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for the
UN
WE NEED

Interim People's Pact for the Future:

2023 Civil Society Perspectives on the Summit of the Future

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Executive Summary

The Call to Action for global governance renewal from the UN75 Political Declaration and Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda (OCA) report have captured people's imagination worldwide and spawned a series of official and multi-stakeholder discussions to chart the Future We Want and United Nations We Need. Civil society is sympathetic to the challenges faced by Member States working to advance UN75 commitments, including a reaffirmation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. In addition to the Declaration's 12 commitments and OCA's over 90 recommendations, we recognize some 22 co-facilitated intergovernmental processes, 11 Policy Briefs of the Secretary-General, 6 "transformative shifts" articulated by the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB), and a series of annual Summits (2022-2025). Meanwhile, military conflicts worldwide sap international resources, climate change accelerates, and the financing, human rights, and gender equality agendas remain under threat.

Against this hectic and energetic backdrop, representatives from across civil society offer, in this **Interim People's Pact for the Future**, recommendations along seven broad themes. Though the political processes are complex, the recommendations contained herein — carefully researched, thoroughly debated and widely consulted — serve as a meaningful contribution and diverse perspectives from civil society to the robust intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder conversation in the run-up to the September 2024 Summit of the Future. We seek to complement this policy advocacy instrument with a **Summit of the Future Information Clearinghouse**, designed to empower UN Missions and civil society groups alike with timely summaries of the multiple negotiations tracks and related fora feeding into next year's summit.

The present document, building on the **UN75 People's Declaration of 2020**, represents an initial working draft which is the result of months of broad-based consultations: online, at the regional level, thematic, and global; as well as research inputs including from youth and feminist perspectives. We look forward to constructive **feedback and dialogue** on these recommendations and to refinding and reformulating them based on new understandings, and creative opportunities, in these remaining sixteen months leading up to the Summit of the Future. We look forward to engaging multiple diverse stakeholders in further regional, online, and thematic consultations, as well as a second planned Global Futures Forum in 2024, with the twin, inter-related goals of finalizing the Interim People's Pact for the Future and strengthening overall civil society contributions to the September 2024 Summit in New York

This document is the result of:

- *Seven, successive two-week consultations engaging over 1600 civil society leaders worldwide.*

- *Five regional consultations (Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, the Pacific).*

- *Eight thematic discussions, which featured over 2000 participants in total.*

- *A feminist framework with eight civil-society policy briefs on advancing Our Common Agenda.*

- *A youth research track with eleven research papers from twenty eight young researchers and activists across the seven thematic tracks.*

- *The inaugural Global Futures Forum, involving over 200 in-person participants and 2000 virtual registrants and some 100 civil society organizations involved in the forum's preparations.*

- *For a Summary of the 2023 Global Futures Forum and preparatory process, click here.*

Because of the scope and urgency of the challenges humanity is facing, we encourage Member States to engage in substantive consultations, to as great a degree as possible, with diverse actors across civil society. The SDG Summit, the marquee diplomatic gathering, must continue to be prioritized. Many recommendations presented below are mutually reinforcing and would help accelerate SDG implementation. In all these processes, one thing is clear: the status quo is insufficient for achieving the United Nations' goals of peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights. The question of "how" we reform is, therefore, vital — it is the question this Interim People's Pact aims to offer a response to through one set of thoughtful perspectives.

Experience from many successful UN policy-making and reform efforts demonstrate that engagement with a wide array of civil society and other stakeholders can strengthen and improve outcomes. In preparation for the September 2024 Summit of the Future, UN meetings should be as open, inclusive and transparent as possible. The summit's preparations should further maximize opportunities for NGOs to observe meetings (in person and through UN Web TV), provide substantive inputs and be allowed opportunities to access relevant meeting documents.

Additionally, consideration should be given to welcoming the knowledgeable participation of **at least one civil society and one youth representative on national delegations** and allowing **one civil society representative** and **one youth representative** to contribute their ideas, immediately following government statements, at all Pact for the Future and individual track intergovernmental negotiations feeding into the Summit of the Future.

The seven thematic areas that civil society has chosen for deliberation stem from a combination of the United Nations's pillars and the tracks identified in Our Common Agenda, namely:

1. Development and the SDGs;
2. Environmental governance;
3. Human rights and participation;
4. The Global Digital Compact;
5. The global economic and financial architecture;
6. Peace and security;
7. UN and global governance innovation

This Interim People's Pact for the Future outlines recommendations under these themes and presents concrete "next steps." These are undergirded by a number of cross-cutting issues, such as trust, inclusion, future generations, gender equality, children, intergenerational co-leadership, subsidiarity, and justice & equity.

At their core, the recommendations introduced below are informed by by five overarching objectives:

- *First*, a longer-term future orientation, based on the human rights of present and future generations, is required as we consider specific reform innovations.
- *Second,* while retaining this long-term view, global institutions must be reformed in a manner that is commensurate with the scale of our urgent challenges, threats, and opportunities.
- *Third,* a whole-of-society approach, that includes local, national and regional engagement, represents both a practical and moral imperative for reaching and building consensus around the best ideas on the future of the UN, with governments serving the public as the ultimate decision-makers.
- *Fourth,* past UN and Member State commitments made must be met, including by delivering on earlier resource allocation decisions.
- *Finally,* all of these objectives are in service to building trust, commitment, and ownership among and between member states, civil servants, and citizens worldwide.

Development and the SDGs

1. SDG Coherence - clarify implementation responsibilities
2. Enhance quality education, analysis and tracking, and ensure accountability regarding SDG implementation
3. Articulate and act on alternatives to GDP
4. Reinforce the SDGs
5. Establish a Global Resilience Council

Environmental Governance

1. Promote a Decarbonization Agenda
2. Upgrade existing global governance structures
3. Establish an Environmental Governance Agency
4. Prioritize Transformative Education that promotes Empathy and Empowerment

Human Rights & Participation

1. Launch a full spectrum human rights implementation and enforcement mechanism.
2. Adopt intersectional and intergenerational approaches that recognize the importance of human rights across all policy domains.
3. Protect Human Rights Defenders and strengthen civic space.
4. Promote educational programs that enhance local participation (localization).
5. Strengthen UN Human Rights Bodies, including by doubling the financial resources of the OHCHR.

Global Digital Compact

1. Accelerate existing UN initiatives
2. Empower individuals by democratizing the internet
3. Protect human rights and privacy online
4. Close the digital divide within and between countries.

Global Economic and Financial Architecture

1. Biennial Summit for the World Economy to achieve more equitable socioeconomic recovery.
2. Increase Transparency in World Trade Organization Decision-Making and include New Stakeholders in National Committees on Trade Facilitation.
3. Establish an International Anti-Corruption Court to tackle Grand Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows.
4. Tax Currency Transfers, Airline Ticket Purchases , and other Transnational Services, and adopt a UN Tax Convention, to Mobilize Public Finance and Leverage Private Finance for Critical Public Goods.
5. Expand the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) as a Means for Debt Relief and Financing of Critical Global Public Goods.

Peace and Security

1. Preventing war (including nuclear war), and strengthening international mechanisms through UN Charter Chapter VI for the peaceful resolution of disputes.
2. Implementing Article 26 of the UN Charter through plans and action for disarmament to release resources for economic and social development.
3. Promoting nuclear disarmament as integral to advancing SDG #16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, with the goal of nuclear abolition by 2045.
4. Reforming the Security Council, including better representation, the elimination of the veto, and consideration of auxiliary councils.
5. Creating a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS).

UN & Global Governance Innovation

1. Review and strengthen civil society involvement
2. Establish an open and transparent selection of an independent UN Secretary-General
3. Create a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly
4. Create the instrument of a UN World Citizens' Initiative
5. Call for an Article 109 Charter Review Conference

Introduction

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations stimulated a process whereby international actors of all types are able to engage in a global dialogue on UN reform. The process began with the Political Declaration in 2020, which called for a Secretary-General report (**Our Common Agenda**) which, in turn, has given rise to a multitude of processes. Today we see an efflorescence of ideas and initiatives, sometimes redundant, sometimes overwhelming, but a helpful opportunity for reflection no less. Global civil society, too, is adding its voice to the growing stream of aspirations - and this document is one such contribution.

This ongoing global civil society dialogue was accelerated in January of 2023 when the Coalition for the UN We Need (**C4UN**) began conducting thematic and regional online consultations in the lead-up to the first Global Futures Forum held in New York and virtually on March 20-21, 2023. With more than 2000 registered participants (including over 200 in person) and more than 100 partner organizations contributing to the preparations, the Global Futures Forum sought: (1) to finalize and widely socialize an interim "People's Pact for the Future" (following a seven-part e-consultation series, virtual town halls, policy reports and briefs, regional futures forums, a youth research series, and several global policy dialogues), as a vehicle for feeding diverse civil society ideas and insights into official discussions on the Pact for the Future; (2) to channel timely, intergenerational and globally diverse perspectives into wider (multi-track) Summit of the Future intergovernmental negotiations; and (3) to encourage civil society-led coalitions and networks to mobilize around select, high impact proposals for making multilateralism more inclusive and capable of addressing 21st century challenges and opportunities.
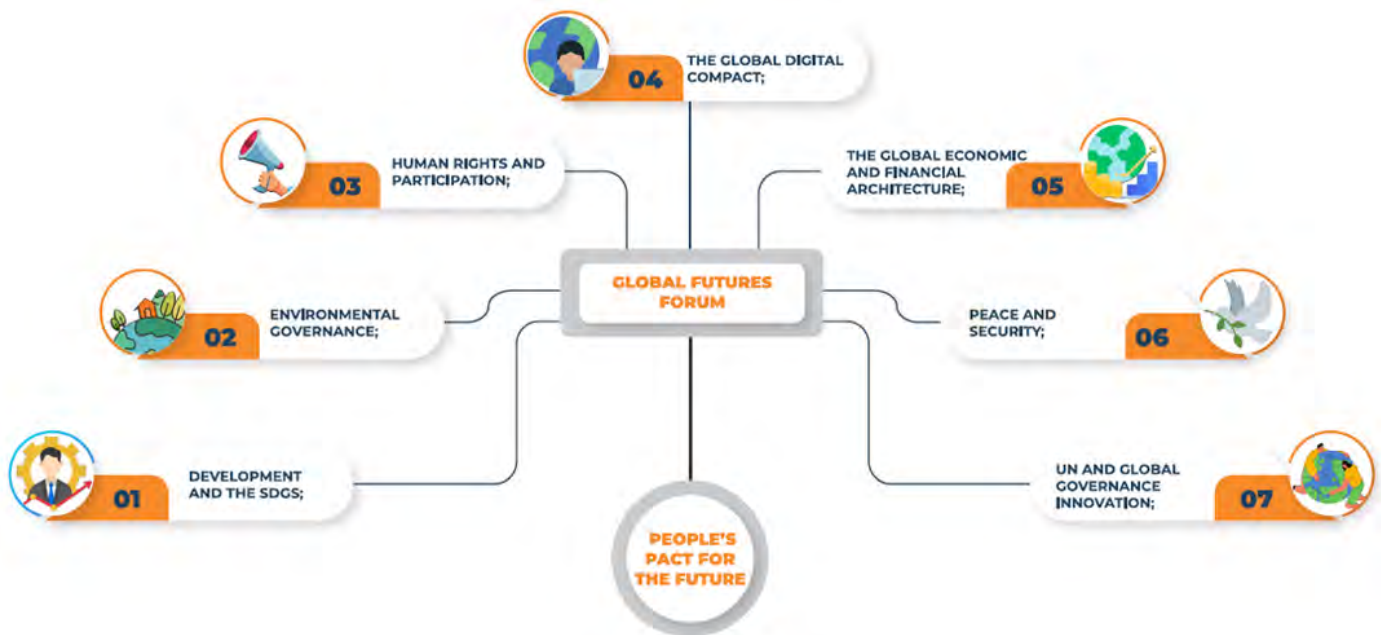
This document serves as an initial consolidation of the outcomes and recommendations generated by these conversations. Hundreds of proposals were considered, and a robust ancillary document reflecting these will be created in the near term. C4UN organized its substantive contributions around seven primary 'themes' which represent a combination of the United Nations' three main pillars and a number of emerging issues. Far from the only way to divide the work of the UN, these themes have proven to be a useful mechanism by which to approach a contribution to the UN Summit of the Future in 2024. The recommendations outlined below will continue to evolve with inputs from diverse stakeholders over the course of the coming year and a half.

In a more multipolar world, we need to update the multilateral system, to make it more effective, legitimate, inclusive and fair to ensure the higher level of cooperation which is now crucial to cope with current global challenges. The planned sequence of three Summits on SDGs (2023), the Summit of the Future (2024), and on Social Development (2025), offers a rare opportunity to launch a process to create a renewed multilateral system. Moreover, this sequence of Summits might best be conceived of as an opportunity to articulate a vision and a framework of a well-functioning multilateral system with periodic and targeted gatherings planned to ensure that commitments made become commitments met. We offer the following recommendations some of which enhance the global system we have, while others call for radical transformation. We envision that the Summit of the Future is complementary to the review of the SDGs - its purpose is to reform the institutions which have thus far been too slow in delivering what is necessary. This is the baseline of our recommendations and, while we have a separate track focused on development, we see achieving the SDGs broadly at the heart of each of our recommendations.

A number of constructive initiatives are underway, and we commend the United Nations and its Member States for their efforts. The High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, for example, **emphasized** a number of key recommendations for necessary reforms including the importance of mainstreaming gender equality and strengthening global environmental governance. The reality that "each one of us is simultaneously a stakeholder in multiple overlapping communities" and that "networked and inclusive multilateralism makes room for representatives of these communities in global governance" is coherent with the approach and spirit of this report that, in addition, fills critical gaps left in this regard. We will commit not only to offering well-prepared proposals resulting from open and transparent consultations, but also to articulating possible actions to ensure the proposals are advanced and modified in light of learning – truly materializing the principles of networked and inclusive multilateralism.

This can only happen if civil society voices from all countries and populations, from women and men and from all generations are given the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the processes and have their views incorporated. We further commit to including a regional and local approach in all of the thematic tracks of the UN's work, recognizing that each region and locality has its own characteristics and challenges. Regional cooperation and localization complements and reinforces global agreements made at the UN. Justice demands universal participation.

As of initial publication, in May of 2023, the changes necessary may be at odds with the political landscape. The urgency of the moment calls for a concrete reform of the multilateral system. Yet conflicting priorities, unmet promises, and the erosion of trust is hindering progress. We encourage Member States to seize the rare opportunity of this sequence of Summits to imagine and bring into being a flourishing world that could be for present and future generations, characterized by justice and equality. Such courageous leadership, displayed at key moments in human history, often borne of an existential crisis, whether world war or climate change, is a requirement at this

GLOBAL FUTURES FORUM

04 THE GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT;

03 HUMAN RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION;

05 THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE;

02 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE;

06 PEACE AND SECURITY;

01 DEVELOPMENT AND THE SDGS;

07 UN AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INNOVATION;

PEOPLE'S PACT FOR THE FUTURE

7 THEMATIC TRACKS

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Development and the SDGs

> **The Five Recommendations**
> 1. SDG Coherence - clarify implementation responsibilities
> 2. Enhance quality analysis and tracking, and ensure accountability regarding SDG implementation
> 3. Articulate and act on alternatives to GDP
> 4. Reinforce the SDGs
> 5. Establish a Global Resilience Council

The first priority for the United Nations at this time remains the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) worldwide. Though they largely represent the operating framework for the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, they are at serious risk of not being achieved. The years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda have been marked by profound international crises which have undercut the implementation of the SDGs and have demonstrated fundamental shortcomings in international cooperation. Despite these, SDG implementation and the principles underlying the SDGs—universality, leaving no one behind, interconnectedness and indivisibility, inclusivity, accountability, and partnerships—remain central to human well-being and a basic measure of trust between state and non-state actors at all levels.

Recommendations

1. **SDG Coherence - clarify implementation responsibilities:** Assigning clear responsibility for SDG implementation among existing institutions and promoting more integrated work between local, national, and regional levels are needed to deliver the SDGs. This vertical and horizontal coherence can help to reduce redundancy, clarify responsibility, and encourage a systematization of knowledge and good practices. The UN's capacity to provide support to regional and national efforts on the SDGs should be strengthened with accountable, trackable, and feasible annual work programs. *Next Steps:*

- *Work with HLPF Major Groups and Other Stakeholders to ensure a coherence of messaging and approach.*
- *Apply the full force of human rights treaties and SC resolutions to the implementation of all SDGs. Governments should report to human rights bodies on SDG implementation--not just to the HLPF.*
- *Engage at all levels to encourage an SDG lens on the actions we take, e.g. advocating the introduction of an SDG impact assessment, together with the financial implications assessment, for any piece of national or international legislation, policy adoption or resource allocation.*
- *Advocate for specific responsibilities to be tasked to specific UN agencies to support SDG implementation.*
- *Champion a localization approach to the SDGs: local actors know their needs best and can mobilize means that can be effective even if not visible at the global level.*
- *Encourage UN country teams to advise movement in the above direction and use their resources to support local actors.*

2. **Enhance quality analysis and tracking, and ensure accountability regarding SDG implementation.** There is a need to build the capacity of countries to monitor and deliver on the SDGs, through funding, technology transfer, capacity building and data analysis. The 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs should apply lessons learned, including from other binding international agreements and bolster high-quality monitoring, reporting, and follow-up processes. Institutions dealing with UN reform, international finance, and the measurement of Sustainable Development should be more open and accountable, and ensure a meaningful civil society participation in their debates and decision-making. *Next Steps:*

- *Continue to engage meaningfully at the High Level Political Forum.*
- *Push to improve the quality of VNRs by aligning them to the 2030 Agenda reporting related commitments to make them effective tools to share lessons learned and identify gaps for which support from partners is required.*
- *Work to ensure coherent approaches to civil society SDG monitoring, advocacy, capacity building and implementation actions at all levels.*

Lieberman, Amy, "SDGs show slow progress, not on track to reach 2030 targets, UN reports", June 22, 2018, Accessed March 8, 2023, URL - https://www.devex.com/ news/sdgs-show-slow-progress-not-on-track-to-reach-2030-targets-un-reports-9297

3. **Articulate and act on alternatives to GDP:** There is an urgent need to rethink measures of development since a GDP-centric approach rewards unsustainable over-consumption, deepens inequalities, and promotes a false narrative of development, among other shortcomings. Whether the end result is along the lines of creating a dashboard of indicators to avoid oversimplification, or the highlighting of a different 'central' composite indicator, movement in this direction must accelerate. There are some candidates already, like the UN Human Development Index and the OECD Better Life Index.
    Next Steps:

- *Engage meaningfully in the beyond-GDP debate and its implications for policy-making and financing.*
- *Host consultations to hear diverse perspectives on what it is that the international community should be centering in its measurements.*
- *Question assumptions of development solely measured along GDP lines in relevant spaces and work to develop new, more appropriate indicators.*

4. **Reinforce the SDGs:** Without prejudice to the ongoing 2030 Agenda process, it is important to always consider short-comings in our development approaches as well as emerging trends. Moreover, while ensuring that the integrity of the SDGs is preserved beyond 2030, updates could be made to reinforce links between the goals, include the management of global commons like cyberspace and outer space, and strengthen the connections to human rights, peace, and security. Providing additional detail with focused targets/indicators and governance arrangements would support effective under-standing and action.
    Next Steps:

- *Update the targets of the 17 goals, especially those which have expired.*
- *Focus on intersections and interlinkages among SDGs and within SDGs.*
- *Deepen each SDG with protocols and indicators that can help address crises that would implicate that SDG, e.g. protocols for dealing with pandemics.*
- *Consider a limited number of SDG additions for major issues left out in the first iteration, such as the management of new global commons.*
- *Expand international law in accordance with the Secretary General's guidance that international law underpins approxi-mately 90% of the Sustainable Development Goals.*
- *Bring in a focus on ethics and values in our processes to guide action and ensure that no one is left behind.*

5. **Establish a Global Resilience Council:** There is a clear need for the elements of the currently fragmented global gov-ernance architecture to come together to tackle multi-dimensional global challenges like climate change, conflicts, and pandemics. A Global Resilience Council (GRC) could ensure a more coherent and inclusive decision-making process, and better coordination between inter-governmental bodies, state and non-state actors, in effectively addressing these chal-lenges to human security.
    Next Steps:

- *Work with **organizations** already advocating for the establishment of such a Council, to build a meaningful coalition.*
- *Produce policy papers and proposals which further articulate the nature and purpose of a GRC.*
- *Identify like-minded Member States who could become allies for a GRC.*

Environmental Governance

> **The Four Recommendations**
> 1. Promote a Decarbonization Agenda
> 2. Upgrade existing global governance structures
> 3. Establish an Environmental Governance Agency
> 4. Prioritize Transformative Education that promotes Empathy and Empowerment

According to the **IPCC 2023** report, the world has warmed 1.1^{o}C and will likely surpass 1.5^{o}C before mid-century. Rising global temperatures will increase the probability of breaching **planetary boundaries** and crossing tipping points that, once crossed, will result in irreversible changes to the Earth's biosphere and life support systems.

Our natural ecosystems are already under stress. By 2064, unabated deforestation could devour the Amazon, which produces 20% of the Earth's oxygen. The triple environmental crises are largely fuelled by unsustainable production and consumption. However, despite numerous environmental and climate conventions and treaties, action has staggered under the combined constraints of limited ambition and accountability. Since 2019, SDG progress has slowed, particularly SDG 12, 13, and 17, the lowest performers even in major economic groups like the G20.

Hence, redefining our relationship between people and the Earth and consumption and production is critical to realign the world economy in a way that respects planetary ecological boundaries. We need effective and enforceable global environmental governance mechanisms, regulations, and possibly even new institutions to address these challenges. The transboundary nature of climate and environmental impacts makes it critical for local and national action to be aligned with regional and global conventions.

Our recommendations seek to drive system-wide changes in global environmental governance – focusing on top-down and bottom-up solutions, building on the UN Secretary General's recommendations in Our Common Agenda (OCA) that seek (a) to reinforce and expand the application of "common heritage" principles, (b) to drive intergenerational action to protect the global commons through inclusive and effective multilateralism, and c) to ensure that environmental justice abides by human rights obligations, ensuring the protection of marginalized groups such as indigenous peoples, women and girls, persons with disabilities, and ecologically vulnerable populations.

This requires a deepening of the UN75 Declaration commitment to "listen to, and work with, young people..." and heighten their participation and representation in the global discourse leading to the Summit of the Future's Declaration for Future Generations to ensure that current generations protect and regenerate the planetary resources to meet the needs of future generations. As the Secretary-General said, "The choices we make, or fail to make today, could result in breakdown or a breakthrough to a greener, better, safer future. The choice is ours to make."

Recommendations

1. **Promote a Decarbonization Agenda** based on the mission of "**decarbonization without deindustrialization**" to deliver **jobs, growth and sustainability** in the Global South and beyond. Developing and least-developed countries must, with the support of technology co-development and financial transfer, leapfrog to a 100% renewable electricity network to power clean energy infrastructure, including EV fleets and green hydrogen networks to achieve a just transition. The Decarbonization Agenda seeks to reduce consumption, outlaw planned obsolescence, reduce waste, re-skill the workforce, and drive global sustainable production and manufacturing opportunities.
   Next Steps:
   - *Mainstream greening of all components of the economy. This includes ensuring that national budgets align with inclusive growth and green policies to support the sustainable transformation of sectors through responsible reuse, repurpose and recycling programmes. Improve welfare through direct environmental benefits; and nudge individuals and businesses towards sustainable business models and choices.*

- *Embed SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production, in all aspects of the economy to drive sustainable production in the Global South and constrain unsustainable and wasteful consumption in the Global North. Externalities on all products and services should be priced into the cost to encourage a transition towards sustainable choices such as public mobility, resource efficiency, circular economy etc.*

- *Establish a **global clean energy de-risking facility** funded through international public money to accelerate access and flow of low-cost de-risked public and private capital at scale.*

- *Shift the narrative of "technology transfer" to "**co-development**" to bridge the technology divide. This includes pooling resources among countries, ease of licensing, co-owning intellectual property rights (IPRs), sharing of co-benefits, and pooling resources through innovative financial and non-financial incentives to reduce the cost of technology development and aid in accelerating the pace and scale of technology access, development, and use, globally.*

2. **Upgrade existing global governance structures** to enhance the role of enforcement mechanisms. Strengthening the role of regional and international courts to apply law emerging from international policy considerations and taking steps needed to enable their jurisdiction across countries is indispensable in tackling the climate crisis.
   Next Steps:

- *Accept the concept of a **common heritage of [hu]mankind** in relation to climate, as recommended in the **Vanuatu resolution**, to get access to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to make rulings on threats and destructive incursions in the global commons. We recommend that all future UN treaties include a provision for arbitration by the ICJ and encourage all UN member states to accede to the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ as, to date, **74 UN member** countries have done.*

- *Include Ecocide as the 5th crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). We recommend the promotion of a cross-jurisdictional crime of Ecocide to ensure protection of ecosystems through nationally and culturally appropriate criminal enforcement mechanisms. Ecocide law, with international, regional and national enforcement mechanisms according to the principle of subsidiarity, can represent a strong example of effective polycentric governance and protection for the global commons.*

- *Strengthen engagement with the regional court systems which often are able to advance certain matters more quickly than global processes.*

- *Advance the resolution on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. This most recent human right has great potential to inspire meaningful change. CSOs will continue to contribute legal content and perspectives.*

3. **Establish an Environmental Governance Agency** with binding, supranational authority to provide effective, integrated, equitable and accountable global governance of the Earth System including both the capacity to regulate and to mobilize the necessary resources. While setting up such an Agency has proven politically difficult, the robust scientific analysis by the IPCC, IPBES etc., on planetary boundaries and approaching tipping points confirm the urgent need for such an institution now.
   Next Steps:

- *Create a **Smart Coalition** of like-minded organizations and states working on global governance issues based on the learning from setting up the ICC and the Landmine ban. The Smart Coalition should be initiated before the Summit of the Future to advocate for establishing the Agency and deliver a polycentric governance system, with responsibilities allocated across governance levels based on the **principle of subsidiarity**. The **Climate Governance Commission** recommends the Agency work across levels of environmental governance to ensure the protection of the global commons for the benefit of all. The Agency would also analyze obstacles to progress based on the science of the integrity of the Earth Systems and the principles of **Earth Trusteeship.***

- *Set up a UN Parliamentary Assembly (articulated below) to complement the Agency and ensure inclusive deliberation, justice, legitimacy, and accountability.*

- *Create a global responsible research programme on climate-altering technologies, which brings together diverse and inclusive voices, including indigenous communities and experts from developed, developing and emerging economies, for robust scientific assessment and international cooperation between States, intergovernmental bodies and the UN (UNEA), international institutions (Climate Overshoot Commission), global conventions (London Convention/ Protocol, CDB, and Kunming-Montreal Protocol) and academic and financial institutions to prevent uni- and multilateral action of unproven geoengineering technologies.*

4. **Prioritize Transformative Education that promotes Empathy and Empowerment** to drive a democratic demand for proposals on global governance. Lack of empathy – between people, and between peoples and the environment – is one of the biggest crises in the world today. Equally, if someone feels disempowered to act, they are the objects of another's goodwill rather than the authors of action. As we think of our common future, we must realize that today's youth play a transitive role in the collective ancestry of future generations. They, alongside older generations, need to be ready to create and adopt new and effective modes of global governance to protect and regenerate the biosphere.

   Next Steps:

- *We urge UN Member States to implement the recommendation emerging from the **UN Transforming Education Summit - Action Track 2** which calls on UN Member Governments to "empower learners with knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to be resilient, adaptable and prepared for the uncertain future – through an emphasis on foundational learning for basic literacy and numeracy, education for sustainable development which encompasses environmental and climate change education and skills for employment and entrepreneurship".*

- *Implement and track the progress of SDG Goal 4, Target 7 to "ensure that, by 2030, all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development".*

- *Embed the planetary emergency at the heart of all National Curricula through innovative learning experiences combined with appropriate examination and assessment.*

- *Empower youth and teachers to deliver intergenerational transformative education programs to local communities to generate universal solidarity to protect and regenerate the biosphere.*

- *Ensure the transfer of knowledge and good practices from diverse parts of the world and from one generation to the next to promote a more harmonious interaction with the natural world.*

Human Rights & Participation

> **The Five Recommendations**
> 1. Launch a full spectrum human rights implementation and enforcement mechanism.
> 2. Adopt intersectional and intergenerational approaches that recognize the importance of human rights across all policy domains.
> 3. Protect Human Rights Defenders and strengthen civic space.
> 4. Promote educational programs that enhance local participation (localization).
> 5. Strengthen UN Human Rights Bodies, including by doubling the financial resources of the OHCHR.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) remains one of the most important documents in the history of humanity. It created a new minimum standard in the treatment of all human beings and serves as the basis for a whole field of international law that previously did not exist. Ultimately, the human rights agenda ensures the rights of the individual be provided for by the most powerful institution in human history—the State. However, in many situations around the world, this has put at great personal risk those who try to ensure the promises made in that Declaration and its progeny are met.

It is no surprise then that human rights and participation represent cross-cutting issues to be highlighted across all thematic tracks, as well as across UN deliberative and decision-making processes. Adopting intersectional and intergenerational approaches that recognize the importance of human rights across all policy domains is essential if human rights are to be protected for all. Moreover, the vital dimension of inclusion should move beyond ad hoc approaches as the inclusion of diverse actors requires a continuous, well-funded, and sustainable process.

Member States have a responsibility to implement the commitments they have signed and subscribed to, including the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the multitude of Human Rights Conventions and protocols, across the UN system and beyond. Institutional reforms are also required for existing UN human rights mechanisms, particularly the Human Rights Council's monitoring and enforcement activities—Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies, Special Rapporteurs, and Youth Advisory body - in order to allow good practices to be strengthened and replicated in support of the progressive realization of human rights.

Recommendations

1. **Launch a full spectrum human rights implementation and enforcement mechanism:** The pact would call on civil society, human rights defenders, whistleblowers, governments and non-governmental actors to implement and enforce human rights through reports, and in courts. For the pact to be effective, meetings will need to engage various stakeholders, and will need to be initiated by Civil Society and Youth.
   Next Steps:

- *Develop a new conception of a social contract anchored in human rights to be agreed by all stakeholders, and enforceable in domestic and regional courts.*
- *Find solutions to structural and systemic barriers to civil society and youth co-leadership.*

2. **Adopt intersectional and intergenerational approaches that recognize the importance of human rights across all policy domains:** The elimination of all forms of discrimination requires the effective remedy and enforcement of rights for all ages, genders, descent, abilities, religions, languages, etc. Not only is gender equality itself a human right, for instance, but in many cases, gender discrimination, violence, and abuse involves the denial of other human rights. One way to entrench positive action is to intersperse consideration of human rights with all issues.
   Next Steps:

- *Strengthen linkages between the human rights agenda and the 2030 Agenda, Commission on the Status of Women, and other UN Commissions by encouraging these bodies to require reporting on the SDGs.*
- *Ensure human rights are met online and offline, and consider accessible, inclusive, and secure internet access as a human right. In addition to protecting populations at risk, this will increase transparency, accountability, and participation.*
- *Ensure human rights based and gender transformative approaches to environmental considerations.*

- *Adopt an intergenerational strategy in the procedures of UN human rights mechanisms by including children, adolescents, youth, and older persons at the sessions and adapt participation practices, including through easy-to-read and child-friendly information.*
- *The UPR should develop a mechanism to increase visibility and implementation of recommendations that a country does not follow as proposed in previous rounds of the UPR.*

3. **Protect Human Rights Defenders and strengthen civic space:** Only 3.1% of people live in countries with open civic space, while 9 out of 10 people live in countries where civic freedoms are severely **restricted**. Promoting and protecting human rights by enhancing civic space makes all countries stronger and more resilient, building on the right to participate and a range of other freedoms. This is crucial, especially for young women and girls, and systemically marginalized individuals, who often have no recourse within their own jurisdictions.
   Next Steps:

- *Put in place mechanisms to protect those who speak up against human rights violations, including environmental and socio-economic defenders;*
- *Strengthen civil society and youth co-leadership across all efforts based on the **Young Feminist Manifesto**. Youth must not be seen only as beneficiaries but as rights-holders and victims/survivors of human rights violations, and must be centered as co-leaders and valued partners.*

4. **Promote educational programs that enhance local participation (localization):** A future society where human rights are upheld and respected depends on the effective participation of every member of the human family extending down to the grassroots. This will necessarily involve programs that empower individuals to promote cohesive societies.
   Next Steps:

- *Connect international human rights processes to efforts emerging at the local level (localization).*
- *Increase trained staff at the country level to promote human rights and empower local*
- *Spread knowledge about the UDHR and systems of accountability in the secondary schools of all countries.*

5. **Strengthen UN Human Rights Bodies, including by doubling the financial resources of the OHCHR:** The OHCHR, which is tasked with the important role of human rights due diligence - representing one of the three pillars of the United Nations - has limited capacity as its budget is mostly a result of voluntary contributions. Despite its critical mandate, it receives less than 5% of the regular UN budget. Here, as much as any dimension of the United Nations, the knowledge and agreements exist, the critical gap is in appropriate funding for implementation. It has not met its full capacity and will need an increase both in financial and human resources.
   Next Steps:

- *Double the budget of the OHCHR in order to improve the effectiveness of the treaty body system; increase the number of UN staff with human rights knowledge, education, and experience; support closer cooperation between OHCHR and other UN actors in the Pact for the Future.*
- *Promote, adequately resource, and strengthen the existing regional human rights commissions and courts.*

Global Digital Compact

> **The Four Recommendations**
> 1. **Accelerate existing UN initiatives**
> 2. **Empower individuals by democratizing the internet**
> 3. **Protect human rights and privacy online**
> 4. **Close the digital divide within and between countries**

In the wake of COVID-19, the use of the internet expanded exponentially, re-shaping all facets of our lives. Digital tools increasingly serve as the foundation of society's communications, commerce, infrastructure, and governance systems. **Digital transformation** is also accelerating in countries that have previously lacked access or clear incentives to move online. As **more than 60%** of the world's population is now online, digital spaces are crucial to how political systems, economies, and societies will function. This rapid expansion offers great opportunities for inclusion, but also comes with challenges to democratic societies due to inadequate digital governance systems at both local and global levels.

Digital technologies can and should be empowering, but their implementation needs to be accompanied by the safeguarding of data privacy and security as well as a thoughtful approach to emerging technologies. As the UN Envoy on Technology and the Member States **emphasized**, the goal is to improve digital cooperation in key aspects such as access to the internet and data protection in ways that apply human rights online and treat digital commons as a global public good. The challenge - and opportunity - ahead is to realize this vision via concrete steps that would advance inclusive digital development while addressing the remaining gaps such as digital divide and green digital transition.

Recommendations

1. **Accelerate existing UN initiatives:** The UN already has various mechanisms in place to advance the Global Digital Compact (GDC). In order to help establish shared rules and standards that protect human rights online, reduce misinformation, ensure that financial profit is not the primary motive, and avoid internet fragmentation, the UN must better leverage its existing mechanisms to work toward a consensus among the Member States and take into account the views of non-government stakeholders. In so doing, we can also ensure that digital advances support and enhance achievement of the SDGs.
   Next Steps:

* *Support the work of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology in coordinating across the public and private sectors and civil society on the GDC development and implementation*

* *Advance the Secretary-General's **Roadmap for Digital Cooperation** through transparent multi-stakeholder dialogues*

* *Amplify the cooperation and coordination happening through the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** as well as the **UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**, exploring IGF Plus model, regional/national IGFs and thematic intersessional work for enhanced bottom-up stakeholder inclusion and global digital cooperation*

* *Leverage other relevant existing UN entities such as the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** commissions also focused on this issue (Commissions on the Status of Women and on Social Development), **the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** to advance individual and organizational learning, and the **Joint Inspection Unit of the UN System** to promote greater coordination between UN agencies*

* *Engage with aligned initiatives such as the **Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (CODES)** to help connect the dual goals of digital and green transitions*

* *Find ways to ensure that digital technology become an accelerator for SDG achievement*

2. **Empower individuals by democratizing the internet:** Digital technology creates a direct relationship between citizens and the state and between consumers and providers of goods and services that never existed before. The top-down and macro-to-micro approach of creating consensus around the proper use of online technologies that would have such an empowering effect has not been effective so far in addressing global challenges. A more realistic and efficient approach should rest on digital democratization and individual access and participation. In addition to the UN-led multilateral initiatives, Member States should support multi-stakeholder efforts not just during the creation of the Global Digital Compact

but, as importantly, during its implementation as countries develop or amend their legal and regulatory frameworks on issues such as data protection and privacy regulations that impact individual rights and present trade-offs with security and other considerations.

Next Steps:

- *Engage in conversation in order to define and make proposals on how to treat the internet as a global public good.*
- *Seek synergies with the **New Agenda for Peace**, another proposed theme in the Secretary-General's report on **Our Common Agenda**, in areas such as global cyber threats.*
- *Provide a multi-stakeholder forum on the governance of AI and other emerging technologies to mitigate the risks of their potential negative impact on freedoms, livelihoods, and security (leveraging existing agreements such as **UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI** and **OECD AI Principles**).*

3. **Protect human rights and privacy online:** While the internet provides many opportunities for empowerment and engagement, it also exposes women, children and other vulnerable groups to new forms of danger. The GDC should focus on ensuring the global online space where individuals feel safe to participate and the risk of abuse is responsibly managed, building on the areas of emerging consensus or bilateral efforts in areas such as fighting transnational cybercrime.
Next Steps:

- *Apply existing standards, such as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** through domestic and regional courts*
- *(particularly applicable are Article 12 on privacy and 19 on freedom of expression) and the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**, in the digital space.*
- *Leverage and implement the **UN Human Rights Council**'s prior work on rights online.*
- *End online violence against women and girls and approach the protection of rights from a gender lens, mindful of the needs of marginalized communities, youth, and children.*

4. ***Close the digital divide within and between countries:*** As digital technologies are a means to connect people within and beyond national borders, governments should prioritize closing the digital divide by investing in digital infrastructure, improving digital literacy, and providing affordable access to the internet. This also includes limiting the fragmentation of internet governance and ensuring that restrictions on access to the internet is limited to the minimum degree necessary. To bridge the digital divide, it is imperative to address the root causes of the lack of access to digital technologies and systemic inequalities that underpin this problem and the potential for new technologies, if applied uncritically, to exacerbate existing inequalities and exclusion. Therefore, closing the digital divide should be accompanied by attention to issues such as data and consumer protection as well as rules and safeguards about the use of AI, internet of things (IoT), and other emerging technologies.
Next Steps:

- *Set and pursue ambitious targets for universal connectivity by 2030.*
- *Strive to achieve **SDG Goal 9c** to significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to internet in LDCs.*
- *Prevent internet disruptions and shutdowns.*

Global Economic and Financial Architecture

The Five Recommendations
1. Biennial Summit for the World Economy to achieve more equitable socioeconomic recovery.
2. Increase Transparency in World Trade Organization Decision-Making and include New Stakeholders in National Committees on Trade Facilitation.
3. Establish an International Anti-Corruption Court to tackle Grand Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows.
4. Tax Currency Transfers, Airline Ticket Purchases , and other Transnational Services, and adopt a UN Tax Convention, to Mobilize Public Finance and Leverage Private Finance for Critical Public Goods.
5. Expand the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) as a Means for Debt Relief and Financing of Critical Global Public Goods

In 2022, the World Bank announced that the world will fail to meet the goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030, amid what it said is likely to be both the largest increase in global inequality, and largest setback in addressing global poverty, since World War II. **The ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook Report** further projects that global unemployment will stand at 207 million in 2022, surpassing its pre-pandemic level. Meanwhile, for their effective implementation, most recommendations in this interim People's Pact depend upon the mobilization of sufficient political will and financial resources. Properly designed and regularly renewed, the global economic and financial architecture can contribute to both.

The argument that humanity lacks the material resources to achieve its goals is fundamentally at odds with the state of the world today, especially after witnessing the trillions spent in recent years by certain governments to keep their economies afloat during the pandemic. In short, we currently have a global economic and financial system that prioritizes profits and economic growth at all costs, to the detriment of equally important social, political, cultural, and environmental goals. More than ever, a new system of global governance is needed to manage economic globalization effectively in a manner that benefits all nations and peoples in meaningful ways.

Building on a robust e-consultation on the Global Economic & Financial Architecture (11-24 January 2022) – and further to more discussions at the (20-21 March 2023) Global Futures Forum – we welcome consideration by civil society and UN Member States of the following five global governance innovation proposals:

Recommendations
(***further elaborated by clicking here***)

1. **Biennial Summit for the World Economy to achieve more equitable socioeconomic recovery:** Though the world economy needs a better governance system to reduce inequality and facilitate broad-based, green development, two chief concerns with the G20 filling this gap are: i.) this club of the world's largest economies appears, by many, to be dominated by Western countries, China, and Russia; and ii.) 174 countries (and other regional bodies) are currently not represented formally in G20 decision-making. Fortunately, from 2022-2025, the Presidency of the G20 is held by Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa, respectively. Effectiveness and voice can go hand-and-hand in global economic governance, and a new system—with a proposed Biennial Summit for the World Economy at its apex—could entail assembling the G20 at the Heads of State level every two years at UN Headquarters, timed to coincide with the gathering of all world leaders—including representatives from regional groupings such as the African Union and ASEAN among others—at the start of the UN General Assembly in September in New York. The enterprise should be supported by a small, full-time "networked" UN-G20-IFIs-WTO secretariat (led by the UN Deputy Secretary-General), which would ensure accountability and preserve knowledge capital between summits.

    Next Steps: Lend civil society support to deliberations on a Biennial Summit on the World Economy, along the lines outlined above, in both the negotiation of the Pact for the Future and a proposed new Global Financial Architecture SOTF intergovernmental track, as well as the proposed Financing for Development Summit in 2025 with which all efforts must be coherent.

2. **Increase transparency in World Trade Organization decision-making and include new stakeholders in national committees on trade facilitation:** With little consequence to Member States that breach their obligations, the WTO's rules on transparency need strengthening. This effort would further benefit from more inclusion of diverse stakeholders in the WTO's National Committees on Trade Facilitation, including under-represented women traders, small-and-medium-sized enterprises, and consumer associations.

   Next Steps: Directly contribute to deliberations on more transparency in the World Trade Organization and the inclusion of new stakeholders in the National Committees on Trade Facilitation in the negotiations of the Pact for the Future.

3. **Establish an International Anti-Corruption Court to tackle Grand Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows:** An International Anti-Corruption Court would prosecute high-level officials and their co-conspirators in corruption cases where national jurisdictions are unable or unwilling to prosecute the offenses that they are already required to criminalize as members of the UN Convention Against Corruption. It should be an international institution of last resort operating on the principle of complementarity. Accordingly, its jurisdiction would aid governments unable to prosecute kleptocrats and thereby help deter others. The Court should also help to recover and repatriate stolen assets and be a resource to national level authorities that seek to enhance their capacity to enforce anti-corruption law at the domestic level.

    *Next Steps: Mobilize civil society support for the efforts of [**Integrity Initiatives International**](#) and others to advocate for, develope, and refine a new International Statute (similar to the 1997 Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court and taking into account lessons learned from that Court's operation, as well as the successes and failures of other international and hybrid tribunals) for an International Anti-Corruption Court, especially by encouraging supportive text within the Pact for the Future deliberations and collaborating with the CSOs and like-minded UN Member States presently working on this initiative.*

4. **Tax Currency Transfers, Airline Ticket Purchases, and other Transnational Services, and adopt a [UN Tax Convention](#), to Mobilize Public Finance and Leverage Private Finance for Critical Public Goods:** In order to mobilize public finance and leverage private finance of fundamental public goods such as peace, education, and a healthy environment worldwide, consideration should be given to limited taxation of major transnational services, such as currency transfers and airline purchases, which could then assist in the funding of numerous international programs. A UN Tax Convention is also needed urgently to address the adverse effects of tax avoidance as well as unfair (and regressive) taxation systems.

   Next Steps: Lend civil society support to deliberations on new sources of global public finance and a new UN Tax Convention in the negotiations of the Pact for the Future and the intergovernmental tracks proposed for the Global Financial Architecture and Beyond GDP.

5. **Expand the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) as a Means for Debt Relief and Financing of Critical Global Public Goods:** The SDR, issued three times since 1969, represents "the principal reserve asset in the international monetary system." In times of crises, the system under which the International Monetary Fund issues SDRs needs to be overhauled. To improve global liquidity management, the IMF should be allowed to mobilize additional resources by: i) tapping capital markets and issuing bonds dominated in SDRs; ii) making better targeted emergency SDR allocations under more streamlined procedures; and iii) and allocating SDRs regularly to supplement the demand for "own reserves."

   Next Steps: Mobilize support across civil society for the IMF's SDRs as a means for debt relief and financing of global public goods, in both the negotiations of the Pact for the Future and the intergovernmental tracks proposed for the Global Financial Architecture and Beyond GDP.

Peace and Security

> **The Five Recommendations**
> 1. Preventing war (including nuclear war), and strengthening international mechanisms through UN Charter Chapter VI for the peaceful resolution of disputes.
> 2. Implementing Article 26 of the UN Charter through plans and action for disarmament to release resources for economic and social development.
> 3. Promoting nuclear disarmament as integral to advancing SDG #16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, with the goal of nuclear abolition by 2045.
> 4. Reforming the Security Council, including better representation, the elimination of the veto, and consideration of auxiliary councils.
> 5. Creating a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS).

The primary mandate of the United Nations is to 'eliminate the scourge of war' and build common security, i.e. security for all. The UN Charter prohibits the threat or use of force in international relations, requires Member States to resolve conflicts peacefully, provides a range of mechanisms and approaches to achieve this and also requires member states to work for comprehensive disarmament in order to release resources for social and economic development. However, there are too many occasions when member states fail to live up to these obligations, when they invest more in war preparation than in peace, and when they use armed force to serve national interests at the expense of human need and international security. In the face of the highest rates of violent global conflict in more than 30 years, the international community must leverage its collective agency, beginning with the UN Charter, to advance a **New Agenda for Peace** that both introduces new operational tools for peacebuilding and renovates the world's collective security architecture. The Peace and Security proposals below aspire to bolster these two, inextricably linked goals in an effort to ensure common security and a just, inclusive, and sustainable peace for all.

Recommendations

1. **Preventing war (including nuclear war), and strengthening international mechanisms through UN Charter Chapter VI for the peaceful resolution of disputes:** This entails, first and foremost, affirming: a) the inadmissibility of the threat or use of nuclear weapons; and b) reaffirming the mandate of the UN General Assembly to act in order to prevent or respond to acts of aggression when the Security Council fails to do so. Additionally, all nuclear armed States should adopt no-first-use policies, while taking all nuclear forces off alert and ending the stationing or deployment of nuclear forces in foreign territories. Moreover, all UN Member States should be encouraged to accede, by no later than 2035, to the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice to ensure the peaceful settlement of disputes.

    Next Steps: Mobilize a broad based coalition of civil society organizations and governments committed to advancing this recommendation through both the intergovernmental Pact for the Future and New Agenda for Peace, including the overriding goal of states abiding by their UN Charter obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force in international relations and to resolve international disputes through peaceful means.

2. **Implementing Article 26 of the UN Charter through plans and action for disarmament to release resources for economic and social development: Article 26 states:** "In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments." Actions by Member States pursuant to this obligation, including through the Security Council and General Assembly, include the ratification of bilateral and multilateral arms control agreements, military budget reductions while increasing SDGs financing, climate protection, and sustaining financial contributions to the UN and its specialized agencies.

Next Steps:

- *Raise awareness across governments and civil society worldwide about UN Charter Article 26*
- *Advocate for the Pact for the Future (and a follow-on General Assembly Resolution) to advance this recommendation in practical ways, including by mandating the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs to produce an annual publication providing the public with detailed information about global military spending and the social and environmental impact of the diversion of resources.*

3. **Promoting nuclear disarmament as integral to advancing SDG #16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions,** with the goal of nuclear abolition by 2045: Since January 2023, the [**Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' "Doomsday Clock"**](#) has been set at 90 seconds to midnight, the highest risk of a nuclear catastrophe, as assessed by its committee of experts, since the clock's creation in 1947 Nuclear weapons need to be discussed from a sustainability perspective, as there is no truly sustainable world with nuclear weapons. Moreover, as affirmed unanimously, in 1996, by the International Court of Justice and again, in 2018, by the UN Human Rights Council, nuclear abolition is a universally binding legal obligation.

   Next Steps: Utilize this September's SDG Summit and continue through the September 2024 Summit of the Future in order to build widespread support among governments and civil society to having nuclear disarmament accepted as an integral part of SDG #16, with an explicit commitment by Member States to achieve complete nuclear abolition by 2045.

4. **Reforming the Security Council, including better representation, eliminating the veto, and consideration of auxiliary councils.** The current composition of the Security Council has been a matter of significant debate and concern for decades. The principles of representation, equity, and commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter must center future such deliberations. Moreover, more holistic conceptions of security need to be adopted, thereby striking a better balance between the security of nation-states and the security of people. Beyond the Security Council, further steps should be taken to enhance the General Assembly's peace and security role. Moreover, other alternatives to the Security Council merit explore, including the establishment of empowered auxiliary councils on peacebuilding, climate, and health. *Next Steps:*

- *Build consensus, both within the [**Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform**](#) and the Pact for the Future's peace and security section, around proposals to reform the Security Council, including on questions of membership, term-length of members, and curbing the misuse of the veto of the present Permanent Five members.*
- *Consider further ways, building on the [**Liechtenstein initiative**](#), to utilize the General Assembly and other UN organs to assist in matters of international security.*
- *Conduct broad based research and inquiry into the efficacy of auxiliary 'councils' which could have more specific mandates such as peacebuilding, climate or health.*

5. **Creating a [United Nations Emergency Peace Service](#) (UNEPS):** The UN's collective security system too often fails to address imminent or ongoing threats to peace and security. Effectively operating as a first-responder for the world, UNEPS could equip the UN with a dedicated capacity to help prevent armed conflict, protect people and provide prompt help and security. In essence, it would function as a standing capacity of professionals (civilians, police, military), available for immediate deployment in crisis situations when authorized by the UN Security Council. Representing a gender-equitable, multifunctional service, UNEPS would act, primarily, in response to security and humanitarian emergencies, as well as for health and environmental crises.

   Next steps: Work with civil society networks and UN entities engaged in conflict prevention, peace operations, Women (and Youth), Peace and Security, disarmament, and other peace-oriented communities to garner political momentum, in the run-up to the Summit of the Future, for establishing UNEPS as an integral part of a new and far more reliable UN-centred common security system.

UN & Global Governance Innovation

The Five Recommendations
1. **Review and strengthen civil society involvement**
2. **Establish an open and transparent selection of an independent UN Secretary-General**
3. **Create a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly**
4. **Create the instrument of a UN World Citizens' Initiative**
5. **Call for an Article 109 Charter Review Conference**

As time passes and challenges become more global, more complex, and more impactful, the state-centric system established in 1945 increasingly shows its age. The gap between the needs of humanity and the capacity to fulfill them grows wider. It is evident that a stronger UN is required. Many of the recommendations included in this People's Pact for the Future depend on it. Major overarching institutional, legal and structural changes are needed, in particular related to enhancing executive, legislative and judicial capacities. A stronger UN also requires a more legitimate UN. These are two sides of the same coin. The level and quality of accountability, representation, inclusiveness and accessibility of the UN, going beyond the dogma of intergovern-mentalism, influences the organization's legitimacy which in turn impacts the trust it receives and its overall effectiveness. We support and join civil society efforts towards making the UN more open, democratic and effective, in particular the **"We The Peoples" campaign** for inclusive global governance. We call on UN member states to do the same.

Recommendations

1. **Review and strengthen civil society involvement -** The ability of civil society to participate in the deliberation of UN bodies and conferences needs to be increased and improved. The UN's engagement with civil society and existing arrangements are not sufficient. The consultative mechanisms in place at the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, the Security Council and other UN bodies and entities, including modalities of observer status and how to achieve and keep it, need to be reviewed. A high-level **UN Civil Society Envoy** should be appointed who assists in the coordination of focal points and helps develop good practices across the UN system. The creation of a Civil Society Advisory Council should be considered.

    Next steps: Developing and advancing common civil society proposals as to how consultative mechanisms should be changed and improved. Continue and strengthen the UNmute campaign for meaningful civil society participation and its call for a UN Civil Society Envoy. Work out a detailed plan as to how a UN Civil Society Advisory Council should function.

2. **Establish an open and transparent selection of an independent UN Secretary-General -** The UN Secretary-General (UNSG) plays a key role in global agenda-setting, providing global leadership and good offices. The office bearer needs to be qualified, independent and impartial. Previous steps towards making the selection and appointment of the UNSG more open and transparent need to be continued and expanded. The UN Security Council (UNSC) should be required to recommend at least two candidates, so that the UNGA makes the real selection. The UNSG should serve a single and longer term of 7 or 8 years, which will allow full independence and freedom from the first day in office. No Charter amendments are required for these changes.

    Next steps: Reconvene the partners and supporters of the 1for7 billion campaign with a view of the Summit of the Future and the 2026 UNSG elections (1for8 billion).

3. **Create a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly -** The UN Charter was declared on behalf of "We, the Peoples" but the UN is governed exclusively by member states. A **UN Parliamentary Assembly** (UNPA) would give elected representatives, who reflect a broader political spectrum, a formal voice at the UN. A UNPA can be established by a majority vote of the UNGA as a subsidiary body using Article 22 of the UN Charter. Through portfolio committees and transnational groups set up by its members, the UNPA can conduct public hearings and deliberations and merge their findings in plenary resolutions. A UNPA would act as a voice of the world's citizens and serve as a catalyst for policies and proposals on further UN and global governance reforms.

Next Steps: Identify open-minded and credible UN member states willing to take the lead in establishing a Group of Friends for Inclusive Global Governance that works with experts, civil society and parliamentarians to advance the creation of a UNPA either within the SOTF process or separately. Draft a possible initial UN General Assembly resolution mandating UN negotiations on a UNPA.

4. **Create the instrument of a UN World Citizens' Initiative -** UN consultations that allow individual citizens to voice their views are ad hoc and top down, if they are conducted at all. The participatory mechanism of a **UN World Citizens' Initiative** (UNWCI) for the first time will provide citizens with a formal way to present proposals to the UN's main bodies. A group of citizens from different world regions could register a proposal at the UN and if this proposal manages to receive a certain threshold of global support from individual citizens within a given time, it would qualify for submission either to the UNGA or UNSC. The latter would then be required to consider and vote on the submission or a revised version thereof.

Next Steps: Identify open-minded and credible UN member states willing to take the lead in establishing a Group of Friends for Inclusive Global Governance (same as above) to advance the creation of a UNWCI either within the SOTF process or separately. Draft a possible UN General Assembly resolution to set up a UNWCI.

5. **Call for an Article 109 Charter Review Conference -** The Summit of the Future should acknowledge the need of a major overhaul of the UN and global governance. For this purpose, a Charter Review Conference according to Article 109 of the UN Charter should be convened. An appropriate date needs to be determined as to when such a conference shall commence. The Charter review needs to: 1) reform the UNSC and eliminate the veto power; 2) empower the UNGA, including by making its decisions legally binding; 3) address climate change as a major global threat and its mitigation as an additional purpose of the UN; 4) upgrade the UNPA from a subsidiary to a principal organ; 5) replace or re-purpose the defunct Trusteeship Council; 6) upgrade the Peacebuilding Commission into a Peacebuilding Council.

Next Steps: Further and broadened consultation among civil society regarding the scope of a Charter Review conference and the changes it should bring about. Identify UN member states endorsing the call for a Charter Review.

Cross-Cutting Themes

The success of the tracks above is dependent upon the degree to which they are able to incorporate and reflect foundational cross-cutting themes. While not comprehensive, we have chosen to focus on just a few below.

Trust

Trust is a fundamental prerequisite; without it, no agreement can be expected to succeed. And the failure of agreements breeds further mistrust. Building trust requires time, sacrifice, honesty, accountability, transparency, and dependability. We have to learn lessons on how to break cycles of mistrust, find avenues where our trustworthiness can be demonstrated, and build on those successes. This has implications for everything we do, which is likely why the High Level Advisory Board highlighted "re-build trust in multilateralism" as its first transformative shift. While we hope for much more, if the Summit of the Future results in nothing but a growth in our collective capacity for trust and trustworthiness as an international community, it will have been a success.

Inclusion

Much work and research must continue in order to understand what meaningful inclusion looks like. How can we ensure, first, that spaces are open; once open, that a wide range of actors can participate; and, once participatory, that the contributions have an impact on the outcomes. International deliberations are strengthened by representation from all the diverse actors in society: people living in poverty, those with disabilities, women, indigenous, and indigenous peoples, to name a few. Moreover, connecting voice, listening, and belonging is necessary and essential. Once the voice and the listening are ensured, then the process of belonging begins. It is from the sense of belonging that the process of co-development can ensue and, ultimately, a better world be brought about.

Future Genarations

In all of our policy proposals, whether short or long term, whether seemingly feasible or not, a future-looking analysis is central. The crises humanity faces today demand urgent action. Yet, the tools at our disposal are insufficient for the task at hand. This seeming dichotomy - needing to address the urgent while also considering the future - can result in a positive tension that leads to solutions. By setting our sights on the future of humanity, we are able to draw important lessons from the crises of today. Moreover, such a vision requires that we look beyond both the political status quo as well as our various tribalisms which, history has shown, come and go with the passage of time. In other words, if we are able to center our conception of the world we would like to see - one where the most disastrous impacts of climate change have been averted, where all have access to education, and similar ideals - and take incremental steps to get there, we will meet with greater success than taking those steps without the long-term vision. Therefore, we endorse the call for a civil society envoy, consideration of a forum for the future, a robust declaration on future generations, and a decoupling of the often merged issues of youth and future generations.

Gender Equality

Every human being has the potential - and responsibility - to contribute to the wellbeing of society. A host of lines of distinction have been drawn which have proven to be detrimental to the advancement of humanity, and these must be overcome once and for all. Nowhere is this more true than in the area of gender equality where not only have women been excluded from deci-sion-making and positions of authority, but even the characteristics which women are typically socialized to embody (empathy, generosity, love, care) are also withheld from the places where important decisions are made. Such exclusion and marginal-ization has had an incalculably detrimental effect on human wellbeing. At a very minimum, therefore, gender equality - and the equality of all human beings - must cut across every area of endeavor in which we are engaged. But, to take a 21st century approach, gender equality allows every human being, regardless of distinction, to express their full spectrum of what it is to be human and to take decisions based on that holistic nature. In other words, while women represent half of humanity, gender equality will result in the full realization of everyone's potential. The Feminist Policy Series on Our Common Agenda goes into detailed policy discussion on different Our Common Agenda proposals, applying a feminist lens to how to take issues forward, touch as well on themes of intergenerational equity and decolonization - all issues are women's issues, just look through the eyes of a woman.

Children

While not explicitly mentioned in the previous sections, children represent the ultimate trust of the whole. Every community and every nation recognizes that children are not only their most vulnerable population, but also the population with the greatest potential. To the degree that they can be engaged meaningfully in these processes, they should be. And, to the degree that they cannot, their perspectives and needs must be at the center of deliberations.

Intergenarational Co-Leadership

In order to properly understand and address the diverse experiences and needs of all segments of humanity, we must develop new patterns of inclusion. While it is true that no one representative of a cross-section of humanity is able to fully articulate every dimension of that group's experience, leadership requires increasing our capacity and commitment to empathize and to see the perspectives of others. It is far more difficult to do this effectively if leadership is limited to certain age brackets and technical qualifications. Moreover, not only will humanity–including rising generations–benefit from intergenerational co-leadership, but it will also break down historic conceptual barriers, build trust, and set an example for all that every member of the human family has the capacity to lead.

Subsidiarity

The current world order is organized around the nation state as the primary mover in governance. Whatever merits this model has had in the past, the current formulation has likely over-centralized the role of the state thereby inhibiting the potential of both supranational and subnational governance. Supranationally, regional organizations can play an important role to promote the priorities presented in this report. Oftentimes, regions have greater capacity to move beyond the sum of different country perspectives to, e.g., organize common markets with free movement of goods, services, capital and people; to build up common transport, energy and digital infrastructures; to increase joint education, research and cultural programmes; and to ensure peace and security through institutions like regional courts. Moreover, inter-regional cooperation can provide opportunities for learning on issues related to institutional capacity, finance, and even taxation. Finally, strengthening regional networks can support the UN in meeting its goals as well as increasing its legitimacy and effectiveness. Subnationally, localization has become a topic of great import at the United Nations. We recognize that implementation is often a matter of local prioritization and engagement and that the success or failure of international policy is dependent upon local ownership. Cooperating with mayors, village and community leaders, and other local-level leaders will redound to the benefit of the people in their charge. One helpful role that the United Nations could occupy is systematizing the learning coming out from all geographic levels and ensuring that it is shared widely and within the framework of a shared conceptual framework.

Justice and Equity

Whether the proposals listed stand the test of time, so long as our efforts are guided by justice and equity, we will be able to find solutions to the crises we face. In a world where there are sufficient resources to feed, cloth and house all, the challenge is one of equity. When it comes to different power dynamics, from gender equality to Security Council membership the matter is equity. And when policies are being crafted, justice must be the guiding light to ensure historic and present inequities are taken into consideration and principles such as common but differentiated responsibilities and do no harm find their full expression. As this year is also the 75th anniversary of the UDHR, we must ensure that justice and equity are centered in our reading of reality, in our policy making, and in our implementation at all levels.

Next Steps & Conclusion

This report is an abbreviated result of dozens of consultations with representatives of civil society in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future. Informed by a scientific approach, they are offered in a spirit of inquiry—to be further refined, tested, discarded, and augmented as insights are generated and applied—in order to arrive at solutions which are still yet to be discovered.

We recognize the great diversity of approach and priorities among civil society and Member States. Yet there does seem to be one point of growing consensus: the system as currently arranged has not delivered the results necessary for people and the planet. Two seemingly contradictory positions come to the fore: on the one hand, the international system as constituted is in need of profound recommitment and reform and we must engage whole-heartedly in that process. On the other, the technical fixes which would be at the center of such reform are necessary but insufficient for the degree of transformation necessary.

In other words, two paths—interwoven —must be traversed in parallel. In the first, the mechanisms and systems already in place will need to be drawn on to make the international system as effective as possible for 'we the peoples'. This is most profoundly felt in the conversations around the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Meanwhile, recognizing fundamental limitations to the current order, we will need to offer and explore new and more holistic models for consideration. Paramount among the changes necessary will be a focus on global institutions as being more than the convening of diverse national interests.

At the heart of both of these paths are certain foundational values that will also need to find expression in the various processes and recommendations moving forward. Any course of action that contradicts these values will need to be seriously re-examined and cast aside in favor of those initiatives more aligned with humanity's collective aspirations.

1. Every human being is created equal in dignity and worth. There is no distinction along which any form of discrimination can or should be permitted.
2. We exist in one shared homeland, meaning that no dimension of our existence belongs to one population alone—for example, the climate, environment, biodiversity, outer space, and the like are shared commons.
3. Placing future generations at the heart of our deliberations will assist in bringing this reality to the fore.
4. Justice must be the key underlying value and organizing principle to which we all adhere.

Any solution, proposal, or policy must align with these principles, taking into consideration the profound inequities and imbalances present in the world as it stands. Ultimately, peace broadly defined, and the wellbeing of people and planet are the goals toward which we are all striving; centering our deliberations upon this ultimate outcome will yield positive results, regardless of the path we traverse. We may find, as reforms are proposed and considered, that a UN Charter Review Conference, as envisioned in Article 109 of the UN Charter, will be most appropriate. We suggest that 2030, a key milestone in a number of UN processes, may be a propitious time for such a gathering. It would give the international community sufficient time to conduct research and exploration, it would not overshadow the current objectives of the UN system, and it could help lay the foundations for whatever plans are to emerge after the Sustainable Development Goals.

Adapting our essential United Nations organization to current and emerging crises will require institutional, legal, and operational (including financial) reforms, for which the interim **People's Pact for the Future** offers several concrete ideas, building, in some cases, on the most novel proposals seeded by Secretary-General António Guterres in his Our Common Agenda report. In myriad ways, these proposals are complementary to, and will better prepare the UN system to help deliver on, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement. Taken together, these kinds of innovations can ensure—with the support of a high ambition coalition of diverse states and civil society organizations with shared policy goals—that the Summit of the Future seizes the opportunity to renew global governance and face the collective moral and practical imperatives of our time.

We are hopeful that as the process leading up to the Summit of the Future unfolds, civil society will continue to be engaged in ever-more meaningful ways. We do not know from where the solutions will arise, but we do know that–while the process is and must be Member State led–the engagement of civil society will make the outcomes more impactful. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

"Taken together, these kinds of innovations can ensure—with the support of a high ambition coalition of diverse states and civil society organizations with shared policy goals—that the Summit of the Future seizes the opportunity to renew global governance and face the collective moral and practical imperatives of our time. "

We look forward to receiving your **feedback and dialogue** on the Interim People's Pact for the Future. To sign up to the **C4UN mailing list** and learn more about our activities, please visit our website at **www.c4unwn.org.**