



Informal Expert Level Roundtable on a Pact Innovation Plan

*An interactive discussion at the Permanent Mission of
Germany to the UN, convening experts from Member States,
select scholars, and civil society representatives on
27 February 2025*

SUMMARY BRIEF

Rationale and Background

The Pact for the Future outlines 291 sub-actions for Member States and 70 for other stakeholders. Taking forward the Pact for the Future will require both innovative and multistakeholder approaches with clearly established milestones along the way. This roundtable was convened with 32 UN Missions (including eight co-sponsors each from the Global South and the Global North, respectively), the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and twelve civil society representatives and scholars. Together, they discussed a proposed [Pact Innovation Plan \(PIP\)](#), which seeks to contribute research and expertise to an evolving choreography for a strategic and creative, cross-sectoral and research-backed approach to Pact following-through, drawing on the leadership of various key entities including the UN, Member States, the Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN) and through C4UN, civil society-driven ImPact Coalitions.

In lending practical support to interconnected Pact for the Future follow-through efforts, a Pact Innovation Plan could: (i) mitigate the duplication of work or reinventing the wheel where unnecessary; (ii) allow for research and information to be shared across stakeholders at strategic moments; and (iii) identify intersecting informal dialogue spaces and track 1.5 convenings, to think through creative approaches toward Pact implementation in the years ahead in the run-up to the Summit of the Future official review in September 2028. This would support and build on existing efforts from stakeholders on Pact follow-up.

A core recommended objective for the PIP is to provide a demand-driven, empirically-based suite of services in support of those who wish to see the Pact forward. Therefore, Member States are encouraged to continue to identify what specifically, on a day-to-day basis, would enhance working-level staff capacity (in governments and across the UN) for Pact follow-up.

The Pact Innovation Plan is a flagship service of the Global Governance Innovation Network's proposed [Pact Innovation Forum](#), which also features a [Pact Monitoring Toolkit](#).

Pact Innovation Plan Proposed Components

- ***Pact Innovation Plan Overview***: A succinct document to help put forward—to principals, capitals, and broader networks—the narrative and objectives of the PIP.
- ***Policy Research Products***: Inform key negotiating moments in the follow-up to the Pact, including through evidence-based research in the form of commentaries, policy-briefs, case studies, and working with broader research networks and institutions, especially in Global Majority countries, to highlight their expertise, given diverse national and regional contexts for Pact follow-up.
- ***Tracking Milestones for Pact Follow-up***: Map out a timeline of key milestones across intergovernmental, UN, and global processes, and identify strategic opportunities for the UN, Member States, and other stakeholders to accelerate Pact outcomes (e.g. FFD4, PBAR, COP, G20 etc).
- ***Visualizations of Research***: Infographics, and succinct, pithy visuals that can be used for messaging on Pact follow-up efforts.
- ***Interactive Webpage and Bulletins***: Housing the Pact Innovation Plan components on a dynamic and interactive space on the GGIN website, and accompanying baseline research with a one-stop-shop bulletins of analysis and resources ahead of key milestone diplomatic gatherings and initiatives.
- ***Track 1.5 dialogues & E-consultations***: Convene informal opportunities for dialogue among experts and champions, building on a series of recent Track 1.5 [Global Policy Dialogues](#).
- ***Connections to the Pact Monitoring Toolkit and wider Pact Innovation Forum***.

Timeline of Suggested Next Steps

- ***March-April***: six-week e-consultation constituting three two-week segments with the first on major milestones and opportunities for Pact innovation; the second on how proposed components of the Pact Innovation Plan can help to seize opportunities these milestones present; and the third on the related Pact Monitoring Toolkit
- ***April***: potential informal sounding board to provide more regular feedback on the development and drafts of initial Pact Innovation Plan components, drawing on 2024 Pocantico Retreat, 27 February 2025 kick-off discussion, and e-consultation outcomes.
- ***June***: Track 1.5 Global and Africa Policy Dialogues to advance Pact implementation in Nairobi.
- ***July***: PR-level meeting to refine the (initial) Pact Innovation Plan components.
- ***September***: UNGA High-Level Week side event to socialize the initial developed components of the Pact Innovation Plan and Pact Monitoring Toolkit.
- ***October/November***: A (joint PR / expert-level) Pocantico Retreat to further the evolution of Pact Innovation Plan components, in 2026, in support of Pact implementation.

Discussion with Guiding Questions: Key Takeaways

The following brief summaries reflect key elements the discussion with participants, operating under the Chatham House Rule, in response to three main guiding questions:

Question #1: In the next 12-18 months, where do you see key milestones and opportunities with the potential for significant Pact for the Future follow-through?

The first twelve months will be crucial for initiating governance reforms, coordination and ownership by champion countries, and localizing engagement through both national and regional plans. Furthermore, key opportunities on the international calendar where specific actions, and the concept of the Pact as a whole, could be advanced are (*examples from June - November 2025*):

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations ● State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 35th Meeting ● 51st G7 Summit 2025 ● United Nations Ocean Conference ● 80th Anniversary of the UN Charter ● 38th Annual Meeting of the Academic Council on the UN System ● Internet Governance Forum
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (30 June - 3 July) ● United Nations Convention on International Tax Cooperation - First Session ● UN High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs ● ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum 2025 - Eleventh Session and Ministerial on SDG implementation.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● United Nations Convention on International Tax Cooperation - Second Session
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 80th General Assembly, United Nations High Level Week Debate 2025
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IMF - World Bank Annual Meeting 2025 ● General Assembly Committee Negotiations (October-December) ● Secretary General selection process begins
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Second World Summit for Social Development ● COP 30 / UN Climate Change Conference 2025 ● South Africa G20 Summit 2025

Question #2: How are you thinking about Pact follow-up in terms of prioritization, coordination, implementation, and monitoring, and how could the carefully considered components of a proposed Pact Innovation Plan be designed and tailored to fill gaps and support stakeholders in driving positive change?

Prioritize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Initial focus on actionable commitments that align with existing global initiatives to avoid duplication. → Ensure early wins and tangible progress within the first year to help sustain momentum.
Coordinate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Strengthen multistakeholder engagement, with an emphasis on visualising pathways across Member States, Civil Society, UN and the Private Sector, including through informal convenings. → Support Member States to prevent fragmentation, including by identifying national/institutional priority areas and coordinating with other groups of champions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Leverage existing mechanisms, while introducing innovative approaches, to enhance efficiency.

Implement	→ Flexibility in implementation strategies to allow adaptation to evolving geopolitical and economic conditions.
Monitor	→ Establish mechanisms to track progress in order to maintain a comprehensive visual of progress. → Data-driven approaches must be reliable, disaggregated, and consistent.

Question #3: In what format could the Pact Innovation Plan be presented to be of practical benefit to day-to-day users seeking to champion individual or multiple actions across the Pact for the Future?

- **Pragmatic approach:** The Pact Innovation Plan should be pragmatic and not overly comprehensive; it should focus on comparative areas where it can make the most impact.
- **Processes over events:** When focusing engagement and strategy around key milestones, it's important for a Pact Innovation Plan to recognise the associated process and pay more attention to that, than just the big high-level event, which is often too late of an entry point for innovative concepts and concrete coordination.
- **Maintaining visibility of the Pact as a whole:** while implementation and follow-up will require breaking down the Pact to its actionable parts in many instances, there is a role for continued visualization of the Pact as a whole and considering the common threads connecting Pact-follow up across key milestones.
- **User Friendly services for Pact follow-up:** whether through visualizations, bulletins and research, or an interactive website, it is important to resist the temptation of “adding layers” to the information space. Rather, the focus needs to remain on helping expert-level staff sift through and digest all the voluminous information already out there and to only fill in gaps where and when necessary.
- **Dynamic and receptive:** For such a service to be most effective, it must be able to adapt and remain relevant to shifting geopolitical circumstances and to leverage broad research networks, especially in Global Majority countries, to interpret evolving global challenges through the lens of the Pact for the Future and its follow-through (this is especially where a plan can be innovative).
- **Connections across different fora and levels of governance:** What implications could the Pact have in forums like the G20, and how could this concretely influence policy? Equally, how does the Pact translate to national level policy, and where are there success cases or innovative opportunities to push ahead? A helpful service of a Pact Innovation Plan could be to help experts take the ideas in the Pact “beyond New York.”
- **Complementary and coordinated, not centralized:** There is an important role for a service that helps coordinate a visualization of Pact follow-up across different groups and to provide a knowledge management service between these entities. At the same time, it is important to ensure that this does not centralize all engagement across stakeholders through one platform, noting the value of other, organic multistakeholder relationships, alongside the existence of other high-impact hubs (such as the Coalition for the UN We Need, a civil society-led hub for Pact follow-up), which would complement and inform this service.

ANNEX 1: PROGRAM

Welcome & Meeting Overview

Cornelia Jarasch

Pact Innovation Plan Presentation

Nudhara Yusuf

Response from the Office of the President of the General Assembly, Husniyya Mammadova

Response from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Daniela Vargas

Moderated Dialogue with Guiding Questions

Moderated by Richard Ponzio and Cornelia Jarasch

ANNEX 2: PARTICIPANTS

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Imane Benziane, Mission of Morocco
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Sarah Bielaus, Institute for Economics & Peace
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Henk-Jan Brinkman, International Dev. Law Organization
Jerome Brunet-Possenti, Mission of France
Michael Collins, Institute for Economics & Peace
Jade Cooper, Institute for Economics & Peace
Sneha Dubey, Mission of India
Pelle Enarsson, UN Foundation
Syndoph Endoni, Mission of Nigeria
Hollie Gilman, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Nina Marie Güttler
Ayumi Hama, Mission of Japan
Mohammed Hassan, Mission of Egypt
Eleonore Heimsoeth, European Union
Jesse Hope, Mission of Uganda
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Rina Kristmoen, Mission of Norway
Helena Kuzee, Mission of Namibia
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Melina Maia, Mission of Brazil
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Walter Mira, Mission of El Salvador
Brenda Mofyda, Oxfam International UN Office
Nekwaya Helalia Nalitey, Office of the President of the General Assembly

Vitorino Oliveira, Mission of Portugal
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Ahmed Seedat, Mission of South Africa
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Jake Sherman, Mission of the United States of America
Rebecca Snyder, Global Governance Innovation Network
Anna Svantesson, Mission of Sweden
Richard Tur de la Concepcion, Mission of Cuba
Daniela Vargas, Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Rogelio Voges, Mission of Netherlands
Iyeeka Walters, Mission of Jamaica
Maggie Williams, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (Center on International Cooperation)
Aya Yoshida, Mission of Japan
Nudhara Yusuf, Global Governance Innovation Network
Mathias Zbiranski, Mission of Germany
Maria Jose Zermano, Institute for Economics & Peace
Irena Zubčević, Mission of Croatia

ONLINE

Nycolas Candido, Plataforma CIPÓ
Maja Groff, Climate Governance Commission
Juliana Lozano, Global Governance Innovation Network
Neermala Persaud, Global Governance Innovation Network
Martha Thomas, Academic Council on the UN System
Georgios Kostakos, Found. for Global Gov. and Sustainability
Heba Aly, Senior Advisor, Coalition for the UN We Need