



The President

**Speech by His Excellency José Maria Pereira Neves, President of the
Republic of Cabo Verde
at the Summit of the Future
On the theme:**

"Multilateral Solutions for a Better Future"

New York, 22 September 2024

Heads of State and Heads of Government

Mr. Secretary General,

Heads of Delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with profound honor that I address this distinguished assembly, bringing warm greetings from the people of Cabo Verde, whom I am privileged to represent.

We are all cognizant of the journey that has brought us to this Summit, notably since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. The review of the UN's 75th anniversary in 2020 highlighted both the accomplishments of multilateralism and the path ahead in realizing the ideals of the United Nations Charter. This reflection inspired Secretary-General António Guterres to present the initiative "Our Common Agenda" and to convene this Summit of the Future, allowing us to chart a course for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our Summit of the Future must be ambitious! Indeed, the "*future we want and the United Nations we need*" must rise to the occasion with ambitious objectives to address the immense challenges the world has been facing; challenges that are increasingly global with consequences that are disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable nations.

The pursuit of the SDGs, including efforts to mitigate and adapt to the extreme events associated with climate change, has not been fully inclusive, in the sense of leaving no one behind, and has fallen short of our goals. A key barrier to accelerated progress in this area is the persistent financing gap between pledges made and the actual funds disbursed. This gap fully underscores the need for a comprehensive reform of the International Financial Architecture—one that

ensures financing mechanisms are aligned with the diverse and evolving development needs of all nations.

The absence of peace and security has been exacerbated by the proliferation of wars of aggression, intra-state conflicts, and acts of terrorism across all continents. On the other hand, even where war is absent, instances of political tensions, unconstitutional seizures of power, and human rights violations have been increasing, as has the inability to respond to people's desires and aspirations. Furthermore, political and ideological divisions are hampering the normal functioning of global and regional multilateral institutions, undermining their ability to provide lasting solutions to these conflicts and tensions.

Unequal access to the benefits of science, technology, and innovation—particularly for the global South—along with the risks associated to cybersecurity threats and the militarization of technologies, such as artificial intelligence, as well as the ability to respond to the questionings and dreams of young people and future generations of men and women are other global challenges underlining the imperative need for a more effective framework of international cooperation.

The challenge to global governance calls for a reform of the multilateral system that must encompass all three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development. Reforming the Security Council, in particular, is essential to making it more effective, especially if it includes expanding its membership, ensuring balanced regional representation, and reducing the interference of vetoes in the decision-making process.

Nevertheless, it is equally important to underline that our commitment to reforming multilateral governance cannot and should not distract or relieve us from what we must do at the national and regional levels in relation to strengthening the democratic rule of law, upholding inclusive societies,

deepening democratic practices, and fostering regional integration and complementarity.

We must be conscious that development is an eminently cultural issue and its full realization depends, above all, on the action of each of our countries. May we leave this Summit with the clear awareness that we must do our homework!

There is no doubt that we must do everything we can to ensure that our Summit and the Pact for the Future, which we are going to adopt, are strongly underpinned by an idea of collective commitment to the implementation of the actions we propose.

In fact, our moral commitment must transform the Summit into a vibrant call so that the future of humanity is not compromised by inertia or inaction.

Our hope is that the Pact will go beyond providing more than just hope for a better future but a future where hope is transformed into concrete achievements accessible to all.

Thank you very much for your attention.