender equality, the roundtable used an intersectional justice lens to discuss gender equality, land and natural resources rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and bodily autonomy as cross-cutting priorities for the Pact, the Summit of the Future, and an agenda beyond 2030.

5. Inclusive Multilateralism: Special Focus on Sustainable Development through Women’s Land Rights and Control over Natural Resources

Organized by	Stand for Her Land Campaign
Description	The session integrated priorities of grassroots women within the nexus of feminist foreign policy and the 2030 Agenda, including advancing equitable control of ownership of land and natural resources as a pathway to gender equality and sustainable development.
#WeCommit	To bring grassroots women, civil society organizations, youth, state, and development agency representatives together to articulate the importance of bridging global commitments to the realities on the ground, with special focus on control and ownership of land and natural resources.
Recommendations	Elevate the understanding of why control and ownership of land and natural resources for women and girls is fundamental to gender equality and sustainable development, and the intersection with other women’s rights. Propose recommendations on integrating this with global efforts to achieve commitments to the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

6. Leveraging the Summit of the Future and G20 Synergies to Transform Global Governance

Organized by	Igarapé Institute
Description	This workshop aimed to capitalize on synergies between the Summit of the Future and the G20 to advance global governance reform. It developed and promoted ideas, encouraging multistakeholder collaboration, in a complex era when strengthening global governance is crucial for resilience against current and future disruptions.
#WeCommit	To promote civil society synergies by sharing ideas, information, and lessons learned, and by amplifying common messages for global governance reform, taking advantage of upcoming multilateral platforms.
Recommendations	Address global challenges in a fragmented global landscape. Enhance coordination across multilateral groupings and forums. Emphasize reforms that can build a more networked, inclusive and effective multilateralism.

7. Reimagining Development: Reclaiming the Dignity of African Women and Girls

Organized by	African Women's Development and Communications Network
Description	This session explored the multifaceted aspects of a feminist future, analyzing challenges of environmental sustainability, economic empowerment, transformative women's leadership, and sexual reproductive health rights for African women. Drawing from Afro-feminist research, it highlighted underrepresented African feminist perspectives, advocating for alternative financing models which prioritize social and environmental well-being over market-driven solutions.
Recommendations	Governments should implement fiscal policy reforms that prioritize women's needs through equitable taxation and funding for gender-transformative public services. There is a need to decentralize funds to support local climate actions, integrate gender-focused financing schemes, and invest in green jobs and local community projects, to fulfill commitments to women's human rights.

8. The Crucial Role of Women Mediators in Peace Processes in West Africa

Organized by	Make Every Woman Count
Description	The session focused on presenting a detailed policy brief highlighting the essential role of women mediators in West Africa. It unveiled research findings and offered a dynamic platform for experts to share their insights and perspectives, enriching the understanding of the subject.
#WeCommit	To enhance advocacy and citizen participation in decision-making at all levels; to recognize the importance of grassroots movements and community-driven initiatives in driving sustainable, impactful change; and, to keep supporting and empowering people and communities to voice their opinions, act, and hold leaders accountable.
Recommendations	A collective effort is necessary to achieve broader impact on shaping the future of technology and innovation for sustainable development. This includes government support and involvement from civil society organizations, businesses, academia, and other key players in the technology industry.

Related to Chapter 2 of the Pact for the Future

9. Abuja Declaration on Summit of the Future Dialogue

Organized by	Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development
Description	The workshop covered a range of topics, including Peace, Security and Defense; Sustainable Development and Democratic Governance; Human Rights and Humanitarian Action; Climate Governance; Rules-based World Order and the Place of Africa in Global Governance. In addition to a presentation on Africa Research Network on Regional and Global Governance, participants also gained insight into the Abuja Declaration.
#WeCommit	To promote the African Regional Dialogue for the Summit of the Future through the Abuja Declaration; to deepen commitment of stakeholders both in Africa and globally; and, to establish the Africa Research Network on the Regional and Global Governance Innovation.
Recommendations	The Abuja Declaration should be adopted.

10. Fostering Human Rights-Centered Economies

Organized by	Amnesty International
Description	This workshop addressed the need for a new framing of economic progress and policy commitments, and to rethink ways to bring about economic justice, address inequalities with human rights-centered policies, and apply measures of achievement that focus on equality, dignity and sustainability. The panel highlighted best practices and innovative approaches to improve the framing of economic progress and achieve economic justice. It also cultivated alliances among civil society actors to instill urgency on achieving economic justice.

11. Partnership for the Future – Collaboration-Based Approaches to Organized Crime

Organized by	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Description	The event showcased collaborative opportunities between governments and civil society in the fight against transnational organized crime. As part of the event, the Kenya National Civil Society Alliance was officially launched. The nexus between organized crime, cybercrime and corruption was also presented.
#WeCommit	To strengthen regional and national mechanisms for collaboration between governments and civil society in the fight against transnational organized crime.
Recommendations	Provide non-governmental stakeholders with avenues for engagement in intergovernmental processes.

12. Revolutionary Solidarity: How Civil Society Organizations can Better Support Social Movements

Organized by	Tanzania / Global network Global Social Movement Centre (MOVE), MS TCDC, ActionAid
Description	The session explored how civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and philanthropic institutions provide more effective support to social movements. In addition to informing about best practices and real-world lessons, various practical resources for such institutional transitions were shared.
#WeCommit	To share helpful materials and following up with those interested in utilizing our materials and support.
Recommendations	Civil society organizations should supplement, amplify, and multiply the impact of social movements.

13. #SDG16Now – Mobilizing for Peaceful, Just & Inclusive Societies

Organized by	The #SDG16Now Campaign
Description	This workshop offered an introduction to the #SDG16Now campaign and an interactive discussion amongst participants around priorities for the campaign's five themes: Peace, Justice, Inclusion, Institutions, and Interlinkages and Financing, exploring the role of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 in identifying key issues across policy processes from global to local.
#WeCommit	To conduct an interactive dialogue, promoting an exchange of views, ideas, and priorities to promote sharing and learning, networking, and storytelling among #SDG16Now Campaign partners – both existing partners and prospective partners working across SDG 16 topics.
Recommendations	Identify priority issues and opportunities across the thematic clusters of the campaign, drawing links to the Pact for the Future to determine follow-up post-Summit of the Future.

14. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Safeguards: Leveraging DPI for Safer Inclusive Societies

Organized by	Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
Description	During the session the first interim report about this issue was presented, and feedback was received from the diverse groups of civil society organizations and stakeholders represented at this event. The Multistakeholder DPI Safeguards initiative brings together diverse voices to identify potential risks across the DPI implementation lifecycle and to build a comprehensive risk mitigation framework.
#WeCommit	To promote safety and inclusion in the implementation of DPIs, generating meaningful impact towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
Recommendations	The Safeguards framework should be widely adopted by civil society organizations as a guiding tool to catalyze the collective action necessary to make DPI implementations safe and inclusive while enhancing compliance, trust, and equity, thereby fostering safe and inclusive societies globally.

15. Education for Impact: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Global Communities

Organized by	Global NGO Executive Committee (GNEC)
Description	The workshop explored the intersection of artificial intelligence, education, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This session was designed for NGOs, educators, policymakers, and technology enthusiasts keen on fostering inclusive and impactful learning experiences.
Recommendations	Make the people's inputs count and reform the United Nations.

16. Governing Our Planetary Emergency - Updating our International Governance Architecture and Showcasing Implementation Pathways Toward a Just Transitions

Organized by	Climate Governance Commission and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
Description	This workshop examined international governance proposals and implementation pathways to address ecological challenges, while fully ensuring a just transition. First, key recommendations from Governing our Planetary Emergency and the UN High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism were discussed. Then, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance showcased real solutions to a just transition, addressing the opportunities, barriers, and challenges.
#WeCommit	To pursue equitable multilateral governance reform in order to achieve a whole-of-system approach to the planetary emergency and a just transition.
Recommendations	Climate and environmental considerations, including the facilitation of a just transition must be at the forefront of all multilateral governance reforms, including those to be discussed at the Summit of the Future. Low and middle-income climate vulnerable countries must play a central role in the implementation of the reforms and policies critical to addressing the challenges posed by climate change to ensure there is a fair and equitable transition to a sustainable global economy. There should be established a Climate Just Transition Pact - an agreement aimed at addressing the challenges of climate change while ensuring a fair and equitable transition to a low-carbon and sustainable economy across the African continent.

17. Multistakeholder Internet Governance: Enabling a Sustainable Digital Future

Organized by	Internet Society
Description	This workshop aimed to gather lessons from the multistakeholder community and define priorities for the ongoing Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and WSIS+20 negotiations. It considered how the United Nations system can more effectively embrace the multistakeholder model essential for a sustainable digital future and meaningful international partnerships. The session outlined how the Multistakeholder model of Internet Governance has contributed to digital development, and how it can be strengthened. The session also developed concrete actions for civil society and States to better integrate multistakeholder internet governance into the existing multilateral system; strengthen the legitimacy of Summit of the Future outcomes and increase the accountability of States.

18. People-Centered Smart Cities for an Open, Secure and Inclusive Digital Future

Organized by	UN-Habitat
Description	The session delved into the intersection of technology, human rights, and inclusive urban development. It explored the development of International Guidelines for People-Centered Smart Cities, aligning with the Global Digital Compact. And it fostered collaboration and tackled barriers to equitable digital access and urban progress.
#WeCommit	To steer the impact of new technologies to empower human settlements by; building capacity and skills, ensuring equitable outcomes, utilizing urban digital infrastructure sustainably; reducing environmental impact; creating economic opportunities, leaving no one behind; putting community engagement first; safeguarding public trust through privacy and cybersecurity measures and with respect for human rights.
Recommendations	Local and regional governments should be included given their vital role, as they implement policies on the ground, directly impacting communities. Their inclusion ensures alignment of global principles with local needs, fostering effective governance, innovation, and equitable access to digital technologies and other public services, ultimately driving inclusive and sustainable development.

19. Role of Civil Society Organizations Stakeholders in 20 Years of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Process, towards the Summit of the Future and Beyond

Organized by	WSIS/ITU, IFLA, IT for Change, Globethics, APC, Research ICT Africa, Womenvai, LocNET Initiative, ACEF Africa
Description	This event highlighted the principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation from the WSIS Process, which could be integrated into the Global Digital Compact. It also discussed the linkages between the WSIS and the Summit of the Future, exploring how the WSIS and its Action Lines can be utilized to translate the principles and outcomes outlined in the Pact for the Future and the GDC into tangible and actionable impact. This discussion with civil society was critical to shape the future of digital governance process.
Recommendations	Reinforcing collaborations and partnerships across sectors, thereby affirming the lasting impact of WSIS initiatives on digital cooperation. It is imperative for digital cooperation, data, and internet governance processes, including WSIS and its outcomes (especially IGF and WSIS Forum) and GDC, to function cohesively.

Related to Chapter 3 of the Pact for the Future, and the Global Digital Compact

20. Co-Creating the Future: Children's Experiences Towards a Greener, Fairer, and Happier World

Organized by	Save the Children International
Description	During the session, children shared their perspectives, innovative solutions, and campaign actions on global crises like climate change and inequality. By empowering children to lead discussions, the session fostered intergenerational collaboration, enriching the discourse on sustainable development and future generations.
#WeCommit	To empower children by campaigning and advocating for intergenerational justice and facilitating inclusive spaces where they can freely and meaningfully voice their perspectives on shaping the future.
Recommendations	Member States and United Nations entities should adopt a child rights perspective across all deliberations on the Summit and its outcomes and ensure that children, in all their diversity, are consulted and listened to as part of the process to ensure outcomes reflect their diverse lived realities and recommendations for change.

21. Earth Trusteeship: Establishing Representatives for Future Generations

Organized by	World Future Council (WFC)
Description	The workshop aimed to elucidate principles of the Earth Trusteeship in its application to further representatives for future generations building on the work of the WFC, Earth Trusteeship and the Peoples Pact for the Future recommendations.
#WeCommit	To bring voices of future generations into decision making processes at all levels of governance supported through international law infused with the wisdom of indigenous legal systems and knowledge.
Recommendations	Support the establishment of representatives of future generations at all levels of governance and structures to support such representatives.

22. Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development and a more Equitable Future

Organized by	Partnerships For Change
Description	This workshop focused on the role of youth in bridging the gap between current environmental challenges and the vision for a sustainable future. It aimed to demonstrate how intergenerational equity is crucial for the success of the Summit of the Future and beyond.
#WeCommit	To address the critical need for a strengthened multilateral response to global challenges with promotion of intergenerational equity and ensuring that young people are at the forefront of these efforts.
Recommendations	Encouragement of active youth participation in multilateral processes, making them pivotal in crafting future policies for a sustainable and more equitable future.

23. Shaping a Better Future for the Next Generation

Organized by	China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE)
Description	The workshop focused on safeguarding the rights of children and youth, given how they are exposed to more vulnerabilities and their right to life, survival, development, education, among others, are endangered.
#WeCommit	To engage more stakeholders into the discussions on the issue of rights of children and young people during the Summit of the Future
Recommendations	Encourage more exchanges among children and young people from different nations with different historical, economic, social and cultural backgrounds.

24. The Mental Health of Youth for Future Generations: A Global Priority

Organized by	American Psychological Association (APA)
Description	The workshop addressed youth mental health through interactive activities and audience participation. Presentations incorporated four of the WHO's "Five S" approach to addressing adolescent health.
#WeCommit	To heighten global attention to the mental health of youth and all future generations.
Recommendations	Work toward de-stigmatization of mental illness and facilitate evidence-based practices that promote mental health and minimize psychological disorders among the youth. In addition, the stakeholders need to recognize that mental health and social protection issues are complex, and effective solutions will benefit from interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches.

25. Two Nongovernmental Organizations - One Purpose! VIGALEX and Congos Børn for the good of street children in Kinshasa

Organized by	Congo's Børn
Description	The workshop showed how two nongovernmental organizations from different countries can contribute to the welfare of the most vulnerable of all, namely street children in Kinshasa.
#WeCommit	To build and run an orphanage with an elementary school, educational workshops and farming for 100 street children in Kinshasa.
Recommendations	Cooperation as a means to create sustainable results.

26. Unlocking Change: Visions of Transformation for a Youth-Driven Future

Organized by	UN Futures Lab/Global Hub of EOSG and The Unlock the Future coalition (Plan International and World YWCA)
Description	Drawing on participatory strategic foresight approaches, the workshop explored pathways for civil society's engagement, particularly youth, in the potential futures of global governance that are meaningful, participatory, and inclusive, and fit for young people and future generations.
#WeCommit	To foster a shared understanding of the essential role of youth in realizing the ambitions of the Summit of the Future through diverse perspectives.
Recommendations	Outline challenges and opportunities through collective visioning to identify innovative ideas and success factors for unlocking the potential of young changemakers, in addition to catalyzing engagements to advocate for governance, investments, and platforms leading up - and following - the Summit of the Future.

Related to Chapter 5 of the Pact for the Future

27. Ancestral thought in the Andean region, Walking the Andean Wisdom in the Social Movements of Ecuador to Cauca. Defense of Human Rights and Ancestral Territory

Organized by	Indigenous researcher in sustainable epistemologies in Ecuador-Colombia
Description	The workshop focused on a research project conducted in Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru, in the indigenous communities, highlighting the redefinition of economic and cultural social rights.
#WeCommit	To replicate the learning in indigenous communities of Ecuador-Colombia and strengthen the defense of Mother Nature and sustainability in the construction of better political and cultural life plans.
Recommendations	Care for common care spaces in global reserve areas, and for indigenous thought in indigenous territories and communities. Respect for land, culture and territory.

28. Empowering Civil Society: 10-year Lessons Learned and the Way A Head for the SDGs

Organized by	UN ECLAC and MY World Mexico
Description	This session highlighted key strategies, mechanisms and tools that have made the partnership successful between the United Nations and MY World Mexico, particularly in its tangible results at the local level. It also aimed to inspire other coalitions across the world to pursue similar journeys in their quest to strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Recommendations	Best practices and lessons learned from partnership-building on the ground with global resonance should be shared. The collaboration between civil society and United Nations entities as mutually beneficial for advocacy purposes with Member States and other stakeholders should be encouraged. Enable spaces for civil society under the United Nations umbrella, in particular through strengthening policy and financing related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

29. Inclusive Global Governance: From Ideas to Action

Organized by	Democracy Without Borders (DWB) and Plataforma CIPÓ
Description	This workshop highlighted four proposals put forward by civil society during the Summit of the Future consultations to build more inclusive global governance and explore how to implement them: a permanent Global Citizens' Assembly, a World Citizens' Initiative, a UN Parliamentary Assembly, and a UN Civil Society Envoy.
#WeCommit	To co-create and help to implement a roadmap for putting new mechanisms to make global governance more inclusive on the agenda at the Summit of the Future and beyond, including milestones such as a new "We the Peoples" campaign statement and the creation of a Member State Group of Friends.
Recommendations	Establish mechanisms to make global governance more inclusive, e.g. a permanent Global Citizens' Assembly, a World Citizens' Initiative, a UN Parliamentary Assembly, and a UN Civil Society Envoy. In an age where the biggest challenges we face are global and intergenerational, inclusive global governance is not just a matter of justice. It is a necessity.

30. Let's have an ambitious Pact of the Future!: Why democracy, peace and security in Africa and the Geneva multilateral agenda matter

Organized by	GREYCELLS (Association of Former International Civil Servants for Development), UNDEF (UN Democracy Fund), Network of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Northern Africa ~CIDH AFRICA
Description	The session highlighted critical issues regarding peace and security in Africa, promoting democracy and the role of the Geneva multilateral agenda.
Recommendations	Multilateralism needs to be collaborative, integrated, and accountable, emphasizing prevention. Engaging all ages and genders worldwide is vital, as is recognizing the influential role of diverse civil society movements in shaping global cooperation.

31. Peace and Security in Africa and the implementation of Agenda 2063

Organized by	Network of the independent Commission for Human rights in North Africa (CIDH Africa)
Description	The workshop emphasized the importance of promoting peace and security in Africa in alignment with Agenda 2063. It highlighted strategies such as conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and strengthening security institutions to address the root causes of conflicts and ensure sustainable development.
Recommendations	To effectively implement the proposed strategies, African countries should prioritize multilateral cooperation, capacity building, and gender mainstreaming. Additionally, resource mobilization and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are essential for the successful execution of peace and security initiatives in Africa.

32. Summit of the Future (SOTF) 101 - Unpacking the Pact for the Future

Organized by	Coalition for the UN We Need
Description	The workshop aimed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to actively engage in the intergovernmental processes leading up to and following the Summit of the Future, both globally and regionally. Objectives included understanding the negotiating tracks, analyzing critical topics, and fostering cross-regional collaboration to enhance collective advocacy.
#WeCommit	To increase opportunities for civil society to enable networking and collaboration, leading to enhanced collective impact and influence on shaping the outcomes of the Summit of the Future with key decision-makers at national, regional, and global levels.
Recommendations	Civil society should influence political decision-makers at national capitals, and at regional and global levels on shaping the future of multilateralism.

33. The Road from the Summit of the Future to Beijing+30

Organized by	UN Women & NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York
Description	This workshop focused on how the Summit of the Future can strengthen accountability to gender equality and women's rights at the landmark mobilization moment of Beijing+30 and beyond.
#WeCommit	To develop a civil society and stakeholder mobilization river map, mapping the streams from Nairobi to the Summit of the Future in September to the Beijing+30 commemoration in 2025 and beyond.
Recommendations	Strengthen accountability of duty bearers and engagement of rights holders to women's human rights and gender equality, using the political amplification moments that the Summit of the Future and Beijing+30 represent, highlighting mandates from the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

34. Transformation of Decision Making for a Gender-Responsive Climate Just Future

Organized by	Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ)
Description	<p>The workshop discussed concrete actions to achieve transformation of decision making for a gender-responsive climate justice future and reflect on effective coalition engagement. This was followed by audience discussion on enacting solutions and overcoming challenges. The session empowered an intergenerational group of advocates to draw on their experiences to co-create solutions for a sustainable and gender-responsive climate just future with the audience.</p>
Recommendations	<p>A clear set of follow-up actions to transform decision making processes for climate change with a gender-responsive lens. A clear guide for how to ensure that decision making is intergenerational and inclusive. Shared understanding of key challenges experienced and how to work together to overcome them.</p>

35. UNMute Civil Society: from Recommendations to Actions

Organized by	Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations
Description	<p>The workshop offered a unique space for civil society to contribute to the proposed upcoming “How to UNMute Manual” with concrete, practical, and operational guidance tools for Member States who strive to deliver networked, inclusive and effective approaches to the participation of civil society at the United Nations.</p>
Recommendations	<p>There is a critical need to work diligently with all stakeholders to ensure the most impactful form of networked, inclusive and effective multilateralism, which ensures that the United Nations is inclusive of diverse voices from across civil society groups and provides meaningful ways for civil society to engage in these processes.</p>

Online

Related to Chapter 1 of the Pact for the Future

1. Is the European Union's Global Gateway Strategy Contributing to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Global South?

Organized by	EEB, SDG Watch Europe
Description	The workshop discussed the European Union's (EU) external actions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation by assessing the EU's Global Gateway Strategy and the achievement of the SDGs. The workshop explored various aspects of the GG strategy, examining and identifying where additional action is required to bridge gaps, specifically in financing for sustainable development and mitigating SDG backsliding.
#WeCommit	To assess the GG strategy and evaluate its effectiveness, through the analysis of case study examples and discussion.
Recommendations	Identifying key challenges surrounding GG projects, including democratic accountability, co-design and ownership, and how these structural issues can be transformed to turbocharge SDG implementation. Discussing relevant ways forward for EU implementation of SDGs, in the context of the GG strategy specifically highlighted by the EU as a key enabler within the EU's 2023 Voluntary Review of the SDGs. Discussing the merits of new financial mechanisms for financing and sustainable development, the importance of regulatory accountability, and proposing a strong public finance agenda driven by public investments and going beyond profit motives in development finance.

02. Transforming Global Governance: Where is Civil Society?

Organized by	STOPAIDS, WACI Health, Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN), Global Public Investment Network, ITPC, KELIN & Restless Development
Description	This session focused on lessons from governance structures across different sectors to inform Chapter 5 of the Pact for the Future. With a focus on reforming the multilateral system, the Pact is an important opportunity to recognize and support the critical role of civil society in inclusive governance structures.
#WeCommit	To share proposed language to strengthen recognition and support for civil society and communities in governance and decision-making processes in the Pact for the Future.
Recommendations	The Pact for the Future will be an important opportunity to recognize and support the important role civil society and communities play in global governance and decision-making processes. This can have an impact both within the United Nations system and across different sectors.

Related to Chapter 2 of the Pact for the Future

3. Betrayed by the Guardians: The Human Toll of Corruption in Defence and Security

Organized by	Transparency International Defence & Security
Description	The workshop discussed the impact of corruption on sustainable peace and human security with anti-corruption champions from West Africa, sharing new research, and exploring multilateral solutions to advance in the Summit and the Pact of the Future
Recommendations	Inclusion of language in the Pact of the Future that recognizes corruption as a threat to international peace and security. Integration of anti-corruption into development, peace and security agendas, building on commitments related to the Sustainable Development Goal 16. Incorporation of anti-corruption principles into peace agreements and security sector reform frameworks and processes.

4. Strengthening Family Bonds: Addressing Breakdown in Marriage and Birth Rates

Organized by	Familiyaa Makers Services Private Limited
Description	The workshop delved into the reasons for breaking homes and family bonds. Marriages, the foundations of societies, are breaking at a fast pace as divorce rates are rising. Ways to strengthen family bonds and homes were also discussed.
#WeCommit	To foster stronger family bonds; to provide understanding behind the problems faced by families in homes, practical tools, fostering open communication, and promoting understanding; and, to empower individuals to cultivate healthier relationships and create supportive family environments for generations to come.
Recommendations	Foster promoting empathy, communication, and mutual support. Accept work done in a home, which is free as productive work. Increasing respect, value and appreciation for a home and family and address the breakdown in marriages and bolster birth rates.

Related to Chapter 3 of the Pact for the Future, and the Global Digital Compact

5. Bridging Gaps in Neurological Health: Innovations, Education, and the Sustainable Development Goals

Organized by	Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Description	This workshop sought to confront the complexities of neurological health by embracing a holistic, transformative approach. By harnessing the potential of biotechnology, particularly through the innovative use of stem cell technology, it aimed to create a foundational tool for sustainable development across the African continent.
#WeCommit	To promote understanding of neurological health issues in Africa; to highlight biotechnological advances and research in treating and managing neurological disorders within Africa's specific context; to encourage cooperation across governments, nongovernmental organizations, private sectors, academia, and civil society globally to enhance neurological health solutions; and, to integrate neuroscience into education to inspire young researchers and prepare individuals for challenges in health, technology, and global connectivity.
Recommendations	Amplify diverse voices and champion significant reforms, facilitating the implementation of the Pact for the Future with a specific focus on advancements in neurological health.

6. Empowering Youth through Digital Global Citizenship Education for Environmental Sustainability

Organized by	IVECA International Virtual Schooling
Description	The session focused on empowering youth through digital education in global citizenship, highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for environmental sustainability. By leveraging digital platforms, the session aimed to mobilize youth action against climate issues like plastic pollution and greenhouse gases. Through presentations and strategic dialogues involving diverse global leaders, the conference sought to integrate youth-driven solutions into broader environmental sustainability efforts.
#WeCommit	To nurture digitally facilitated global citizenship education, fostering multi-stakeholder collaborations and mentorship, and promoting youth-led initiatives in tackling environmental challenges; and to leveraging innovative technologies and foster intercultural cooperation to implement sustainable solutions and shape a greener, more inclusive future.
Recommendations	Embrace digitally advanced global citizenship education as a catalyst for change. Empower youth leadership in sustainability and drive impactful global progress.

7. Multilateral Action to Advancing Climate Smart Technologies

Organized by	IEEE Young Professionals Climate and Sustainability Task Force
Description	This discussion focused on the following themes: Climate-Smart Technologies, Inclusive Technology Governance, and Technology Transfer, aligning with global initiatives such as the Pact of the Future and the Global Digital Compact and emphasizing the pivotal role of science, technology, and innovation in sustainable development.
#WeCommit	To highlight the potential of youth-led innovations in addressing climate and sustainability challenges, building collaborations to promote the development and deployment of climate-smart technologies and promoting policies that are responsive to the needs of all and promote equitable access and deployment of climate smart technologies.
Recommendations	Improve access to quality STEM education. Develop responsive policies to promote youth led climate smart innovations. Promote the use of emerging technologies in advancing environmentally related Sustainable Development Goals.

Related to Chapter 4 of the Pact for the Future, and the Declaration on Future Generations

8. Discussions to Actions: Intersecting Digital and Global Futures Equipping Future Generations of Leaders in Multilateral Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow

Organized by	Federation of Business and Professional Women International
Description	The session amplified diverse voices and showcased initiatives of Business and Professional Women International. Additionally, global organizations and professionals discussed new ways for civil society to interact with intergovernmental processes, embodying intergenerational and multi-stakeholder participation towards the Sustainable Development Goals, equality and prosperity opportunities.
#WeCommit	To illustrate real life examples of effective partnerships.
Recommendations	Encourage and inspire global and strategic partnership-building.

9. Ending Statelessness and Upholding Equal Nationality Rights for Inclusive, Sustainable Development

Organized by	Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, Global Movement Against Statelessness, UN Refugee Agency, and Women's Refugee Commission
Description	The event provided an overview of the impact of statelessness and discriminatory nationality laws on the realization of global goals, including sustainable development, gender equality, and children's rights; the importance of localization; and recent progress achieved through collaborative action by civil society, states, and United Nations agencies.
#WeCommit	To center the voices and leadership of stateless and other affected activists.
Recommendations	States should take action to end statelessness and uphold equal nationality laws and practices without discrimination based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity or other protected grounds. United Nations agencies should partner with stateless-led groups and civil society allies to advance equal nationality rights in line with agencies' mandates.

10. Excluded Youth: Initiatives and Partnerships for Empowerment, Inclusion and Engagement

Organized by	Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y)
Description	This workshop aimed to report concrete initiatives, enhance innovative collaborations and offer discussion space between participants for the empowerment, professional inclusion, and meaningful engagement of marginalized youth.
#WeCommit	To raise youth voices, presenting concrete solutions that can be implemented globally or innovative methods, with takeaways for nongovernmental organizations, corporations, and institutions; and to fostering discussion space for participants to share their initiatives and create partnerships for youth empowerment.
Recommendations	The inclusion of youth coming from excluded backgrounds into discussions and implementation of initiatives as grassroots experts and community representatives. They also must be symbolically included as part of official international delegations for the Summit of the Future, and systematically sponsored for future major events.

11. Fashion and Art Meets Global Citizenship Education (Nairobi Informal Settlement)

Organized by	Mtree
Description	The workshop showcased a two-week training program for 40 community schoolteachers and over 160 primary school students in Nairobi's Mukuru informal settlement. It gave an overview of how participants can seamlessly integrate art, design, and global citizenship education into their school programs. They brainstormed creative strategies to foster students' understanding of self, others, and community through collaboration. Furthermore, they grasped the essence of global citizenship and values and gained insights into local and global issues.
#WeCommit	To emphasize the importance of encouraging discovery of how the self can become a positive force within schools and communities.

12. Justice for Africa: Towards a Fairer Global Future

Organized by	100 Million campaign, All-Africa Students Unions and Global Student Forum
Description	The session enabled the discussion on how to mobilize global solidarity and strategic collaboration to address the rising modern injustices against Africa and share the results of the Our Future, Our Voice consultation of African youth and student leaders on what should be prioritized in the Summit of the Future.
Recommendations	The priorities of African young people and students must be at forefront of the discussions.

13. Right to Food: Right to a Future

Organized by	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Welthungerhilfe, Right to Food Coalition Kenya, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Description	The session illustrated and debated the normative framework and current implementation challenges of the right to food. It drew inputs from academia and young expert practitioners from across regions discussing good practices, aspirations on innovative ways and necessary action to realize the right to food for future generations.
#WeCommit	To work for the concept and progressive realization of the right to food is reflected in the Pact of the Future, given its importance to nurturing the future generations; and, for the voices of civil society, especially youth and those who are marginalized, are heard and included in the Pact.
Recommendations	Transforming agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient, sustainable, and people centered to ensure food security and nutrition for a growing population, while supporting livelihoods and safeguarding the environment through sustainable production, better nutrition and innovative approaches, leaving no one behind.

14. The Future of Global Governance: A Youth-led Foresight Workshop

Organized by	Intergenerational Center for Global Action
Description	The workshop triggering dialogue on youth-driven multilateral and international financial architecture reforms.
#WeCommit	To actively contribute to weaving a worldwide intergenerational network on financing for development and international financial architecture, as well as meaningful youth engagement and intergenerational solidarity, laying the foundations for the future of global solidarity and governance.
Recommendations	A strong emphasis on embedding futures methods and strategic spaces of dialogue within civic infrastructures, with a special attention to younger generations. Innovations at institutional level are key to advance agendas on reforms of the multilateral system and the international financial architecture. Young people can and should be central actors of innovations and agendas.

Related to Chapter 5 of the Pact for the Future

15. Gender Justice Beyond Borders: Towards Gender-Responsive and Migrant-Inclusive Policy

Organized by	Center for Migration, Gender, and Justice
Description	The session introduced participants to the Gender-Migration Index (GMI), a policy guidance tool that facilitates gender-responsiveness and migrant-inclusion in policy planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The session provided an overview of the application and relevance of the GMI through case studies, focusing on the indicator system/methodology.
Recommendations	Strengthening civil society engagement in policy planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Building multi-stakeholder capacity to effectively engage in international review processes.

16. Valuing What Matters in Urban Areas: A Dialogue on Quality of Life with Local Government and Academia

Organized by	University of Buenos Aires, UN-Habitat
Description	The workshop allowed hearing the experience of how one major metropolitan area - Buenos Aires - is working to provide a better quality of life for the individuals and communities there. There was a chance to react and discuss, unpacking some of the recommendations which they have put forward in a recently released position paper, to see how they can be articulated in Buenos Aires and in other municipalities around the world.
#WeCommit	To work together across stakeholder groups and diverse contexts, to ensure that human-centric development is promoted locally and globally.
Recommendations	That quality of life be a central factor to guide and prioritize policy responses to the interlinked challenges that we face today. Only by trying to better understand the subjective experience of individuals and communities can we deliver truly inclusive development.

10 MAY 2024
AIROBI, KENYA



Tawanda Mutasah

Civil Society Recommendations

On the 5 Chapters of the Pact for the Future, Declaration on Future Generations, and Global Digital Compact

Overview

The panel's focus was to hear recommendations from civil society, based on the results of the workshops previously held. It started with an introduction by Cairo Eubanks, Youth Representative of New Future Foundation International, who said that the conference had "the demonstrated ability to impact change, building upon the momentum of what is discussed during the conference and bringing this knowledge of resources and information back to civil society communities around the world." The panel was co-moderated by Tawanda Mutasah, Vice President of Global Partnerships and Impact of Oxfam America, and Melissa Fleming, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications.

Melissa Fleming, said that the conference was an "opportunity to jointly shape our way forward by exchanging ideas and best practices that can meaningfully contribute to the Summit of the Future." Ms. Fleming stressed that civil society's role "cannot be overstated," and that civil society organizations perform humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to governments, monitor

policies, and encourage political participation. "This is why, for the United Nations, it is so crucial to consult and interact with global civil society," Ms. Fleming added, while underlining civil society's role in implementing the agreements derived from the Summit in September, stating that civil society "represents the conscience and the expertise that we need."

Along the same lines, Tawanda Mutasah defined civil society as the "energy, entities and efforts that are happening for the social and public good" that "need to be woven into the very fabric of multilateralism." While acknowledging the centrality of the role of Member States in the work of the United Nations, Mr. Mutasah, commenting about civil society's expertise, underscored that civil society's role must be recognized, in light of prevailing challenges. He said that the conference was an opportunity to foster relationships among stakeholders to "harvest the wisdom" of the panelists and the recommendations provided by civil society organizations.

SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 1 of the Pact for the Future

Presented by Robeliza Halip, Organizing Partner of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, and Maria Joao Rodriguez, from the Foundation for European Progressive Studies

There must be political will to implement a robust data disaggregation system that includes issues such as ethnicity, gender, and disability, to ensure that groups historically and/or intentionally excluded are considered.

- The chapter must also adequately recognize and address systemic barriers to sustainable development.
- A more robust mechanism for assessing the quality of aid is needed to finance development. This includes prioritizing food and education over military expenditures.
- Direct access to financing should be provided to support technologies and innovations that lead to people-led, managed solutions.
- The UN and Member States must strengthen meaningful engagement with the major groups and other stakeholders to advance sustainable development and to avoid the duplication of processes for civil society engagement.
- The chapter must strongly highlight the need to strengthen the linkage between development and the implementation of human rights obligations.
- Member States should have national strategic plans to significantly transform their food, energy, digital, education, and social protection systems.



- Better technological solutions should be shared and financed while improving digital transformation.
- Trade rules must be shaped by leveraging development. Member States should be allowed to run their industrial policies and upgrade their positions in the global supply chains.
- There is a need to tackle the financial bottleneck by reducing high debt burdens, launching a large-scale and long-term investment plan, and addressing tax reform within a UN framework.

Chapter 2 of the Pact for the Future

Presented by Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo, from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Rhea Tariq, from Help Age International

- All actors must step up their efforts to end discrimination and violence against women and girls. The Pact should also highlight the root causes of conflict and violence, including violations of human rights, discrimination, militarization, entrenched patriarchy, and imperialism.

- The Pact should take a strong stance against the militarization of issues and domains – including outer space, cybersecurity, and the climate crisis – while also rejecting the military application of new technologies – such as A.I. The Pact should include wording denouncing the use of security, counterterrorism, and foreign agents’ narratives as excuses to suppress civil society and democratic dissent.
- Military expenditures should be redirected towards sustainable development that supports gender equality and feminist-focused social justice.
- Governments should end war and military occupation and uphold people’s right to justice, self-determination, and sustainable development.
- The UN Security Council must be restructured to abolish the veto, to end the entrenched power of permanent members. Existing conflicts must be resolved through diplomacy and inclusive peace processes that address root causes, with full participation of civil society, without reprisals or intimidation.
- There should be an understanding that universal, just, and lasting peace can only be established based on social justice and human rights.
- The chapter needs to recognize that older people and persons living with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by conflict and crises and ensure that responses from civil society are inclusive, address the unique vulnerabilities of these groups, and recognize their contribution to peacebuilding.
- The chapter must ensure respect and compliance with international law for all Member States, without exceptions. Transparency and accountability should exist at all levels, including in the UN Security Council, which should lead by example.
- The chapter needs to articulate the relationship between security issues and climate issues. The use of natural resources as a strategic weapon should be condemned, since this has social, economic, and political implications.
- The financial architecture should be aligned with the development–humanitarian–peacebuilding nexus, while ensuring that peacebuilding is rooted in contextual, age, gender, and conflict analysis.
- Civil society must redouble efforts to urge governments to reduce military spending and to demand that this spending be channeled instead into social infrastructure, with the goal of safeguarding peace and stability.



- The Pact should emphasize the need to protect the press and journalistic freedoms, democratic dissent, and human rights activism as a universal norm, in line with the Charter, the core treaties and normative frameworks, and the 2030 Agenda.

Chapter 3 of the Pact for the Future and its annex, Global Digital Compact

Presented by Yash Tadmalla, from the Major Group for Children and Youth, and Patrick Paul Walsh, from the Sustainable Development Solutions Network

- Compared to the private sector, the voice of civil society is not as widely heard in negotiations on digital technological regulatory and legal policies worldwide, especially the message of marginalized and underrepresented communities.
- The well-being of stakeholders must be considered regarding the Global Digital Compact (GDC)'s impact. The GDC should be cross-cutting across all chapters, not

just Chapter 3. It must focus on ensuring an inclusive and safe digital environment for all – rather than homogenization in technological development and internet governance. The GDC should add a literacy and education component to its objectives, to help close the digital divide and to build capacity for digital infrastructure. There should be a participatory approach in the development of the final text, involving major groups and representatives from marginalized communities.

- Multilateral governance of dangerous technologies must be enhanced through meaningful inputs from multiple stakeholders. As digital technologies are being rapidly and pervasively militarized, the UN should establish urgent processes of global oversight of each class of cutting-edge technologies, with the active engagement of civil society.
- The public sector should run and own digital public assets – such as infrastructures, software, and content – to deliver public services. This would effectively contribute to the UN Secretary-General's Road Map for Digital Cooperation. Member States could



improve regulations in this field by keeping such assets “in-house” and partnering with the private sector under specific criteria.

- The public sector’s human capital must be invested worldwide to run and own global digital public infrastructures, software, and content to deliver public services.
- The UN General Assembly should establish new global and regional centers of excellence and training to ensure that all parts of the world are empowered to participate in the research and development, production, public ownership, open licensing, and regulatory oversight of advanced technologies, to support sustainable development.
- Public financing in research and development should be strengthened, as it is vital to support basic science, bypass the profit motive, and ensure the public good – from environmental sustainability to reducing systemic poverty.

Chapter 4 of the Pact for the Future and its annex, the Declaration on Future Generations

Presented by Kendell Vincent, from the Caribbean Region Youth Council, and Alimi Salifou, from the Partnership for Future Generations in Africa

- The international financial architecture should be reformed to be mandated in the Pact with concrete steps, including the repudiation of debt, the reform of boards of multilateral development banks, the inclusion of youth voices, and financing directed towards community-led organizations and marginalized groups.
- The Pact should ask Member States to include youth indicators across their national plans, including climate change nationally determined contributions, biodiversity plans, and national-level targets.
- The proposed global youth investment platform in the Pact should be designed with input from youth organizations.
- The Pact must refrain from selecting only one or two of the youth declarations referenced, as that would be a disservice to thousands of youth organizations participating in different processes.
- Sexual health and reproductive rights should be mainstreamed in the Pact.
- Accurate representation of youth is needed to reflect the realities at the grassroots level.
- There should be specific language in the Pact to enhance recognition and to support youth constituencies that have been instrumental in creating policy changes worldwide.
- There should be universal and equitable representative structures driven by youth.
- Governments across the globe must adopt the universal basic income system as a precondition for the implementation of Chapter 4.
- In response to the conspicuous exclusion of young people in decision-making, governments should set a quota system for the representation of young people and future generations in the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive branches of government.
- Member States should aim for fiscal consolidation and the renegotiation of sovereign debt in collaboration with partners, to create mutually beneficial paths between the global north and south.
- The international economic and financial systems must be fair and equitable, and young and future generations must have access to special economic zones.
- International law must prevail in the settlement of international disputes between state actors.

- Chapter 4 needs to expressly guarantee the well-being of the family as the primary social institution to ensure stable and prosperous communities for a peaceful world.

Chapter 5 of the Pact for the Future

Presented by Andreas Bummel, from Democracy without Borders, and Giovanna Kuelle, from the Igarape Institute

- The instrument of a world citizens' initiative should be created to enable people to officially submit proposals to the UN.
- A UN Civil Society Envoy should be appointed to proactively improve the UN's involvement with civil society and with other stakeholders.
- A UN Parliamentary Assembly should be set up to include citizen-elected representatives in the work of the UN.
- A Global Citizens Assembly should be created to provide a deliberative space for persons around the world.

- The crucial role of civil society inclusion in global governance and participation at the UN must be stressed.
- There must be comprehensive UN reforms, including (a) reforming the Security Council to reflect the current global landscape by expanding its membership to correct the underrepresentation of regions and developing countries, (b) revitalizing the work of the General Assembly by making full use of its peace and security toolbox and promoting competitive, merit-based elections and appointments, in order to ensure equitable geographical distribution and gender parity and to enhance representation from developing countries and other underrepresented groups, (c) ensuring a central role for the Economic and Social Council to provide leadership and coordination in economic, financial, and social development issues, in order to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, and (d) strengthening the Peacebuilding Commission by leveraging its unique ability to coordinate across the UN, and encouraging renewed conflict prevention strategies and an enhanced advisory role.



- The agenda for reforming the international financial architecture should be aligned with demands for sustainable finance. This includes (a) mobilizing financial resources to increase investment in clean energy to support low- and middle-income countries in phasing out reliance on fossil fuels, (b) reorienting the multilateral development banks towards sustainable finance, (c) transforming the governance of international financial institutions to make them more representative, equitable, and inclusive, (d) reforming the current sovereign debt system, and (e) redefining and strengthening the global tax system based on participatory and democratic governance, so that it can promote cooperation on tax evasion.
- Coordination between the UN and regional organizations must be deepened, and the human rights pillar of the UN should be strengthened.

Chapeau of the Pact for the Future

Presented by Esther Adhiambo, from the Initiative for Equality and Non-Discrimination, and Liberato Bautista, from the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations

- There is a need for a more robust text in the chapeau in funding multilateral ambitions to move us forward and ensure no one is left behind and where to source such funds.

The chapeau fails to address the substantial drain on resources to fund social safety nets to address hunger and poverty, and the zero draft does not identify what saps the national and multilateral coffers of the resources required to fund the elimination of hunger and the eradication of poverty. While the Pact mentions the scourge of war, it shies away from addressing defense spending and the full-throttle funding of wars and conflicts.

- The chapeau must address more local and global challenges than currently listed, including the uneven development of economies to avoid imperiling the “needs of the present” and compromising the “ability of future generations to meet theirs.”
- A clear statement must reaffirm at least 20 years of intergovernmental agreements on development, including the SDGs.
- The Pact must prioritize meaningful, effective, and inclusive civil society access and participation as crucial catalysts for transformative change, recognizing civil society’s immense, invaluable contributions across all five sections of the Pact.
- The Pact must emphasize the nine core human rights treaties and their optional protocols alongside the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to ensure holistic protection of human rights for all.
- In the Pact, the follow-up section should clearly articulate a mechanism for compliance and accountability.



2024 UNITED NATIONS CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

9 - 10 MAY 2024
NAIROBI, KENYA

Maria Fernanda Espinosa
If you allow me, I would like to mention that
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#2024UNCSC

2024 UNITED NATIONS CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

9 - 10 MAY 2024
NAIROBI, KENYA



Interactive Dialogue

On the 5 Chapters of the Pact For The Future, Declaration On Future Generations, Global Digital Compact, And Cross-Cutting Issues

Overview

The panel's focus was on exploring the current state of the process leading up to the adoption in September of the Pact of the Future and its two annexes, while allowing comments and questions from civil society representatives to the co-facilitators of those documents. Ishaan Shah, Founding Director of Stolen Dreams, introduced the panel, thanked the co-facilitators for their presence and "for taking the time to listen, and for committing to ensuring civil society and young people are centered across the Summit of the Future processes." "Your presence is a strong signal that our meaningful engagement can and does support and strengthen your intergovernmental deliberations," the young activist added.

The panel was co-moderated by María Fernanda Espinosa, Executive Director of GWL Voices, and Guy Ryder, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy. Guy Ryder highlighted that the participation of the co-facilitators was indeed "a major guarantee" that the discussions in Nairobi would "have a good connection with the process, the ongoing process of negotiation, [and the] adoption of the documents in September."

Mr. Ryder also mentioned that the objectives of the Summit "are of the highest importance." "It is no less than the reinvigoration of the multilateral system to enable it to address better and more effectively the multiple and serious pressing global challenges of the moment and help us together to construct responses to it," he stressed.

On that note, Ms. Fernanda Espinosa said that "we should not be afraid of the 242 pages of the Pact of the Future because we need to simultaneously work on incremental steps, short and medium-term processes, radical and bold ideas, and grand transformation objectives." The only way, she added, "to counter the dystopian world we live in is precisely by imagining a utopic multilateral system; it is an engine to move forward." She underscored the relevance of having an "exercise [of] deep listening so we can all be on the same page and operate with a mutual understanding of what we are trying to build together."

After the conversation on the three documents, there was an open-floor discussion with comments from some of the conference attendees.

SUMMARY OF THE DIALOGUE

About the Pact of the Future

His Excellency Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator of the Summit of the Future, started by saying that many of the recommendations from civil society heard in the previous panel were already being considered. He also explained the process involving informal consultations and written submissions that formed the basis for the priorities and vision of the Pact. Ambassador Gertze discussed the challenges of making the document a concise one with a balanced and action-oriented text, while considering the wide range of inputs received and avoiding, at the same time, “too much previously agreed language to ensure a more ambitious outcome.”

He commented about the revised version of the document’s zero draft, to be presented and released right after the Nairobi conference, hopefully to include some of the issues to be raised during the event. Ambassador Gertze assured that there would be “more action in all chapters” of the Pact. “You will see some topics and proposals

that were not in the zero draft,” he added. He also said that during the Summit itself there will be “plenary meetings with several interactive dialogues running in parallel” with the participation of “youth representatives, representatives of major groups and other stakeholders,” in addition to the pre-Summitation days that “will help spur the additional action and commitments” from Member States, civil society, and others.

In response to Ambassador Gertze’s remarks, Tim Murthi, from the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, based in South Africa, expressed the need to address the issue of a reform of the United Nations Charter in the Pact for the Future, in light of the prevailing “crisis of multilateralism and the catastrophic risks”. Sai Jyothirmal Racherla, from the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, commented about the urgency to implement a series of “comprehensive policy reforms that dismantle systemic barriers to achieving gender equality.” In her view, this should be covered by the Pact for the Future, as “the world is not on track to achieve gender equality.”

Rashima Kwatra, from the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, alongside Ali Henman, from the Swedish Federation for LGBTQ Rights, talked



about recognizing “historically oppressed and marginalized groups in the Pact and the need for centralization of systemic reforms to address fundamental inequalities.” Concerning other key issues, Charles Mwangi, from the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, called for more transparency and inclusivity in the process leading up to the Summit of the Future and the creation of accountability mechanisms within multilateral institutions, as well as for reform of the current financial architecture, tailoring more to the needs of African people, for example.

Finally, Gicuku Karugu, from Equality Now, commented about “common and differentiated responsibilities for countries to take progressive measures,” as well as on a timely review of the Sustainable Development Goals and the central placement of human rights in policy development and decision-making, within a framework of policy coherence and increased dialogue among countries and other stakeholders. Her Excellency Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator of the Summit of the Future, reacting to the comments made by civil society representatives, said that Member States have “stopped short so far from demanding a full-fledged” reform of the United Nations Charter.

Ambassador Leendertse reflected on how crucial it is to reach consensus and to have a broad agreement, and she commented on the hesitancy of Member States to push for significant changes within the United Nations. She also emphasized the importance of voicing demands and of maintaining pressure to effect change. “If you do not bring your vision now to the attention of the global public, it will not help to have at least some steps in the direction of a reform,” Ambassador Leendertse said. “Without your demands, we would not even have the result we have now,” she added, referring to the Zero Draft of the Pact. Ambassador Gertze added a comment highlighting the importance for civil society to keep lines of dialogue open with Member States.

About the Declaration on Future Generations

On the Declaration on Future Generations, Her Excellency Yoka M.G. Brandt, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator of such a document, stressed that civil society voices “do matter if we want to come to ambitious outcomes.” She summarized the consultations with various stakeholders and regional groups, underscoring the alignment she observed when it came to important priorities and issues. Ambassador Brandt explained that the zero draft of the Declaration contains a preamble, principles and commitments, and that written inputs were already received. “We are aiming for a paradigm shift,” she added, “where intergenerational equity and the interests and needs of future generations are central.”

Speaking on behalf of civil society, a girl champion from Nigeria, nominated by Save the Children, said that children should have “a seat at the decision-making tables where they can also make decisions on things that have a direct impact on them and their future.” Moreover, Sophie Howe, from the School for International Futures, commented on how imperative it is to properly address the needs of future generations, and Sameh Kamel, from the Major Group for Children and Youth, urged to have “bold, efficient and responsive multilateralist action to protect current and future generations.” He also said that the group would recommend “more progressive models” in response to the potential appointment of a Special Envoy for Future Generations.

Mahongora Kavihuha, from the Trade Union Congress of Namibia, called for the Declaration to “ensure that future jobs are decent, safe, free from exploitations based on rights, starting from the right of freedom of association, decent wages, and equal pay for women and men.” Finally, Winnie Nyandiga, from the 100 Million and Justice for Africa campaigns, stressed the need to transform the attention on young leaders to revitalize the focus on youth and future generations. “Ignoring our voices is not just morally wrong

but, strategically, foolish. We are the future of the world being discussed here. We are uncompromising, relenting, and unapologetic in demanding that our realities are centered throughout these processes,” she added.

Following the interventions from the floor, His Excellency Brian Wallace, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator of the Declaration, speaking via video conference, said that he agreed with the comments made by civil society delegates, and that most issues of concern were taken on-board in drafting the document. Ambassador Wallace expressed as well that all actors must be held accountable for the implementation of commitments made in the Declaration, and that “the process ahead is to fine tune” the document to have a Declaration that “retains high ambition and that is implementable.” “We look forward to a Declaration worthy of future generations,” he concluded.

About the Global Digital Compact

In regard to the Global Digital Compact, Her Excellency Anna-Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator of the document, said that it was a multi-stakeholder process and a chance “to agree on principles, action, and commitment for global digital cooperation,” bridging and closing existing digital divides, advancing digital literacy, and ensuring a safe and secure digital space. She also acknowledged cross-cutting issues, such as human rights and gender equality, and spoke of governance concerning emerging technologies, like artificial intelligence. “We need your voices to convince Member States,” because, in the end, she cautioned, they will “decide on the Global Digital Compact.”

Commenting on behalf of civil society, Zamiyat Abubakar, from Southern Voice, commented that digital exclusion and governance is an evolving

area with both potential and risks. She stressed the need to have affordable access to digital technologies, ensure skills development, enhance safety regulations, and bridge the digital divide, while including a committed private sector in this process. Neal McCarthy, from Oxfam, said that “a rights-respecting digital ecosystem” is needed. Regarding the text of the Compact, he advocated for streamlining gender inclusivity, expanding inclusion in the digital society, guiding the private sector on key issues, and ensuring accountability.

Naro Omo-Osagiem, from Access Now, underlined the importance of a human rights framework for meaningful connectivity and inclusion, as well as effective data protection and safety, while cautioning about internet shutdowns and digital surveillance. Further, Nick Newland, from the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, talked about enhancing and empowering existing processes instead of creating new ones, as well as the need to ensure a rights-based language throughout the Compact. Risper Onyango, from Lawyers Hub, talked about artificial intelligence development and use, and the need to guarantee, in the specific context of Africa, that it “is not just a public good for a few but is actually a continental-wide good.”

Achieng Akena, from the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, said that “real world remedies must be implemented to boost digital solutions” and that a digital space for all must be “inclusive, open, safe and secure,” avoiding the weaponization of digitalization. In response to comments made by civil society, His Excellency Chola Milambo, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator of the Compact, highlighted the relevance of multi-stakeholder involvement, and called for a document that would “stand the test of time.” Ambassador Milambo said that most issues raised were already addressed and reflected within the text. “We continue to look forward with your engagement,” he added.



Guy Ryder



Interactive Dialogue

Looking Ahead to the Summit and Beyond

Overview

The panel's focus was on hearing the views of various stakeholders on potential action ahead and beyond the Summit of the Future, examining critical aspects of alternative approaches to multilateralism, and reviewing the importance of the ImPACT Coalitions created during the conference.

The panel was co-moderated by Melissa Fleming, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, and Mai Sami Ahmed, Advocacy Officer Fellow at Save the Children and Next Generation Fellow of the United Nations Foundation.

Ms. Fleming said the ideas developed for joint action between civil society and other stakeholders were already contributing to the preparation process leading up to the Summit in September. One such innovative idea, on which she commented, was the creation of ImPACT Coalitions as a "lasting legacy of the conference," describing them as "an experiment that will help us have a successful Summit of the Future." She also underlined the importance of identifying "mechanisms that ensure that what is decided at the Summit can actually be implemented in practical terms."

Along similar lines, Ms. Ahmed said that as we look ahead to the Summit of the Future, "it is becoming more of a necessity to harness the collective strength of civil society and multistakeholder

coalitions." Such coalitions, she stated, enable charting "a course towards a multilateralism," to navigate evolving challenges, particularly at the global level. She also stressed how crucial intergenerational dialogue is, while also recognizing "the interplay between the wisdom generated from years of experiences and the fresh insights of youth". She welcomed the diversity of perspectives and experiences, necessary to catalyze the generation of "innovative solutions and shaping inclusive policies." "Youth are here to participate," she added.

After the panel, there was a segment for comments, questions, and recommendations from participants on the floor. Among the issues raised were climate and social justice, civil society's focus on youth, engagement with the private sector, protection of older persons, and the rights of women in the workplace.

This was followed by responses from United Nations agencies, philanthropic entities, and Member States, and a final round of brief interventions by the panelists. Speakers called for intergenerational solidarity and true inclusion, emphasized the pivotal role of civil society in global governance, and advocated for more constructive partnerships between civil society and governments within a framework of collective action.

SUMMARY OF THE DIALOGUE

Panel

Felipe Paullier, United Nations Assistant-Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, said that “young people’s participation can no longer be questioned.” Instead, he explained, “young people have an inalienable right to be represented when laws are adopted, budgets negotiated, and governments held to account.” On that note, Dr. Paullier mentioned that “political recognition and investment towards increased and meaningful youth participation has evolved with significant progress.” Despite such progress, he cautioned “we are not yet where we would like to be.” He emphasized the need for inclusive youth participation in decision-making at institutions like the United Nations. “Young people are contributing, are deeply interested, and must have a say into the future we are shaping,” he concluded.



Continuing with the panel, Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvonda, Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination, and Programme Results of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), talked about issues directly affecting vulnerable peoples and the profound effects on poverty on large segments of the population. “These are issues that can be resolved with leadership and commitment,” she said, arguing that there needs to be a “shift” on the conversation about such issues, including how discussions even take place. “It is also about listening to the voices from community,” Ms. Gumbonzvonda commented, when speaking about gender-related rights. She also stressed that “rightsholders” must have “a voice in the decisions of the United Nations.”

William Carew, Head of the Secretariat of the African Union’s Economic, Social and Cultural Council, said that the African Union’s statement “revolves around a ‘people-driven’ continent, thus highlighting the importance given to civic engagement.” Regional bodies, he added, “play a crucial role in providing an entry point for civil society in global governance through several key mechanisms.” Such regional bodies, he explained, foster dialogue with civil society organizations, support capacity-building, and provide a platform to voice concerns and recommendations. In his view, regional bodies also advocate for policies and engage in the implementation of global and regional agreements and initiatives.

Concerning the involvement of collectives and groups such as Indigenous peoples, Lida Paz, Leader of the Association of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca, Colombia, highlighted the importance of their involvement in Member States’ policies, and the need to focus on environmental issues currently impacting communities at all levels. She mentioned that, for Indigenous peoples, there was a set of “duties of protection and care,” related to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting human rights,

particularly for the most vulnerable. Ms. Paz also stressed how crucial “peace agendas” are, with a focus on the “root causes” of armed conflict and poverty, working closely with civil society.

Charlotte Reeves, Global Engagement Lead at the World Benchmarking Alliance, warned that the Sustainable Development Goals were “not on track,” and that evidence “shows that although there are leading business practices across industries and regions, most companies are misaligned” with the Goals “hindering progress instead of accelerating implementation.” On that note, she underlined that the private sector “must be held accountable,” and that the United Nations has a role in that regard. Finally, Ms. Reeves commented on the importance of joining forces with other actors and with the ImPACT Coalitions “to collectively drive progress on critical areas of the Pact for the Future that will last well beyond September.”

To conclude, Daniel Perell, Representative to the United Nations of the Bahá’í International Community, warned that “the systems that underpin society are not working sufficiently well,” thus requiring “some degree of improvement.” He talked favorably about the ImPACT Coalitions that aimed at leveraging elements such as “a shared area of work, shared by diverse stakeholders from diverse regions, [and a] shared set of asks for global governance reform.” He questioned the audience concerning action plans to enable “our shared knowledge [to] be pooled.” Mr. Perell also underscored that the ImPACT Coalitions should “come together again and continue their efforts,” before the Summit of the Future takes place.

Responses

Guy Ryder, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy, acknowledged the powerful messages delivered by panelists, emphasizing the imperative for the Summit of the Future to incorporate and respond to the various existing perspectives. He stressed the need to leverage the potential of regional organizations and to involve as many stakeholders as possible. Mr. Ryder

emphasized that these efforts were not merely acts of altruism; instead, he said, “the future good health of multilateralism” depends upon such efforts. He also urged civil society to press governments to commit to meaningful actions at the Summit, highlighting the critical role of collective effort beyond the event itself.

Natalie Samarasinghe, Global Director for Advocacy at the Open Society, stated that philanthropy can support civil society and that the multilateral convening in September was crucial. In her opinion, the Summit can and must champion change that will deliver results, while also heralding new ways of working. The Summit should also empower action by providing entry points for stakeholders who can act at all levels, she said. “The Summit of the Future is one moment, one meeting. It will take many more. We may, or may not, remember it as the moment we changed course. But if we can use it to shift the conversation, then I think we will remember what we did next together,” Ms. Samarasinghe concluded.

Michal Mlynar, Acting Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), underlined efforts to shape the Pact for the Future to prioritize sustainable urban development in light of the 2030 Agenda. Highlighting the youth demographic in Sub-Saharan Africa, he underscored the need to prioritize youth-focused initiatives. Additionally, these initiatives stress the crucial role of local and regional governments in global decision-making processes. He also spoke about how vital the reinforcement of engagements with civil society in global decision-making processes is. “We need to focus collectively on ensuring that we achieve the best possible results,” he added, in relation to the Summit of the Future. A future, he said, “is and will be urban, local, digital and has to be green inclusive, just and equal.”

Reflecting on how quickly the world is changing and will continue to change within a framework of multiple crises, Anja Olin-Pape, Head of Multilateral Strategies at the Global Challenges Foundation, warned about the severity of existing

global needs, while also highlighting the capabilities of civil society, as well as the action-oriented vision of the ImPACT Coalitions. Ms. Olin-Pape stressed that structural changes within multilateral systems are urgently needed to effectively address future challenges. “Our structures need to change, to be able to meet the needs of tomorrow,” she explained, while encouraging participants to increase collaborative efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. “This is my aspiration for the Summit of the Future,” she said.

The Ambassador of Brazil to Kenya, Silvio Albuquerque, expressed that the Summit of the Future is a “unique opportunity to pave the way towards a more effective and inclusive multilateral system.” He mentioned that given the “reality of colonization and concentration of power and a small number of actors,” the Pact for the Future “demands our meticulous attention to ensure that the multilateral system is more representative of the world of today.” Special attention should be paid to the countries in the Global South, he said, “whose power and capacity are being demonstrated.” Ambassador Albuquerque insisted that the Pact must prioritize intensifying efforts to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and hate speech, while advocating for gender equality.

“Let me underline the importance of what we call self-organized civil society participation in United Nations processes,” said the Ambassador of Norway to Kenya, Gunnar Holm, at the beginning of his remarks. “Because of the bleak global picture we have, we must not lose sight of opportunities to respond to the challenges, together through united international efforts and across regional multilateral corporation,” the Ambassador explained, acknowledging the existence of “unprecedented parallel challenges.” He stressed that the upcoming Summit of the Future is a crucial opportunity to strengthen and reform the multilateral system, intensify efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and prioritize peace, security, development, and human rights.

Finally, Birgitte Markussen, Director of Humanitarian Affairs, Civil Society and Engagement at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, stressed that a multilateralism that is “fit for the future” is needed now more than ever before. “We need solutions to the global challenges of our time, and we need to reach our trust by revitalizing international cooperation,” she added. On that front, Ms. Markussen mentioned that civil society has a “key role to play.” Along those lines, the representative from Denmark highlighted the “UNMute” initiative that her country launched with Costa Rica, to advance and increase civil society’s meaningful participation at the United Nations. A manual derived from this initiative will be presented during the Summit of the Future, she stated, as a “concrete and practical tool.”

IMPACT COALITIONS

Objectives

The civil society-generated and multi-stakeholder ImPACT Coalitions have three objectives:

1. Offer a platform for a more collaborative approach to meaningful engagement among civil society, stakeholders, the United Nations, and Member States.
2. Serve as a space to coalesce different initiatives that may be pursuing similar goals, toward and beyond the Pact for the Future, to diversify their membership and strengthen their outcomes.
3. Create and encourage ongoing engagement with a forward-looking plan of action focused on impact and on implementation of specific reform proposals relating to governance.

The goal of these coalitions is to co-create new initiatives and bring existing initiatives together in a broader package, thereby expanding the reach and engagement of such initiatives.



Principles

The ImPACT Coalitions are based on these principles:

- They must be geographically and organizationally diverse, potentially including – in addition to civil society – think tanks, academia, private entities, United Nations entities, and Member States.
- They must involve various constituencies in the spirit of “leaving no one behind.” Additionally, efforts should be made to ensure relevance to and “buy-in” from Member States as the lead on intergovernmental negotiations.
- They must be trans-disciplinary, acknowledging the interconnection of the complex challenges we face.
- They must have clearly articulated objectives.
- They should find synergies with existing efforts focused on implementation.
- They should seek to include coalitions and initiatives that already exist.

Criteria

To align with these principles, the following criteria should be met:

1. To the extent possible, at least five civil society organizations should come from different United Nations regions, with at least three coming from the regions of the Global South. Organizations that consider themselves “global” would need to identify a primary region of operation.
2. Civil society actors must comprise at least three different ‘types’ of constituencies.
3. Engagement with Member States and/or United Nations country teams and/or United Nations agencies should be planned, aiming for an assessment of what support might be needed for such an engagement.
4. A work plan outlining the ImPACT Coalition’s proposed engagement should be initiated, covering the period from the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference through the Summit of the Future, if not beyond.

List

1. AI and other Cybertech Governance

Focused on principles such as safety, sustainability, and inclusion, it seeks to improve global management of artificial intelligence (AI) and other cyber-technologies, with the aim of expanding significantly for all nations and peoples the potential benefits of these powerful technologies while, simultaneously, mitigating their risks. It provides a space for stakeholders to discuss and provide views on, for instance, the Global Digital Compact fifth objective. It also explores ways to strengthen concepts and recommendations presented in the zero draft of such a document, while also seeking specific ideas of its own on topics such as global governance of AI risk, regulation, inclusion, ensuring a human rights approach, and leveraging existing structures.

2. Arts and Culture

It is dedicated to amplifying arts and cultural expressions in United Nations processes on sustainable development. Its mission extends to advocating for meaningful representation and engagement of artists and cultural workers in shaping the Summit and beyond. Its main objectives include: (1) Facilitate collaborative engagement; (2) Unify initiatives for shared goals; and (3) Drive impactful governance reform. It advocates for greater integration of arts and culture within the Pact of the Future. It aims to develop a ‘Creator’s Hub’ as a dedicated space during the Summit, and the ARTS2030 Agenda to outline how United Nations entities and Member States can engage with artists and the creative community in United Nations processes.

3. Children’s Rights and Participation

Under the premise that children are critical agents of change and considering that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and child rights are mutually reinforcing, it aims to advocate for Member State to transform their words into actions, by promoting a Summit of the Future that acknowledges children as key stakeholders in delivering the 2030 Agenda and illustrating the pivotal role of children in accelerating achievement of the SDGs. It aims to influence the text of the Pact for the Future by releasing a statement, reaching out to Member States, and mobilizing support. It also aims to foster the participation of children during the Actions Days and the Summit itself, and explore opportunities post-Summit to address these issues.

4. Digital Governance and Eliminating Digital Divides

Its goal is to foster a safe, inclusive, and empowering digital environment for all, including for young women and girls, and to contribute to the Global Digital Compact. It leverages science, technology,

and innovation to promote digital cooperation and addresses the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital age. It advocates for comprehensive cyber harassment laws, partnering with tech companies to combat online abuse, and promoting digital literacy programs. It also advocates for the implementation of robust data protection and privacy regulations, the promotion of meaningful youth engagement, the increased investment in digital infrastructure and access initiatives, and enhanced international collaboration and cooperation among different stakeholders.

5. Earth Governance and Science Policy Solutions for the Environment

It builds cooperation between key stakeholders on environmental governance issues and initiatives leading up to and beyond the Summit of the Future. It is focused on awareness-raising about Earth governance and on establishing and strengthening global environmental governance mechanisms, including those of political, judicial, and administrative nature. Environmental governance mechanisms considered by the coalition include those proposed in the Peoples Pact for the Future and in other preparations and inputs for the Declaration for Future Generations and the Pact for the Future. It convenes and co-organizes events on these issues and specific proposals, including a Declaration of a Planetary Emergency.

6. Faith-Based Solutions

It consists of faith and spiritual actors and advocates for the inclusion of faith-based language and common values across faiths in United Nations documents. It lays emphasis on universal principles such as peace, compassion, and human dignity. It recommends the inclusion of shared values across faiths and belief systems to the Pact’s “Chapeau” and that of “faith-based actors” in Chapter 2 on Peace and Security. It also advocates for the recognition of faith-based organizations as a key partner in broadening reach

and in implementation. It also aims to create an interfaith working paper for advocacy purposes and a compendium of faith-based resources related to the Summit of the Future, in addition to developing strategies to advocate for the implementation of the Pact.

7. Funding for Community Action on Sustainable Development

It seeks to explore collective needs for access to funding and to learn from existing best practices across key civil society constituencies on approaches to enhance flexible funding support for grassroots organizations working on sustainable development. It aims to present alternative, simplified, and easy-to-use grant making formats to funders aimed at reducing the technicalities and bureaucracies that exist in the funding space. It also explores funding models to enable local initiatives to secure the resources and capacity needed to scale up their work and to deliver on their goals. It proposes a call to action to donors and advocates to pilot a small collaborative fund with local partners.

8. Future Generations

It aims to reimagine the United Nations to effectively address the challenges of the 21st century. It is dedicated to championing the rights of future generations to inherit healthy and sustainable ecosystems through intergenerational equity, trust, and solidarity, to ensure that “no one is left behind.” It explores existing and innovative solutions to balance the needs of the current generation with the needs of future ones. It advocates for commitments to safeguard the interests of future generations, the creation of a multi-stakeholder forum, and the appointment of a UN Special Envoy, while supporting intergenerational dialogues and gatherings.

9. CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) Revitalization for Gender Equality

It focuses on governance reforms specific to United Nations mechanisms that affect women and girls in all their diversity. It develops recommendations addressing the eradication of gender-based violence, enhancing women in leadership, and focusing on the unique needs of the girl



child, with the aim of inclusion of these issues in the Pact for the Future. It develops strategies to seek funding to support local grassroots organizations fueling this work, as well as a social media strategy with campaigns and community-based workshops. It engages with various stakeholders to support accountability mechanisms to ensure fair and just implementation of existing policies and laws to protect women and promote their rights.

10. Inclusive Citizen Data

It is based on the Collaborative on Citizen Data, considering the critical data gaps in official statistics and the potential of inclusive data to support effective reporting and policy development, recognizing the importance of citizens' contributions to data. The Collaborative on Citizen Data aims to strengthen citizen participation and leverage data solutions to produce and use inclusive data. It represents a collective effort to harness the potential of citizens for data-driven decision-making by bridging gaps, promoting inclusiveness of statistical systems, and amplifying the voices and representation of marginalized groups. It aims to create a strategic tool for citizen empowerment into the Pact for the Future.

11. Inclusive Global Governance

It brings together and advances civil society initiatives, placing people at the heart of global governance in the lead-up to and at the Summit of the Future. These include the campaigns for a World Citizens' Initiative, a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, a permanent Global Citizens' Assembly, and a United Nations Civil Society Envoy. The coalition calls on Member States either to establish or to provide support for the establishment of such bodies, initiatives, and mechanisms. Such proposals are based on the premise that, in an age where challenges are both global and intergenerational, inclusive global governance is necessary.

12. International Anti-Corruption Court

It seeks the creation or establishment of an international court to hold corrupt public officials, including bribe payers and money launderers, accountable for the crimes of grand corruption under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, when national governments are unable or unwilling to do so. In both criminal and civil proceedings, the court would recover and return stolen assets to benefit victim populations. The coalition highlights the need to combat the transnational networks fueling corruption and raises awareness that such corruption is a human rights abuse, denying citizens of the resources needed to address climate change, public health, sustainable development, and peace and security.

13. International Financial Architecture Reform and Financing for Development

It aims to contribute to the global dialogue on reforming the international financial architecture and the agenda of Financing for Development. It seeks to align efforts among civil society, stakeholders, the United Nations, and Member States to address global financing needs and development and climate action. Key areas of focus include expanding multilateral financing, rethinking development measurement, addressing sovereign debt crises, reforming governance of international financial institutions, and promoting international tax cooperation. These efforts are aimed at mobilizing resources to eradicate poverty and protect the environment, thereby advancing a sustainable and equitable future for all.

14. Health

It provides a space to foster a discussion focused on health as a fundamental human right which is essential for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. This coalition is concerned with the lack of mention of health in the draft of the Pact for the Future and considers that it must

be integrated as a critical priority in the Pact and its annexes, while reinforcing health as a cross-cutting and intersectional issue, in order to ensure resilient public health systems, as well as universal health care and coverage. The coalition seeks a meaningful contribution from affected communities and acknowledges the relevance of health rights as necessary to fulfilling other human rights. To that end, the coalition proposes specific language on this matter to Member States.

15. Just Institutions and the International Court of Justice

It advances tangible ways to bolster the international judicial ecosystem. This coalition supports the universality and effectiveness of global judicial architecture, including the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, and newly contemplated institutions that effectively work with regional and domestic systems. This coalition advocates for concrete commitments related to judicial institutions and processes to be included in the Pact for the Future. The coalition builds upon and seeks to expand – in scope, diversity of membership, and impact of multi-stakeholder contributions – the work of the Legal Alternatives to War (LAW not War), a global campaign launched in October 2023.

16. Latin America and the Caribbean (Regional Coalition)

This coalition brings together key institutions and actors from Latin America and the Caribbean region in an inclusive space to identify relevant regional issues within the framework of the five thematic axes of the Summit of the Future and collectively develop advocacy proposals and key messages for the regional negotiations ahead of the Summit. It aims to promote dialogue and collaboration – identifying relevant themes, key actors, and thematic priorities – to achieve

a regional vision before, during, and after the Summit.

17. Ocean Matters

It works to mainstream the ocean agenda in the implementation of the Pact for the Future. The goal is to follow up on specific issues based on key priority areas, such as ocean governance, the role of Small Island Development States, the protection and sustainable management of the oceans and marine resources, the promotion of marine and ocean education and of the blue economy, and challenges to maritime and climate security. The coalition develops strategic partnerships and fosters engagement with Member States, while activating networks and undertaking outreach to relevant stakeholders using an SDGs framework.

18. Peacebuilding

It invites the wider peacebuilding community to contribute to a discussion and a strategy to operationalize the aspirations of the Pact for the Future through the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), ensuring that the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture is “fit for purpose.” This is considered under the premise that both the Pact and the PBAR have practical implications for how peacebuilding is conducted at local and country levels. The coalition organizes regional consultations, strengthens connections with the Dialogue Initiative on Peacebuilding, and contributes to the PBAR processes. This includes engaging formally and informally through submissions to the comprehensive report by the Secretary-General.

19. Space Matters

It looks to bridge the gap between space organizations and the broader UN framework beyond the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, under the premise that the future of space will impact and be impacted by developments

in science and technology, sustainable development, finance systems, and global governance. The coalition provides a focal point for civil society organizations from the space sector to engage with the Summit of the Future. Key issues addressed include: Space Debris, Space Exploration, Space Resources, Space Governance, Education, Capacity-building, Space Anthropology, and Philosophy. It organizes workshops and carries out advocacy and awareness campaigns, as well as policy debates. It also encourages academic collaboration and research and fosters space diplomacy.

20. The Future of Drug Policy

It encourages various perspectives on drug policy and builds on regional and global consultations, leading up to the 2024 mid-term review of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. This resulted in a Global Civil Society Report published by the Vienna and New York NGO Committees on Drugs. Civil society can play a vital role in supporting Member States and providing evidence-based services to affected populations. The report identified key issues that need to be addressed to ensure that drug-related matters are adequately tackled. The coalition organizes targeted advocacy campaigns to influence policymakers, in addition to strengthening partnerships and conducting workshops and training for stakeholders.

21. Toward the World Social Summit

22. United Nations Charter Reform

It seeks to engage Member States on the topic of the United Nations Charter reform. It aims to generate a critical mass of proponents for - including a sponsor of - a General Assembly resolution calling for a General Conference to review the Charter, to be convened after the Summit. The coalition advocates to include a commitment to

a continued reform process in the Pact for the Future and beyond. The goal is for a multilateral approach based on fairness, justice, the equitable distribution of power, transparency, accountability, inclusive representation, and effectiveness.

23. Underrecognized Communities

It champions a human-rights based approach to advocacy and action in the Pact for the Future. United in its belief in the inherent dignity of all human beings, the coalition amplifies the voices of underrepresented communities globally and stands together to ensure inclusivity, accessibility, participation, and liberation from oppression. Advocacy groups are built around core themes and conduct in-person advocacy, especially surrounding the High-Level Political Forum and the Summit of the Future. Thematic groups include such topics as liberation, equality, disability, inclusion and equal participation, and invisible forms of exclusion and oppression.

24. Youth and Intergenerational Engagement: Collective Action for Youth, Adolescents, and Older Generations

It serves as a collaborative platform for youth, adolescents, older people, and all generations in their diversity and geographical settings, with the goal of connecting and working together to share expertise and engage in the processes of the Pact for the Future. The engagements complement the aim for a collective future that safeguards intergenerational and sustainable wellbeing. It calls for intersectional approaches, data disaggregation, the mobilization of support for youth and older people, and the prioritization of investments in education, healthcare, and socio-economic empowerment for adolescent girls. These recommendations aim to foster rights-based policies across generations in global initiatives.



#2024UNCSC

Closing Town Hall



Overview

The Town Hall provided each ImPACT Coalition, created within the framework of the conference, a platform to report on its sessions' outcome and to present initial priorities and plans.

It was co-moderated by the conference co-chairs, Carole Ageng'o, Global Initiatives Lead for HelpAge International, and Nudhara Yusuf, Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center.

Ms. Yusuf stated towards the end of the presentations that "this is a process where we learn." She also highlighted the fact that "so many people are

coming together from different communities and different spaces and having conversations on specific actions," which, in her view, was "the idea behind the ImPACT Coalitions." Ms. Yusuf added that the ImPACT Coalitions were "an experiment." "It was about convening people who do not usually convene and seeing what happens," she added.

During the course of the Town Hall, commitments were made by those speaking on behalf of the different ImPACT Coalitions. Furthermore, participants expressed their aim to translate conference pledges into concrete actions, emphasizing inclusivity and sustainability, rallying for more

global engagement to ensure significant impact at all levels.

These comments were followed by those of respondents representing regional organizations, the business sector, civil society organizations, and philanthropic institutions. Her Excellency Henriette Geiger, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Kenya, spoke on behalf of the regional organizations, highlighting the importance that the EU gives to meaningful engagement with civil society, while stressing how crucial it is to support initiatives like this conference.

Howie Wachtel, Senior Director for United Nations and International Organizations Policy at Microsoft, commented on how vital international cooperation was, stating that “it can produce even more effective outcomes if it draws upon the perspectives and resources of civil society and the private sector.” The Summit of the Future, he said, will provide “an opportunity to recognize

the role of stakeholders in helping to confront” global challenges. On that note, he mentioned the importance of addressing issues such as the role of technology to advance the 2030 Agenda.

A representative from the Major Groups and other Stakeholders questioned the feasibility of the ImPACT Coalitions and asked to “strengthen existing structures and mechanisms” in a spirit of constructive collaboration.

Finally, David Ohana, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer at the United Nations Foundation, said that he was “inspired” and emphasized the need for an authentic and ambitious process. He announced a campaign in the lead-up to the Summit assembling top creative talent globally to engage millions of young people. The idea would be to capture “their energy, creativity and voices to let leaders know that the eyes of the world are watching.” “We want to light a fire which is impossible to ignore,” Mr. Ohana added.





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9 - 10 MAY 2024
NAIROBI, KENYA



Closing Session



Overview

On 10 May 2024, the Closing Plenary Session concluded the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference. Speakers highlighted the critical role of civil society in multilateralism, as well as the importance of the ImPACT Coalitions created within the framework of the conference. Remarks were made by Melissa Fleming, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, who was also the master of ceremonies during the session.

From the civil society community, the keynote speaker was Mithika Mwenda, Co-Founder of the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance. Closing

remarks were made by Nudhara Yusuf, Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center, and by Carole Ageng'o, Global Initiatives Lead for HelpAge International, co-chairs of the conference.

His Excellency Chola Milambo, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations, spoke on behalf of the Co-Facilitators of the Summit of the Future's intergovernmental processes. Finally, António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, and His Excellency William Ruto, President of Kenya, made interventions to close the conference.

SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENTS

Melissa Fleming, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, said that the two days of the conference were “an incredible journey” full of ideas on generating a meaningful outcome in support of the Summit of the Future. “This was more than your average convening,” she remarked, saying that the event was both innovative and impactful. She emphasized that civil society’s ideas and voices have always been crucial. Ms. Fleming also said that the conference “set a powerful example of how we can join forces” in the spirit of global solidarity.

Mithika Mwenda, Co-Founder of the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance, commented that the conference’s theme was not just a call to action but a “beacon of hope, promise, renewal and solidarity.” He also said that transformative outcomes should be a priority, ensuring a roadmap for a resilient future while guaranteeing that the benefits of progress are evenly spread. He highlighted that new opportunities for civic engagement are emerging, and that the conference represented an opportunity to galvanize action and renew the commitment to a just and sustainable world. “It is an invitation to harness the power of our shared humanity,” he added.

Nudhara Yusuf, Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center and Conference Co-Chair, said that she saw “passion, vibrancy, solidarity, and the unwavering dedication of civil society and stakeholders” contributing to multilateralism. If the Summit of the Future expects Member States to be ambitious and think differently about how they work, Ms. Yusuf explained, civil society must be willing to do the same. She also stressed the importance of the process ahead of the Summit and remarked that the conference showcased the expertise that civil society can bring to the table.

Carole Ageng’o, Global Initiatives Lead for HelpAge International and Conference Co-Chair,

commented that the conference allowed for robust discussions and new partnerships. She acknowledged that the diversity of civil society actors and interests made it challenging to build consensus over the brief period of the conference, but she affirmed that there was an opportunity moving forward for civil society to develop the ideas emanating from the conference. She added that the collaborative power of civil society should be nurtured, to engage from a multi-stakeholder perspective and address common concerns.

Chola Milambo, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations (on behalf of the Co-Facilitators of the Summit of the Future’s intergovernmental processes), said that the conference enabled the Co-Facilitators to engage with civil society on multiple levels and hear their ideas and messages, focused on transforming words into actions ahead of the Summit. Ambassador Milambo said that the multilateral system must be “fit-for-purpose”, and he thanked the conference participants for their active engagement and constructive discussions. He expressed his willingness to “take this spirit of multi-stakeholderism into the various processes.”

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, said that he had witnessed the “enormous impact of civil society in every corner of the world” and asked the conference participants to keep working with the Organization. He explained that while global crises demand global solutions, the international system was not “up to the task”, and civil society was often marginalized. The Secretary-General called for a reformed and revitalized multilateralism “where the contribution of civil society is recognized as central” and underlined the relevance of civil society’s “can-do” attitude, its experience and knowledge, and its network and contacts which are vital to implement change.

William Ruto, President of Kenya, commended the conference organizers for their work and recognized civil society as vital for inclusive growth

and sustainable development. Dr. Ruto commented on the role of civil society in “championing policies that address the special needs of multiple and diverse constituencies, fostering change, ensuring social justice, advocating for the protection of minorities, transparency, and accountability is indispensable.” He stated that civil society’s “advocacy is crucial in defining our policies and actions.” On that note, he announced the operationalization of the Public Benefits Organizations Act in Kenya, bringing the regulation of civil society into one framework for greater effectiveness. Finally, he urged conference participants to translate the event’s outcomes into transformative and actionable results.



Statement by Melissa Fleming

United Nations Under-Secretary-General
for Global Communications

I am so pleased to welcome you to the Closing Session of the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future.

The past two days have been an incredible journey full of ideas on how to generate meaningful impact in support of the Summit of the Future.

From the offsite events and briefings that preceded the conference to its onsite and offsite

workshops, the ImPACT Coalitions, exhibits, caucuses, and online sessions – this has been much more than a simple convening.

I would like, first of all, to thank the Conference Co-Chairs, the members of the Planning Committee and the Subcommittees, my team in the Department of Global Communications, and colleagues in other United Nations entities, including, of course, here in Nairobi, for their creativity and passion and for the valuable time invested in this very successful conference.

Let me also convey my appreciation for the presence of His Excellency Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, and Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. We are honored to have you with us.

Civil society ideas and voices have always been crucial for the work we do at the United Nations – from the Sustainable Development Goals to delivering impact in support of the Summit of the Future.

Through this conference, we saw global civil society organizations seize this space to bring together Member States, United Nations entities, and other Intergovernmental Organizations to take effective steps towards our common future.

I heard a beautiful word this week, *mshikamano*, which in Kiswahili means “solidarity.” We need more of today than ever, and this conference set a powerful example.

Its goal was to rethink how civil society interacts with intergovernmental processes and their lead actors. We have achieved that.

We will see the results of this work within the next few months, ahead of the Summit of the Future, during the Summit’s Action Days, and beyond.

Having all of you here, including such a substantial representation of global civil society, Permanent Representatives and delegates of so many Member States, in addition to representatives of the African Union, the European Union,

and more, is testament to how important and meaningful this conference is.

It has been the United Nations privilege to host this innovative conference, and we look forward to working with civil society on continuing its impact.

Statement by Mithika Mwenda

Executive Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance

As we stand at the precipice of change, gathered here in Nairobi for the historic United Nations Civil Society Conference, we are reminded of the weight of history and the power of genuine collective action, exemplified by the spirit of Ubuntu: I am what I am because of who we all are.

Our theme, “Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress,” is not just a call to action—it is a beacon of hope, promise, renewal and solidarity for a world grappling with the complexities of modern challenges, shifting geopolitical alliances, widening inequalities, unwarranted wars and genocides like the ones orchestrated by Israel against harmless Palestinian women and children, and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, all exacerbated by planetary crises.

The Summit of the Future is an opportunity to revive global action, move from rhetoric into action, reimagine our implementation approaches, and reaffirm fundamental principles to ensure multilateral frameworks are ready for future challenges. But talking about the future, when I was a youth during the conversations on Millenium Development Goals, we were talking about the future. During the conversations on the 2030 Agenda, we were talking about the future. As we reach the mid-term of Sustainable Development Goals, we are talking about the future. And even as we will be binding farewell to the 2030 Agenda in six years’ time today, we will still be talking about the future! When then, will that elusive future come? Will it come on the second coming of Jesus for those who are Christians?

Nevertheless, in the future we are concluding discussing during this conference, in September in New York and beyond, we will need boldness and honest conversations to achieve the radical transformations we desire for the development and poverty alleviation, and an action-oriented Pact for the Future.

We must aim for transformative outcomes, providing a roadmap for a more resilient future and ensuring that the benefits of progress are more evenly spread, thus leaving no one behind - whether one comes from North or South, considered rich or poor, men and women, the aged and the youth.

We are in a geopolitical context of shrinking civic space, often occasioned by political polarization, social fragmentation, and rise of digital platforms that amplify divisive narratives, misinformation and fake news. These elements not only continue to overshadow our collective voices but sabotage consensus and unity building.

However, new opportunities for civic engagement are also emerging, leveraging on technology to reconnect communities and foster dialogue and progressive conversations between people, societies and economies. It’s crucial to support these initiatives and strengthen the institutions that protect civic space, ensuring that the people’s voices are not just heard but instrumental in shaping the future. A resilient civic space is, therefore, an essential catalyst and trigger for democracy and effective governance.

The erosion of democracy globally is not just a threat—it is a worrying reality that we witness, whether we are in advanced economies, or in Africa. The rise of right-wing movements and bigotry, especially in civilizations from where we have borrowed our modern practices, cast long shadows across the globe. Freedom House’s “Freedom in the World 2021” report indicates that less than 20% of the world’s population now lives in countries considered ‘free’, a significant decrease since 1995.

The rise of right-wing movements, which often challenge democratic norms, has been documented as a contributing factor to this decline. These movements have gained traction through populist rhetoric, often targeting immigrants and other marginalized groups, and have seen electoral successes in several countries.

The erosion of democracy globally is not just a threat—but an unfolding and sad reality being witnessed. The rise of right-wing movements, especially in civilizations where we have borrowed our modern practices, cast long shadows across the globe. Unfortunately, these movements have gained traction through populist rhetoric with devastating consequences.

The global shift towards authoritarianism, with increased pressure on human and environmental rights organizations and intimidation of journalists, scholars, and minorities, underscores the reality of democracy's retreat in the face of rising extremism. The situation calls for concerted efforts and rethink, particularly by philanthropies historically credited with a standing with the people and fighting for principles of liberal democracy.

In the meantime, genocidal wars continue to ravage nations, leaving behind a trail of destruction and despair as exemplified by the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine crises. Unfortunately, the deeper human cost is immeasurable and far-reaching. Indeed, the aftermath of conflict extends beyond the cessation of hostilities, as trauma, loss, and mistrust linger for generations.

In the event of war, recovery and restoring the hearts and minds of the affected is more complex as fostering reconciliation and healing requires a concerted efforts from all sectors of society, including governments, civil society, and international organizations. Initiatives that promote dialogue and understanding between former adversaries are crucial in cultivating a culture of peace.

Unfortunately, climate justice and the transition towards a sustainable future remain elusive for

many, especially for those who bear the least responsibility for the ecological crises we face. Climate justice is predicated on the principle that the transition to a sustainable future must be equitable and fair, recognizing that those least responsible for climate change often bear the brunt of its negative impacts.

Developing countries face a myriad of obstacles towards sustainability. They lack the financial and technological capabilities to invest in renewable energy and green infrastructure. Moreover, the historical responsibility of developed nations in contributing to greenhouse gas emissions imposes an ethical obligation to support those less developed in their transition. Sadly, this support is not always forthcoming at the scale required, leaving many developing nations to face the dual burdens of development and climate adaptation with limited assistance.

To truly justify the pursuit of climate justice and a sustainable future, concerted efforts must be made to bridge the gap between rhetoric and action, and radically reform global financing architecture to be responsive to the needs of people and imperatives of social and climate justice. This also includes honoring financial commitments especially under Paris Agreement, including on adaptation, transferring technology, building capacity, and ensuring that all stakeholders have a seat at the table.

Finally, the widening gulf of debt and poverty that plagues countless communities represents a stark reality for millions who find themselves in a relentless struggle for survival, often through no fault of their own. This calls for the urgent pursuit of justice, fairness, and the inherent dignity of every individual.

When we speak of debt, we refer not only to the financial obligations that countries must navigate but also to a deeper societal debt—a deficit of compassion and action. The burden of national debt on developing economies often leads to austerity measures that disproportionately affect the

most vulnerable populations, stripping away social safety nets and essential services that could otherwise provide a lifeline to those in need.

Poverty, on the other hand, deprives individuals of not only financial security but also opportunities and choices. It is a barrier to education, health, and the ability to participate fully in society. This is a stark reminder that our economic systems and policies often prioritize efficiency and growth over the well-being of all members of society. This makes the moral imperative to address debt and poverty not only clear, but extremely urgent. It also demands for a review of the traditional economic models and metrics through focusing and investing in sustainable and inclusive development initiatives that provide the foundation for long-term economic stability and prosperity for all, not just a privileged few.

This entails ensuring equal access to quality education, healthcare, fair employment and empowering communities to have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

Finally, this conference represents a unique opportunity to galvanize action and renew our commitment to creating a just and sustainable world. It is an invitation to harness the power of our shared humanity to overcome today's challenges and build a brighter future for all.

While the challenges are daunting, they are not insurmountable. With concerted effort, strategic action, and a unified voice, we can address these issues and work towards a world that reflects our highest ideals and aspirations.

Statement by Nudhara Yusuf

Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center and Co-Chair, 2024 UN Civil Society Conference

With all existing protocols observed, excellencies, colleagues, and my wonderful civil society family, here we are at the closing ceremony of the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference.

Just under 48 hours ago, we set off to write the story of what happens next. What happens from May to September and what happens beyond the Summit of the Future. To make our biggest statement, not just one of what we expect from an intergovernmental process, but of what we can offer it.

Over the last two days we have seen passion, vibrancy, solidarity, and the unwavering dedication of civil society and stakeholders present here today to make a difference to multilateralism.

We pushed the envelope on how civil society engages with intergovernmental processes, from interactive dialogues to ImPACT Coalitions, the latter of which aims to bring together stakeholders working on various issues, to create a space to support champion member states on specific reforms toward the summit of the future and the implementation process beyond.

The conference itself, held in the Global South heard voices not usually present in the halls of New York, intergenerational leadership and partnership was showcased from the planning committee to the intergenerational hub to youth and youth alumni coming together to co-host sessions across the two days.



This was an experiment. There is always, always, room for improvement. But one thing is for sure. We cannot do the same thing we have always done and expect new results. If the Summit of the Future expects Member States to be ambitious and think differently about the way they work, we as civil society whom these Member States often represent, must be willing to do the same.

So, what have we done and what story have we created of what happens next. The outcomes of the 38 onsite workshops, as well as those that are online and offsite, the civil society recommendations presented, the questions and insights from the interactive dialogues, and the workplans of the ImPACT Coalitions will be presented in an outcome package on the 30th of May in New York in hybrid format globally. We will ensure this process is built on and shared from Nairobi to New York and beyond as one of the many ways civil society will support the Summit of the Future, and we hope you will join us on this journey.

In addition to the United Nations press releases that have summarized each day of the conference which have been available on the conference website. On Monday, you will find a note from Carole and me on some of our key personal takeaways from the conference on the website, alluding to what is to come in the outcome package, from those who engaged in this process.

We also express our thanks to the four major networks that were involved in the planning of this process, the Major Groups which Carole represents here, Coalition for the UN We Need which I am proud to be a part of, the Global NGO Executive Committee, and CONGO. Thank you to the Department of Global Communications for convening this space for civil society to lead, the United Nations Office in Nairobi, the United Nations Information Service at Nairobi, the incredible technical teams, security and protocol, the interpreters and others who hosted us here in Nairobi and enabled the smooth running of this conference. To our volunteers and youth reporters for bringing energy and commitment, and

none of this would have been possible without our incredible, truly incredible planning committee members and the co-chairs sitting here in the front. Please give them all a round of applause.

And to all of you, for showing up and showcase I firmly believe here in Nairobi, we have invited stakeholders into our space and showcased the substance and expertise we bring into a discussion across activists, think tankers, scholars, grassroots champions.... across civil society.



Statement by Carole Ageng'o

Global Initiatives Lead and Africa Regional Representative for HelpAge International and Co-Chair, 2024 UN Civil Society Conference

As we come to the close of the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future, I am highly optimistic. I am optimistic for many reasons.

When Nudhara and I were appointed to this role, just under 3 months ago, we set out to ensure that the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future was inclusive, impactful, and innovative. We were deeply conscious that the conference would not even begin to scratch the surface of the broad diversity

that defines civil society around the world, because this is a global conference.

We have reflected these three ideals in the preparations, registration, and delivery of this conference. We have over the two days reiterated our expectation of an ambitious and accountable Pact for the Future, one that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of the people around the world, and where the role of civil society is recognized and upheld.

Our appointment remains a reflection of inter-generational solidarity, and you can see that right here. It is also a testament of the immense possibilities that sit in the Global South. As a proud Kenyan woman representing Africa as part of the Global South, I want to say as I did at the beginning of this conference that we are standing on what the French call the *berceau* of riches. Where we have resilience, we have wealth, we have youth, we have the future right in front of us.

From the time we started this conversation yesterday, we have engaged in robust discussions, not always agreed on issues as indeed we are wont to not agree, we have forged new partnerships, and laid the basis for increased engagement towards a more inclusive, sustainable, and safe future for all. But I want to pivot a little and quote this: "In our thousands, in our millions, we are all Palestinians."

This was the message that reverberated across this room earlier this afternoon, catching Nudhara and I by surprise, and catching everybody by surprise but it all resonated with us. And we agreed as we stood in solidarity with our brethren who came and stood here, that the situation in Palestine calls for immediate action. It calls for an immediate ceasefire and indeed, we are all Palestinians.

The great diversity of civil society actors and interests around the globe makes it impossible to build consensus over the short period of two days of this Conference and across the depth of issues discussed. There is however a great opportunity

in the post conference period for civil society to further develop the ideas emerging from this conference in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future in September.

As part of the conference, in the official pre-conference Your Excellency, Kenyan civil society held a mobilization day on 8 May where we discussed the Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact. We also discussed the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act and came up with clear recommendations that we will share from this meeting to the respective government agencies. As Kenyan civil society, it is our desire to see the PBO Act come into full force so that we can strengthen the way we engage as civil society.

As we look to the future, our work is far from over. We must remain committed to raising the ambition and accountability of the Pact for the Future, informing its negotiations with inclusive perspectives, and ensuring that the commitments made by governments are followed through.

In typical civil society fashion, we cannot move away from picketing. We must however also use our picketing power to strengthen our collaboration and constructively engage as we engage. For picketing for picketing sake is not meaningful picketing.

Our North Star remains the future where no one is left behind, and where the principles of human rights and justice reign supreme to guide our collective journey towards sustainable development. A future where we nurture the collaborative power of civil society but also engage from a multistakeholder perspective, to address issues that are intersectional in an inclusive way.

Your Excellency, as I close, I extend on behalf of the civil societies here present, the Planning Committee and Host Committees our most sincere gratitude to yourself Mr. President. We know how busy you are, but you took time to come and be with us. We appreciate that. We also register our

gratitude to Your Excellency Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for flying many miles to be with us. We appreciate you and the importance that you place on civil society.

I want to appreciate the United Nations agencies that have walked with us. I want to recognize our Co-Chair who is seated across from us today, Mr. Maher Nasser from the Department of Global Communications. Thank you. I want to appreciate the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and all the people within this compound starting with who I learnt yesterday is the 'Landlady' the Director General of UNON, Under-Secretary-General Hawa Bangura. I want to thank the Resident Coordinator Dr. Stephen Jackson who has become our partner in crime in many ways.

As I close, I want to reserve a very, very special thank you to a group of people all of whom I cannot name here. I will therefore recognize two of their representatives: Felipe Queipo -who has fixed all the problems along the way to make our journey here seamless. I want to thank finally Sandra Macharia Director of the United Nations Information Service in Nairobi for opening many doors to facilitate our planning, availing her team fully to support us, accompanying us and providing feedback as necessary.

Away from the United Nations, I would like to thank the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir SingOei, for his support. We recall and celebrate that Dr. SingOei was once in civil society. I also thank Ambassador Jackline Yonga, who even agreed to be part of the Host Committee together with her staff, with whom she provided unwavering support to the conference.

Finally, to the civil society actors who are here. Your Excellency Mr. President, you will allow me to share a little secret. When he sat down, the President told me: "All these people are civil society. No wonder we are in trouble." So let us keep the trouble up and let us keep doing what we do.



Statement by His Excellency Chola Milambo

Permanent Representative of
Zambia to the United Nations

(on behalf of the Co-Facilitators of the
Summit of the Future and the related
intergovernmental processes)

I am honored to speak on behalf of all the co-facilitators for the Summit of the Future process.

First of all, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the organizers, to the Kenyan government for their hospitality during this lovely conference.

I would like to just express on behalf of all of us, the co-facilitators, condolences to the people of Kenya, for the hundreds of lives that have been lost in the recent floods. At this time of mourning, we express our solidarity with you and their families and pray for a speedy recovery and comfort.

This conference has been an important moment for all of us as co-facilitators. I have had the opportunity to engage with many people, to engage with you on a multilateral level, a group level and individual level. We have heard your voices, ideas, and messages. We have felt your passion. We have heard the message to turn words into

actions. We have received a comprehensive view of what civil society's perspectives are about the Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations, and the Global Digital Compact.

We are particularly pleased that we have heard a variety of voices, a very rich variety of voices, including the youth, women, people living with disabilities as well as the many, many underrepresented groups from various regions across the world. Just yesterday we heard a very powerful message from a 15-year-old girl from Nigeria who spoke with great wisdom. We reminded us to adapt intergenerational equity into the declaration of the future. We also heard from Queen Mother who reminded us that for all the work we do on digital matters, at the end of the day it is about impact on humanity and acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We heard from many of you expressed in many words that the world is changing and changing fast. There is a need for the Pact for the Future to reaffirm the principles of sound multilateral systems, but also to have one that is fit for purpose, to fit the world that we see today and to fit the world that is coming ahead of us.

Ladies and gentlemen, at this point in time, I would like to express great gratitude to the various persons first and foremost, we express our great gratitude to yourselves, participants, for the very active engagement and constructive discussions that we have had. We would like to really take this spirit of 'multistakeholderism' into the various processes. Many of us have confirmed and reaffirmed our openness to hearing from you. And we take this spirit back to New York. Be assured we remain open to dialogue, to engage with civil society and to hear all voices in the process.

I would like to extend special thanks now to the co-chairs of the conference, Nudhara Yusuf and Carole Ageng'o, my sister. All the chairs and co-chairs of the subcommittees and working groups, Maher Nasser and his whole team at the United

Nations Department of Global Communications, for putting this conference together in a very short time. All the volunteers out there who provided support across this vast campus. I would also like to recognize the Director-General of the United Nations in Nairobi, Zainab Bangura. Thank you very much.

As we all go back to our various corners, let it be remembered there is a common thread that runs across all three processes. We have to rebuild trust in the promise and power of multilateralism. Let us all be successful in this quest because it will change lives. It matters for the future. It matters for unborn children. Let us make this happen, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much.



Statement by António Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General

Allow me to begin by extending my deepest condolences to all those affected by the devastating floods that have swept through Kenya and neighboring countries. I am heartbroken by the destruction, by the lives taken, by the families who have lost everything. I know that there are also many Brazilians in this room. I want to express to them also my deep solidarity.

We honor all victims today on this public holiday – National Tree Growing Day. And we recognize that together, we can tackle the challenges ahead and prevent damage in the future. Determination to take that chance is what brings us together today.

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure to join you to close this civil society conference. I thank the Government and people of Kenya for hosting us all so graciously. And the co-chairs and organizing committees for all their work.

I am delighted by the diversity of the delegations here with us. You represent the breadth of civil society – from international organizations to local groups. More than half the representatives here are women. And young people have turned out in force. I thank every one of you for your work – over the past two days and beyond.

Time and again, I have witnessed the enormous impact of civil society in every corner of the world. I see you easing suffering, pushing for peace and justice and mobilizing for change. I see you feeding the hungry, standing up for truth, advancing gender equality, and propelling sustainable development.

Many of you work at great personal risk. Climate activists are being criminalized and persecuted; human rights defenders are threatened; and humanitarians killed. I salute you. I thank you. And I ask you to keep working with us to build a better world.

Today, we are entangled in crises. Sustainable development is under threat. Conflicts are erupting with alarming frequency and horrifying results. Inequality and poverty are tearing societies apart. Many developing countries are being suffocated by debt and a cost-of-living crisis. Climate chaos is knocking communities off their feet – with the poorest suffering the most. And new technologies – particularly artificial intelligence – are creating new threats, while fueling old bigotries and divisions.

These terrible trends are playing out brutally here in Africa, where conflicts rage; extreme weather turbocharged by the climate crisis is tearing through communities with appalling consequences – the deadly floods here in Kenya are a prime example; and millions of people are on the far end of the digital divide.

Dear friends,

These crises demand international solutions. But the international system is not up to the task. The United Nations Security Council is paralyzed by geopolitical divides, incapable of acting together on clear violations of international law. The international financial system is outdated, dysfunctional and unjust. Debt relief mechanisms are totally inadequate, leaving countries marooned in a sea of exorbitant interest payments and debt service costs. Many international institutions mirror the world in which they were founded almost eighty years ago. Developing countries are under-represented and underserved. And civil society is often marginalized.

We need to reform and revitalize multilateralism so that it reflects the realities of today and is fit to face the challenges ahead. My report I presented on 'Our Common Agenda' sets out a vision for a more inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism. A multilateralism where the contributions of civil society are recognized as central – not a token or an afterthought. And this ambition reflects the vital role you play.

I have long admired a brilliant German philosopher: Jürgen Habermas, probably the one that has had more influence in my political and philosophical thinking when I was young. One of his key ideas is related to intercommunication between civil society and the political realm in modern democracies. How it is essential to those democracies and how it shapes decision-making and is vital to creating laws and policies that are acceptable to citizens.

In other words: at the national level, civil society is an essential bridge between people and their representatives – part of the glue that holds democracies together. And what is true for national politics must be true for global politics. So, I believe it is crucial to establish dialogue between political decision-makers and civil society within all our international institutions. And this is key to rebuilding trust and restoring legitimacy, and to ensuring international decisions are shaped by the concerns, the values and the experiences of people across the globe.

Dear friends,

The Summit of the Future is a key moment to drive forward our vision for a renewed multilateralism. On the road to the Summit, we are striving to fully engage civil society. And the Summit itself aims to push progress on key issues. And strengthen and update multilateralism – so that we can manage both the risks and opportunities ahead, for the good of all humanity:

Turbocharging implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; unlocking finance for climate action and development; and driving progress

towards deep reform of the international financial architecture – so that it corresponds to the realities of today's economy; and so that it can provide an effective safety net for developing countries in moments as difficult as the present one. And the same applies to the Security Council of the United Nations.

Together, we must create a new Emergency Platform – so we can collaborate as soon as crises hit; renew governance of outer space – to reduce risks and reap benefits; embed young people at the heart of multilateralism; and agree on ways to consider the interests of future generations in today's decisions.

We must close digital divides and move towards new governance structures for new technologies – harnessing artificial intelligence as a force for good for all humanity. Not just the rich. And we must revitalize our collective approach to peace and security with a 'New Agenda for Peace'. That means prioritizing prevention and changing our approach.

Recognizing that conflicts do not spring from nowhere and embracing an expansive model – one



that encompasses human rights, gender, sustainable development, and the links between climate and security. That is the true prevention, not just simply talking to some politicians to see if they do not start a war. Priorities are backwards – with record levels of spending for arms, and budget cuts for social sectors for people.

We need to reposition disarmament at the center of the international agenda and act urgently to create a world free from nuclear weapons. And we need to tackle the sinister danger of lethal autonomous weapons –outlawing arms capable of taking human life without any human control, and no accountability. Across all of these areas, human rights and gender equality are critical. And so is the contribution of civil society.

When we see the heartbreaking record number of civilians killed in Gaza with our appeals for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the release of all hostages and unimpeded humanitarian access falling on deaf ears.

When we see a civil war ravaging Sudan with two leaders that do not seem to care about the tremendous suffering of their own people.

When we see conflict unabated in the Sahel, the Great Lakes, and the Horn of Africa, we understand that something is fundamentally wrong in the present world order as if the Charter of the United Nations, international law, international humanitarian law, human rights and basic human decency no longer matter.

We won't give up in our struggle to change these situations, and to push for peace, justice and human rights, and I know you won't either. My best hope for the future is you.

Dear friends,

We need to be informed by your frontline know-how; we need your can-do attitude to overcome obstacles and find innovative solutions; and we need you to use your networks, knowledge and contacts to implement solutions, and persuade

governments to act. Your contributions have been indispensable – thank you.

And your new IMPACT Coalitions promise a new era of engagement. These models of collaboration span ages, regions and sectors. And focus civil society's energy and expertise for maximum impact on the challenges we face. I invite you to bring this spirit to the Action Days we are holding as the Summit of the Future begins. And I ask you to engage your national governments – using your channels and networks to demand ambitious commitments at the Summit, not business as usual.

Dear friends,

The Summit of the Future is a chance to push progress on the issues that matter to you – and to us, a chance that cannot be missed. Our fight is one fight: Creating a better world and a brighter future for all. Together let's seize this chance and make the Summit of the Future really count.



Statement by William Ruto

President of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Forces

On behalf of the Government and people of Kenya, I warmly welcome you to Nairobi. I hope you have enjoyed your stay in our country and its capital. I

am delighted to hear that your discussions have been engaging and productive, which bodes well for our progress, prosperity, and the future of our people.

It is a privilege to participate in the conference on 'Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress'. The role of civil society organizations in shaping our future is crucial, and I commend the organizers for providing a platform for such vital discussions. Embracing democratic values such as inclusivity, accountability, and transparency is essential for meaningful progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, we convene at a pivotal moment. Our world confronts challenges ranging from climate change, inequality, and global health crises to armed conflicts and technological disruptions. These issues impede our pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. Yet, we also stand before a significant opportunity which, coupled with advancements in technology and knowledge, could lead us to a more prosperous future for all.

Global challenges necessitate global responses. In an interconnected world, no nation can address these challenges in isolation and expect to succeed. The rise of networked social movements has elevated them from grassroots gatherings to influential forces that shape policy and drive social change.

Governments operate under intense pressures to deliver immediate results while pursuing sustainable development, which demands long-term, integrated strategies. We recognize the non-state sector as vital for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Their role in championing policies that address the special needs of multiple and diverse constituencies, fostering change, ensuring social justice, advocating for the protection of minorities, transparency, and accountability is indispensable. Your advocacy is crucial in defining our policies and actions to deliver sustainable development.

This fact is now clearer than ever as Kenya pursues a bottom-up economic transformation agenda to deliver ample opportunities, create jobs, and provide critical social services, aiming to significantly reduce poverty and unemployment by 2032.

BETA, a national transformation plan, was developed through an extensive, inclusive process involving actors from diverse agencies, interest groups, organizations, and sectors across the country's grassroots. This method of conceptualizing and developing our manifesto and development agenda proved to be the most effective in solving problems, meeting people's needs, and implementing growth strategies.

Consequently, BETA represents a revolutionary approach to national development, focusing on ambitious targets and implementing bottom-up transformation strategies. These strategies prioritize expanding and aligning opportunities with the aspirations of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise owners, small-scale rural farmers, and millions of other Kenyans in the informal economy.

Our development agenda is inclusive, with a special focus on those at the bottom of the economic pyramid. Addressing the causes of exclusion and marginalization as fundamental drivers of poverty and inequality has become a priority. Under BETA, we understand development to be the inclusive and collective pursuit of diverse goods across numerous sectors, and not a special and exclusive project of the executive or the public sector, defined by narrow objectives.

It is evident that for development to fulfill its purpose, it must be pursued by an all-of-society coalition from the bottom-up, and its impacts must be felt by citizens from all walks of life.

That is why our manifesto commits to establishing a platform of engagement bringing together micro, small, medium-sized, and large business owners, civil society organizations, faith-based

groups, youth, and women leaders, among others, to address the nation's cohesion and inequality challenges.

Further, in recognition of the indispensable capacity of the civil society sector in promoting education and awareness, inclusion, participation and mobilizing collective action, we committed to operationalizing the Public Benefits Organizations Act. This act, stuck in limbo for over a decade, aims to expand the space for government-NGO partnerships and collaborations.

I am proud to stand before you today and announce to you that we have every intention of living up to our promise. That is why yesterday, we executed the legal instrument to give the PBO Act into effect. We are determined to invigorate our development agenda by harnessing the organizing and advocacy power of the civil society sector. Looking ahead to 2030, it is evident that significant work lies ahead. Simultaneously, the strategic landscape in which we must effect transformation is growing increasingly complex, with emerging challenges and escalating crises. The imperative to generate wealth and employment, eliminate poverty and inequality, combat climate change, and

address the root causes of conflict confronts us with the urgent need to forge robust coalitions and mobilize frameworks of international cooperation to effectively confront these challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, we also acknowledge the pivotal role of our youth. Their stake in the future we shape is substantial, and the consequences of our present actions will reverberate with them for years to come. It is our responsibility to meaningfully involve them in shaping that future by consistently taking deliberate steps to dismantle barriers hindering their participation in political and public life.

As we conclude this conference, I urge all participants to deeply reflect on how we can translate the outcomes of our discussions into transformative and actionable results. We envision development aligned with the spirit and vision of this summit, emphasizing inclusive and impactful agendas that amplify the voices and agency of women and youth, empowering them to take initiative. Kenya remains steadfast in its commitment to a strong partnership with an empowered civil society to advance our pursuit of a sustainable, just, and inclusive future.



Intergenerational Hub, Exhibits and Offsite Events



Intergenerational Hub

An Intergenerational Hub provided a space for conversations about intergenerational inclusion and collaboration towards #OurCommonFuture. On day one, the Intergenerational Hub hosted several interactive workshops and activities. On day two, pop-up interviews with youth reports and social media engagement activities took place.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of activities at the Hub.

Exhibits

A significant number of organizations showcased a total of 46 exhibits during the 2024 UN

Civil Society Conference, based on the conference theme “Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress.” The topics included a diverse range of areas, from gender equality to climate change, and from volunteerism to social activism, as well as humanitarian affairs, environmental issues, the right to health, and the nexus between new technologies and education, among others.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of exhibits.

Offsite Events

Up to 62 offsite events were organized, aimed at ensuring that the conference and the messages shared by the civil society participants were truly inclusive and represented the voices of civil society globally. These events were held outside the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference main location in Nairobi, in the lead-up and follow-up to the conference. Such events included assemblies, consultations, multi-stakeholder and regional dialogues, and other opportunities to debate and exchange ideas. A few offsite events were held in languages other than English, including Spanish. In addition, a Mobilization Day was organized in Nairobi the day before the conference began.

Click [here](#) for the complete list of offsite events.

Acknowledgements

Conference Co-Chairs

- Carole Ageng'o, Global Initiatives Lead and Africa Regional Representative, HelpAge International, and Conference Co-Chair
- Nudhara Yusuf, Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center, and Conference Co-Chair

Planning Committee Co-Chairs

- Carole Ageng'o, Global Initiatives Lead and Africa Regional Representative, HelpAge International, and Conference Co-Chair
- Nudhara Yusuf, Executive Coordinator of the Global Governance Innovation Network at the Stimson Center, and Conference Co-Chair
- Maher Nasser, Director of the Outreach Division, United Nations Department of Global Communications, and Conference Co-Chair

Conference Planning Sub-Committee Co-Chairs and Members

Accessibility and Logistics Sub-Committee:

- Leonid Johnson
- Nora Cox (Prophet Anyanwu)
- Priscilla Garces
- Renata Juliotti (Co-Chair)
- Rory Mondschein
- Sally Nduta (Co-Chair)

Conference Experts Sub-Committee

- Andreas Bummel
- Anja Olin-Pape
- Connie Sensor
- Dan Perell (Co-Chair)
- Ediola Pashollari (Co-Chair)
- Ishaan Shah (Co-Chair)
- Jacob Ellis
- Liberato (Levi) Bautista (Co-Chair)
- Rebecca Shoot
- Richard Ponzio
- Shuva Raha
- Vitória Gonzalez

Exhibits Sub-Committee

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- Christabell Atieno Opudo Omondi
- Dorcas Pendo Voroga
- Elisabeth Shurman,
- Fundraising Sub-Committee:
- Alessio Petracchi
- Dasse Diarra
- Fergus Watt
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