

A Summit of the Future - UNGA'79 Roundtable on

Taking the Summit of the Future Agenda Forward: Facilitating Implementation through Dialogue, Research & Monitoring

Thursday, 26 September 2024

Co-Sponsors: Global Governance Innovation Network, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development, Plataforma CIPÓ, Global Challenges Foundation, Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Stimson Center



On September 26, 2024, the Stimson Center, in collaboration with the Global Governance Innovation Network, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development, Plataforma CIPÓ, Global Challenges Foundation, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, brought together former states persons, senior government representatives and UN officials, civil society leaders, and diverse scholars and policy researchers to explore the role of policy research, policy dialogues, and monitoring in supporting champion governments' and multi-stakeholder ImPact Coalitions' efforts to implement the recently agreed Summit of the Future (SOTF) outcomes. As the roundtable discussion operated under the Chatham House Rule, this brief report synthesizes chief insights and recommendations generated on a not-for-personal attribution basis.

Identified Priority Areas

Policy Research

The discussion highlighted the need to integrate forecasting and “futures thinking” into UN policy frameworks (including for Summit of the Future implementation), focusing on governance structures that support long-term sustainability and global progress. Participants emphasized the importance of policy research on intergenerational equity, which investigates how current policies impact future generations. Research should further explore ways for embedding the Declaration for Future Generations into institutional frameworks, ensuring a holistic understanding of sustainability that encompasses critical economic, environmental, and social dimensions.

Continued policy research on international financial architecture reform was also underscored, particularly in connection with vulnerable nations often overlooked in major global policy forums. Specifically, analysis should concentrate on existing global financial structures, identify barriers to equitable access to financial resources, and explore inclusive global governance models that address the disparities between developed and developing countries.

In the context of the global peace and security architecture, there is a pressing need for research focused on democratizing key institutions of collective security, such as the United Nations Security Council. Research should further assess the performance of current governance structures, offering creative reform ideas to enhance transparency, inclusivity, and accountability. More concretely, the interplay between sustainable development, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping—both in financial and wider operational terms—should be examined closely.

Policy Dialogues

The discussion underscored the importance to SOTF follow-through of fostering meaningful multi-stakeholder dialogues, including by engaging historically marginalized regions and groups in efforts to deliver on the Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and Declaration on Future Generations. Effective policy dialogues must create platforms that harness substantive contributions and diverse perspectives from major stakeholder groups on pressing global issues. Participants singled out how truly broad-based and skillfully facilitated conversations can inform more effective global decision-making and, where necessary, course corrections on the Summit of the Future implementation agenda, including on sensitive matters related to peace, security, human rights violations, and global inequality.

Addressing the challenges of hunger and poverty worldwide requires an understanding that these issues are deeply intertwined with political choices, not just resource allocation. Effective policy dialogue can help to mobilize political will—alongside generating innovative policy and

institutional reforms—for global, regional, and national hunger and poverty eradication efforts. Ongoing engagement among and directly targeting key stakeholders is essential to sharing knowledge and facilitating policy uptake and strategies that drive meaningful change.

Participants also highlighted the need for global policy conversations on global environmental governance systems change, to foster a more unified approach to preventing, responding immediately too, and recovering from climate emergencies. More specifically, effective policy dialogues can facilitate discussions among governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector on strengthening international legal frameworks and governance structures, enabling more cohesive and impactful global action on climate change.

Monitoring

Participants also recognized the importance of well-informed leadership in global peacebuilding, sustainability, and other priority initiatives. To prepare leaders with evidence-based analysis and creative policy and institutional reform proposals coming out of the Summit of the Future, monitoring systems are needed to evaluate progress across the Pact for the Future’s 56 Actions and associated Commitments, as well as the Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations. Establishing clear benchmarks and broader sets of indicators will allow stakeholders to assess a particular multilateral institution’s capacity to reform by delivering more effectively on global peacebuilding, sustainability, and other core goals of the international community.



Carefully developed monitoring and accountability mechanisms are needed to track progress on the global governance reforms agreed at the Summit of the Future. This includes producing regular progress reports to ensure that commitments are kept and fully implemented among major stakeholders. Leveraging the twenty some multi-stakeholder ImPact Coalitions, initiated at this

past May’s UN Civil Society Conference in support of the Summit of the Future, can aid broader official efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, and global participation.

Innovative monitoring tools and platforms should be made accessible to youth and civil society organizations to encourage broader civic participation. Focusing attention on how the Summit of the Future’s outcomes advance SDG implementation is essential, particularly in support of international efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty. Examining national-level data can demonstrate how political will and resource prioritization can effectively address these and related challenges worldwide.

Key Recommendations (and corresponding Actions, Principles, and Objectives in the Pact for the Future: Pact, Global Digital Compact: GDC, and Declaration on Future Generations: DFG) **to benefit from additional Policy Research, Policy Dialogue, and Monitoring**

Integrating the Declaration of the Future into Policy Frameworks (DFG Actions 24 and 28)

Emphasize the necessity of a whole-of-government approach in integrating Summit of the Future outcomes, particularly the Declaration on Future Generations, into national policy frameworks. Such an approach should reflect a commitment to fostering sustainable development and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, including youth and marginalized communities.

Enhancing Youth Participation and Stakeholder Engagement (Pact Actions 20, 36, and 37)

Advocate for meaningful participation of youth, civil society organizations, and the private sector in decision-making processes. Establish platforms for multi-stakeholder dialogue that empower young people to contribute their insights and recommendations, ensuring that their voices are integral to the implementation of commitments arising from the Summit of the Future.

Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Coalitions (Pact Action 55, GDC Principle 8A, 8L, and Actions 28, 56B, 61, and DFG Action 29)

Support the continuation and expansion of multi-stakeholder ImPact Coalitions, as initiated during the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in support of the Summit of the Future held in Nairobi, to facilitate collaboration between various stakeholders in driving forward the commitments made at the summit. Cooperative efforts should aim to bridge the gap between international agreements and local actions, fostering greater accountability and responsiveness.

Reforming International Financial Systems (Pact Actions 47 - 52)

Reform and renew the outdated international financial architecture to enhance its responsiveness to contemporary global challenges. This effort should prioritize inclusivity, particularly for vulnerable Global South nations and small island developing states, and ensure equitable access to financial resources and opportunities for sustainable development.

Establishing Thematic Working Groups for Targeted Track 1.5 Policy Dialogues

Encourage the formation of multi-stakeholder, thematic working groups involving scholars, policymakers, and practitioners worldwide to engage in focused discussions on critical issues, such as peace and security, sustainable development, human rights, and global governance. These groups should facilitate knowledge-sharing and the development of actionable recommendations.

Promoting Democratic Governance in the UN Security Council (Pact Actions 39-41)

Advocate for the democratization of the UN Security Council, including the establishment of permanent seats for African nations and other under-represented regions. This initiative aligns with the principle of equitable representation and addresses the need for more inclusive decision-making in international peace and security matters.

Prioritizing Funding of Strengthened Peacekeeping Operations (Pact Actions 13, 18, and 21)

Prioritize full funding and strengthening of peacekeeping operations, with a specific emphasis on UN-African Union collaboration in peacekeeping. Such funding and other enhancements are critical for maintaining stability and peace in regions facing conflict and humanitarian crises.

Creating a New International Agency for Climate Governance (Pact Actions 9, 52)

Support African SOTF Dialogue calls for a new UN agency dedicated to climate governance, comprising three components: a world environmental court, an environmental assembly, and a research community network. This agency should facilitate grassroots outreach and participation in climate action, fostering a comprehensive approach to environmental governance.

Fostering Accountability through ImPact Coalitions (Pact Actions 38, 55, GDC Objective 5, and DFG Action 26)

Implement robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder ImPact Coalitions (ICs) in driving progress on the commitments outlined in the Pact for the Future, GDC, and DFG. Regular assessments of the ICs should highlight successes and challenges, providing a basis for adaptive management and continuous improvement.

Mobilizing Political Will and Resources (Pact Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12)

Energize efforts to mobilize political will and resources to address pressing global challenges, such as hunger and poverty, at the heart of the intertwined SDGs and SOTF agendas. Governments should prioritize funding for initiatives that align with both summits’ agendas, recognizing that effective resource allocation is essential for achieving sustainable development.

Conclusion

The outcomes of the Summit of the Future present a significant opportunity for advancing global progress, including through the Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and Declaration on Future Generations. There is a strong, widespread commitment to transform these commitments into actionable policies, emphasizing the need for a whole-of-government approach and the active involvement of youth, civil society organizations, and the private sector in implementation.

To realize these ambitious goals, existing global governance bottlenecks must be examined closely, and the political will necessary for meaningful follow-through mobilized. By collaborating with governments and other partners across civil society and the business community—and with a special focus on the needs of vulnerable groups—scholars and policy researchers are well-positioned to make a further indelible contribution post-SOTF.



Taking the Summit of the Future Agenda Forward: Facilitating Implementation through Dialogue, Research & Monitoring

Thursday, 26 September 2024 | 15:30-16:30 EDT | hybrid format

On 26 September 2024 (15:30-16:30 EDT), the Stimson Center, Global Governance Innovation Network, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development, Plataforma CIPÓ, Global Challenges Foundation, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, convened an UNGA High-Level Roundtable on “Taking the Summit of the Future Agenda Forward.” Bringing together former states persons, senior governments representatives and UN officials, and leading scholars, the session considered the role of: (1) Track 1.5 policy dialogues, (2) policy research products from diverse scholars worldwide, and (3) rigorous Summit of the Future (SOTF) monitoring in supporting champion governments and twenty multi-stakeholder ImPact Coalitions on SOTF Actions & Commitments follow-through. A brief non-attribution summary of key findings and recommendations followed from the roundtable and was widely distributed, with the goal of raising-awareness in capitals worldwide for investing in SOTF implementation.

Welcome: Daniel Perell, United Nations Representative at Baha'i International Community and Co-Chair, Coalition for the UN We Need

Moderator: Dr. Richard Ponzio, Director, Global Governance, Justice & Security Program, Stimson Center, and Co-Director, Global Governance Innovation Network

Lead-Off Remarks (*focusing on specific dialogue, research, and monitoring needs for the Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and Declaration on Future Generations*):

H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa (President of the 73rd General Assembly; Former Foreign and Defense Minister of Ecuador; Executive-Director, GWL)

H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Gambari (Former Nigerian Foreign Minister, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Co-Chair, Albright-Gambari Commission; Founder, Savannah Center)

Maiara Folly (Executive-Director, Plataforma CIPÓ)

Maja Groff (Convenor, Climate Governance Commission)

Dialogue: *(focusing on SOTF follow-through dialogue, research, and monitoring needs tailored to more than a dozen intergovernmental tracks in the run-up to the official Sept. 2028 review)*

Government Representatives

H.E. Jocelyne Croes, Director General Foreign Affairs Aruba, Kingdom of the Netherlands

H.E. Carlos Marcio Cozendey, Ambassador, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Brazil

H.E. Florian Laudi, Director, United Nations and Counterterrorism, Federal Foreign Office, Government of Germany

H.E. Freya Jackson, Director, Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, Government of the United Kingdom

H.E. Syndoph Endoni, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations

H.E. Nerissa Cook, Deputy Assistant-Secretary of State, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State

H.E. David Fawcett, Deputy Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, The Commonwealth of Australia

H.E. Osamu Yamanaka, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

H.E. Hedda Samson, Ambassador and Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Audrey Gantana, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of The Republic of Namibia to the UN

Mari Johnsrud Hauge, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations

UN Representative: H.E. Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, United Nations

Summing-up & Concluding Remarks: Nudhara Yusuf (Executive Coordinator, Global Governance Innovation Network and Co-Chair, 2024 UN Civil Society Conference)