

UNGA@80 Pact Innovation Forum High-Level Breakfast Dialogue

Wednesday, 24 September, 2025



Co-Sponsors: Global Governance Innovation Network, Baha'i International Community, Plataforma CIPÓ, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development, and the Stimson Center

On September 24, 2025, the Global Governance Innovation Network — together with their partners Plataforma CIPÓ, the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development, Baha'i International Community, and the Stimson Center — hosted the UNGA@80 Pact Innovation Forum High-Level Breakfast Dialogue at the Baha'i International Community Office in New York. Involving the OPGA, EOSG, GGIN, C4UN, T20, and senior representatives from capitals and UN Missions, the Forum advanced dialogue on Pact for the Future follow-through and monitoring, with direct links to the Secretary-General's UN80 Initiative. Lead-off interventions by María Fernanda Espinosa, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, Maiara Folly, Ambassador Sani Bala, and Nudhara Yusuf underscored the urgency of Pact implementation amidst growing geopolitical and financial constraints, while highlighting civil society's essential role in promoting accountability and innovation. The new Forum's flagship tools, the Pact Innovation Plan and Pact Monitoring Toolkit, were showcased as practical vehicles for encouraging champion governments, international civil servants, and civil society-led ImPact Coalitions seeking to accelerate and track progress toward the official September 2028 high-level review. Operating under the Chatham House Rule, this synthesis captures key insights and expectations from the dialogue.

Identified Priority Areas

Policy Research

The discussion emphasized the importance of evidence-based research to ensure that the *Pact for the Future* remains a living document capable of guiding international cooperation renewal through rapidly shifting global challenges. Participants stressed that forward-looking research must identify implementation gaps and provide practical policy options that help Member States and UN bodies align Pact actions with national priorities. In particular, the *Pact Innovation Plan* was highlighted as a mechanism to creatively experiment and translate Pact commitments into actionable agendas at all levels of governance, supported by rigorous data and analysis.

Speakers underscored the continuing importance of research on intergenerational equity and, more specifically, the Declaration on Future Generations, calling for institutional frameworks that capture the long-term impact of present-day policy choices. This includes examining how global agreements on climate, technology, and security can be embedded in decision-making that serves both present and future generations. Research efforts should also assess how to ensure equity across countries and regions, particularly by elevating perspectives from the Global South and small island developing states often excluded from agenda-setting.

Moreover, participants called for sustained research on international financial architecture reform and peace and security governance. Several noted the urgency of developing proposals for more inclusive, transparent, and accountable institutions, from debt relief mechanisms for vulnerable states to reforms of the UN Security Council and approaches to peacekeeping. International policy-oriented research should explore creative ways to democratize decision-making, strengthen transparency, and link peace and security reforms with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that Pact implementation addresses both immediate needs and facilitates long-term systemic transformation.



Policy Dialogues

The dialogue underscored that effective Pact for the Future implementation depends on sustained, inclusive dialogue among governments, UN actors, civil society, and other key stakeholders. Participants stressed that the Pact must be treated not as the conclusion of a negotiation, but as a living framework requiring regular engagement, feedback, and course correction. Linking sustained dialogues to the UN80 reform process was viewed as essential for ensuring coherence and practical, “win-win” follow-through.

Speakers highlighted that diverse perspectives — including among those of youth, civil society, subnational authorities, and the private sector — are vital to Pact implementation. While commitments on climate, finance, and governance have already been negotiated, progress will rely on creating versatile platforms, where local and non-state actors can connect directly with multilateral processes. Such flexible and dynamic dialogues help to translate global agreements into practical steps forward and to foster greater accountability across all levels of multistakeholder governance.

Furthermore, the discussions emphasized that policy dialogues should focus on critical thematic areas, such as peace and security, climate governance, and institutional reform. Participants noted that inclusive and well-structured exchanges can help to overcome political blockages, promote trust, and keep momentum alive. Track 1.5 dialogues (involving influential governments and non-governmental actors), in particular, were identified as valuable ways to bring together diverse state and non-state actors to identify solutions, sustain implementation, and further innovate and strengthen multilateral cooperation.

Monitoring

Participants emphasized that robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms are essential to keep the Pact for the Future alive and actionable. The Pact Monitoring Toolkit was highlighted as a practical resource, complementing official UN processes by mapping data gaps, identifying new/old indicators, and offering visual tools to track progress toward the 2028 official review. By aligning with the UN80 reform process, these efforts can make global governance more agile, transparent, and results-driven.

The dialogue further stressed that monitoring efforts must be inclusive, participatory, and accessible. Civil society, youth, and subnational actors have a vital role to play in gathering evidence, identifying implementation gaps, and holding institutions accountable. Broader engagement in monitoring not only sustains political momentum but also builds trust in multilateral processes, ensuring the Pact is seen as a living framework with real-world impact.



Key Recommendations (and corresponding example Actions in the Pact for the Future) **to benefit from enhanced Implementation, Innovation, and Monitoring of the Pact**

Accelerate Year 1 Implementation of the Pact for the Future (e.g., Pact Actions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7)

Mainstream Pact commitments into national development strategies and UN country team workstreams, ensuring a whole-of-government approach that prioritizes vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Leverage the Pact Innovation Plan and Monitoring Toolkit (e.g., Pact Actions 20, 36, 37, 38, and 55)

Apply these tools to align Pact follow-through with crowded UN calendars, track and celebrate progress on overcoming gaps and achieving “quick wins,” and broaden accessibility for youth and civil society.

Forge Synergies Between the Pact and UN80 Initiative (e.g., Pact Actions 38 and 42)

Treat the Pact as the vision and overarching roadmap and the UN80 Initiative, in part, as the method, ensuring UN80 reforms and mandate reviews complement Pact commitments rather than duplicate them.

Strengthen Multistakeholder Engagement (e.g., Pact Actions 36, 37, and 55)

Expand participation of civil society, the private sector, and local actors, and convene Track 1.5 dialogues to bridge divides, assess progress collectively, and incubate innovation.

Reinforce Financing for Peace and Development (e.g., Pact Actions 18, 21, and 47–52)

Safeguard resources for peacekeeping, humanitarian action, and SDG delivery (despite present UN liquidity constraints), while advancing international financial system reform.

Advance Security Council and Link to Broader Governance Reform (e.g., Pact Actions 38–41)

Pursue equitable representation, especially for Africa and other under-represented regions, on the Security Council, and link Council reform to broader Pact objectives on more inclusive, effective, and accountable governance across the UN system.

Integrate Climate and Environmental Commitments (e.g., Pact Actions 9, 10, and 52)

Accelerate delivery on recent Climate COP pledges and Pact climate actions by enhancing sub-national actors, private sector, and civil society roles in governance structures to ensure faster implementation.

Foster Accountability through Multistakeholder ImPact Coalitions (e.g., Pact Actions 38 and 55)

Regularly evaluate civil society-led, multistakeholder Impact Coalitions to assess successes, identify challenges, and sustain momentum in translating Pact commitments into tangible results that directly benefit UN Member States and their citizens.

Keep the Pact “Alive” Through Communication and Trust-Building (e.g., Pact Actions 36, 37 and 55)

Present the Pact as a dynamic, living framework that guides intergovernmental processes through (at least) 2028, and promote progress and visible outcomes such as new AI governance initiatives (e.g., a Global Dialogue on AI Governance and Independent International Scientific Panel on AI) — thereby, helping to increase the Pact’s appreciation among the general public.

Mobilize Political Will in support of Multilateral Cooperation (e.g., Pact Actions 1–4, 6, and 55)

Reinforce the Pact as a collective achievement requiring continued political leadership, renewed trust in the rules-based system, and optimism as a tool to galvanize action.

Conclusion

The UNGA@80 Pact Innovation Forum High-Level Breakfast Dialogue underscored a determination to advance Pact for the Future implementation through practical innovation and monitoring. Building on the commitments of the Summit of the Future, participants highlighted the importance of tools such as the Pact Innovation Plan and Monitoring Toolkit to translate vision into measurable progress. Participants expressed appreciation for whole-of-government approaches, alongside active youth, civil society, and private sector participation, in sustaining momentum. By forging synergies with the UN80 initiative and strengthening accountability through civil society-led ImPact Coalitions, stakeholders can ensure that the Pact remains a living framework for guiding multilateral renewal and collective action in the years ahead.



UNGA@80 Pact Innovation Forum High-Level Breakfast Dialogue

*Wednesday, 24 September | 8:30-9:30 am | Baha'i International Community New York Office
(866 United Nations Plaza #120, corner of 48th and 1st Ave.)*

Initiated in 2025, the **Pact Innovation Forum** is an informal, multistakeholder platform designed to help champion governments, civil society organizations, and the UN realize the full potential of the Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and Declaration on Future Generation's actions and commitments. As showcased in the *Global Governance Innovation Report 2025* and the interactive [Global Governance Innovation Network web-portal](#), the forum features two flagship activities: a **Pact Innovation Plan** (providing practical guidance, visualizations, and evidence-based options to facilitate Pact follow-through) and a **Pact Monitoring Toolkit** (pulling together existing, as well as new, indicators to complement official efforts to gauge progress on the road to the Sept. 2028 Pact for the Future review).

This **UNGA@80 Pact Innovation Forum High-Level Breakfast Dialogue**, involving the OPGA, EOSG, GGIN, C4UN, T20, and senior representatives from capitals and UN Missions, seeks to advance discussions and action on Pact for the Future follow-through and monitoring, including connections to the UN Secretary-General's UN80 Initiative. Operating under the Chatham House Rule, the dialogue's brief synthesis report will highlight recent **Pact Innovation Forum tools**, as well as select **Member States' priorities and expectations** (on a not-for-attribution-basis) following Year 1 of Pact implementation.

PROGRAM

Welcome & Overview

Daniel Perell, *Representative, United Nations Office, Baha'i International Community*

Dr. Richard Ponzio, *Co-Director, Global Governance Innovation Network and Senior Fellow and Director, Global Governance, Justice & Security Program, Stimson Center (moderator)*

Lead-Off Remarks

María Fernanda Espinosa, *73rd President of the General Assembly, Executive-Director of GWL Voices, and former Foreign and Defense Minister of Ecuador*

Professor Ibrahim Gambari, *Chairman, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy & Development, and former Foreign Minister of Nigeria and UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs*

Maiara Folly, *Executive Director, Plataforma CIPÓ*

Amb. Sani Bala, *Executive Director, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy & Development*

Nudhara Yusuf, *Co-Chair, 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future, Co-Chair, Coalition for the UN We Need, and Senior Adviser, Global Governance Innovation Network*

Dialogue

H.E. Ambassador Brian Wallace, *Permanent Representative, Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations and Co-Chair, UN80 Initiative Informal Ad-Hoc Working Group*

H.E. Katharina Ahrendts, *Director-General for International Order, the United Nations & Arms Control, Foreign Office, Government of Germany*

H.E. Ambassador Martin Billie Hermann, *Managing Director for Multilateral Relations, European External Action Service*

H.E. Zaheer Laher, *Director of the United Nations Section, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Government of South Africa*

H.E. Nkula Mwanza, *Director of Communications and Digital Technologies, Ministry of Technology and Science, Government of Zambia*

H.E. Afonso Lages, *Head of Division for United Nations Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Portugal*

H.E. Scott Loh, *Deputy Director-General, International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore*

H.E. Amb. Syndoph Endoni, *Chargé D'affaires, Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations*

H.E. Amb. Tomohiro Mikanagi, *Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

Alessandro Resende, *Counsellor, Mission of Brazil to the United Nations*

Shannon Tau, *Counsellor, Peace and Security, Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations*

Andrew Sigley, *First Secretary, Head of General Assembly and Human Rights Team, Mission of the UK to the United Nations*

Adiel Guevara Rodríguez, *Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations*

Rashed Al-Abhoul, *Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations*

François Gave, *Political Advisor, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations*

Daniel Galicia, *Policy Advisor, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations*

Julia Pfarrkirchner, *Advisor, Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations*

Concluding Reflections

Lars Becker, *Senior Adviser, Office of the President of the General Assembly*

Themba Kalua, *Director, Pact for the Future Implementation, Executive Office of the Secretary-General*

Dr. Adam Lupel, *Executive Director, Coalition for the UN We Need*