



Youth Futures Series: A call to young authors towards the Summit of the Future

An initiative to champion the written word of young authors across operational tracks and thematic areas of the Summit of the Future. Call for Papers: Round 2.

Background

UN Secretary-General António Guterres was tasked in the [UN75 Political Declaration](#) to put forward concrete ideas and an action agenda “to respond to current and future challenges.” His follow-on, [Our Common Agenda](#) report, released on 10 September 2021, presented world leaders with some ninety recommendations to strengthen and renew the United Nations system. Together, these far-reaching proposals—and the analysis underpinning them—create the basis for what may be viewed as the Secretary-General’s most consequential proposal: a Summit of the Future, timed to coincide with the General Assembly’s high-level week in September 2024, and a Ministerial Forum with the second SDG Summit in September 2023. Preceded by preparatory events and consultations, the Summit of the Future would work to “advance ideas for governance arrangements in the areas of international concern mentioned in this report, and potentially others ...”

Several operational tracks have been proposed for the Summit of the Future and Member States, led by President of the General Assembly appointed co-facilitators, have advanced on initiatives such as an elements paper for a Declaration on Future Generations, and the establishment of a UN Youth Office, as well as considerations for a Global Digital Compact, New Agenda for Peace, reforming the Global Financial Architecture, and the Triple Planetary Crisis.

In addition to his proposal for the Summit of the Future, the UN Secretary-General laid out a broad vision for a revitalized approach to global governance, announcing the formation of a [High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism \(HLAB\)](#). This body is tasked with identifying where governance improvements are most needed and proposing recommendations to be considered by Member States at the Summit of the Future. The UN University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR), working closely with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, is acting as the secretariat for the HLAB, helping to connect it with a broad array of thought leaders who can inform the recommendations in its final report.

The YFS Initiative

Organized in collaboration with UN University Centre for Policy Research, civil society, think tanks and academia, and aimed to support the work of the High-Level Advisory Board, the Youth Futures Series is an initiative to champion the written contributions of young researchers, activists, and writers on thematic areas, or operational tracks, of the Summit of the Future. Importantly, the YFS hopes to begin to elevate youth voices beyond global youth-focused agendas, to encourage the contribution of youth perspectives across other thematic areas such as global finance, the environment, peace and security, and digital cooperation. To engage with this proposed initiative:

1. Please share 1-5 page articles with details of your name, organization, and title via email to Nudhara Yusuf (nyusuf@stimson.org).
2. Young authors (aged 16-30) may share pre-published pieces, or papers written for this purpose but must be well researched and within the scope of the main themes for the two rounds of calls for papers.
3. There are two rounds of calls for papers:

A first deadline of 30 September 2022 is timed to feed ideas for consideration by the High-Level Advisory Board's, especially considering questions on themes such as:

- I. **Environmental Governance:** How could we better connect risk analysis models like the IPCC with action, in what ways could these shifts in incentives be institutionally catalyzed? How might we begin to back a circular economy into institutions operating within the backdrop of capitalism? Representation and decision making can often be tokenistic because of the notion of a 'central decision making table;' what might be an alternative decision making metaphor of structure that could lead to more inclusive and effective collective action?
- II. **Peace and Security:** Given the risks of AI and emerging technologies, how can the global governance system address these risks without stifling potential benefits? The World Bank identifies vertical inequalities as a major variable to conflict, what would be a viable proposition in conflict prevention to address this issue? How could we increase transparency in international security governance and architecture? Other specific proposals and innovations on ways to advance the youth, and wider peace and security agenda(s) through global governance reform?
- III. **The Global Financial Architecture:** Conditionality in global financing has been the subject of wide debate, how could this tool be leveraged in constructive ways to support both aid financing and public, private partnerships? What is a potential wider multilateral reform that could address global financial restructuring through, for example, sustainable trade, relieving debt crises, addressing illicit financial flows, and reducing global inequalities in access to systems of finance?
- IV. **Digital Governance:** What self-evaluating institutional systems could potentially be put in place to keep up the pace of technological governance with tech innovations? How could digital governance structures capitalize on the concept of networked multilateralism to further global collective action and multi stakeholder engagement? What might be some models of digital governance and effective digital cooperation used in the private sector that could be modified into the public sphere?
- V. **Concrete reform contributions on operational tracks and themes of the Summit of the Future including:** networked multilateralism, a New Global Deal, a New Social Contract, building future generations-oriented policies into the themes above, outer space and the global commons, and emergency responses and crisis mitigation.

A second deadline of 24 February 2023 is timed to feed into proposed 6-months till Summit of Future initiatives including a [Global Futures Forum](#), as well as civil society support research-backed engagement into intergovernmental negotiations. This second deadline calls for papers which either have a broader focus across operational tracks of the Summit, or speak to the themes outlined above, or achieve both.

Youth Futures Series: A call to young authors towards the Summit of the Future will be facilitated by a large and diverse network of youth groups (i.e. ensuring regional as well as thematic and other forms of diversity) with a small core group driving the process and ensuring the quality of the written inputs. In the coming weeks, we hope to circulate this **second round of** call for papers amongst youth networks and aspire to have a flow of inputs to feed into multistakeholder engagement towards the Summit of the Future.