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Bahá'í
International
Community

Making the Most of the 2024 Summit of the Future

A High-Level UNGA77 Side Event on Thursday, 22 September 2022.

Summary

In the wake of escalating conflicts worldwide, a global food crisis, new COVID-19 variants, irreversible climate change, and a weakened global economy, international efforts to advance human progress and global cooperation, including implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Climate Agreement, are being undermined. In the UNGA77 High-Level Week side event, “Making the Most of the 2024 Summit of the Future,” the moderators Maria Fernanda Espinosa (President of the 73rd General Assembly and Co-Chair of the Coalition for the UN We Need) and Danilo Türk (President of the Club of Rome and Member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Effective Multilateralism, along with panelists Prince Albert II (Sovereign Prince of Monaco), Ibrahim Gambari (former Nigerian Foreign Minister and Co-Chair of the Albright-Gambari Commission), Christopher Lu (Representative of the United States to the United Nations for UN Management and Reform), and Natalie Samarasinghe (Global Director for Advocacy at the Open Society Foundations), sought to address how the international community can effectively address current crises and improve upon the global tools and innovative solutions put forth in the UN Secretary-General’s seminal *Our Common Agenda* to make the most of the once-in-a-generation September 2024 Summit of the Future. The discussion centered around ambitious and forward-thinking global governance innovations for resolving or, at the very least, better managing today’s most pressing global challenges. Some highlights included:

H.S.H Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco:

“This [the Summit of the Future] cannot be another summit where world leaders point at one another and make vague promises. Multilateralism and solidarity are key. We must mobilize all of our political will and unite in favor of a more efficient United Nations and a better, more equal world. Now is the time of action.”

Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd General Assembly of the United Nations and Co-chair of the Coalition for the UN We Need:

“We are all here because we care about the United Nations. Our responsibility is to make sure these summits deliver and to counter the summit fatigue we all feel.”

Danilo Türk, President of Club de Madrid and Member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Effective Multilateralism:

“How does one create political will? It has to be generated gradually. Involving young people with more energy and creative ideas is a way to generate that political will.”

Christopher Lu, Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform:

“How do we operationalize innovative solutions put forth and how do we make change? How do we turbocharge progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals?”

Natalie Samarasinghe, Global Director, Advocacy, Open Society Foundations:

“The UN has yet to scratch the surface on civil society engagement. We need to have a civil society office at the UN. It’s not enough to feel like we’re having our voices heard; we need to know that we’re being listened to. We have to ensure that all civil society voices are being heard, especially in the Global South, so that conversations at the United Nations are not a one-sided affair.”

Daniel Perell, Representative of the Baha’i International Community to the United Nations, New York:

*“Humanity must **establish** an international order capable of meeting contemporary challenges; the question then is how? Will it be through a reform of the current system? Will it be through the creation of an entirely new system? Will it be after further catastrophes befall humanity? Will it be through an act of collective volition?”*

Augusto Lopez-Carlos, Executive Director and Chair of the Global Governance Forum:

“The Summit of the Future should also consider an Article 109 review of the UN Charter”.