

***Taking Forward the Pact for the Future:
Assessing Progress & The Road Ahead Two Years Before the 2028 High-Level Review***
Thursday, 24 September 2026 | 1:15-2:30 PM | United Nations Headquarters Conference Room 2

SYNTHESIS REPORT



Rationale and Background

As the international community approaches the midpoint between the adoption of the Pact for the Future (September 2024, Summit of the Future) and its review in September 2028, this High-Level & Civil Society 75-minute dialogue during UNGA High-Level Week provided an opportunity **to assess progress, identify implementation gaps, and raise ambition for the years ahead**. Convened by the Permanent Missions of Jamaica, Croatia, Germany, and the European Union to the United Nations, the Global Governance Innovation Network, and Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN), this High-Level UNGA Side Event explored **emerging approaches to Pact follow-through and monitoring**. These include assessment methodologies developed by C4UN and the Pact Innovation Forum and linkages to the Secretary-General's UN80 Initiative, preparations for the 2027 SDG Summit, and the UN's new leadership transition in January with the election of the next Secretary-General.

Guiding Questions

- When the international community looks back in 2028, *what will be remembered among the most important achievements and legacy-building innovations* flowing from the 2024 Summit of the Future?
- In the current geopolitical climate and ahead of the forthcoming Secretary-General transition, what practical multistakeholder measures are needed to safeguard continuity of Pact follow-up and ensure it remains a system-wide priority?
- What specific milestones should be achieved before the September 2028 high-level stocktaking moment for the Pact for the Future, and how can we build on existing coalitions and partnerships to lock in momentum?
- Looking forward to the remaining two years of Pact implementation, what are the chief lessons from the past two years for measuring progress toward Pact delivery?

High-Level Interactive Dialogue



***Speakers:** H.E. Amb. Brian Wallace (Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations); H.E. Stefan Löfven (Former Prime Minister of Sweden and Co-Chair, High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism); H.E. Dr. Katharina Stasch (Director-General, Ministry of Economic Development, Germany); H.E. Petal Gahlot (First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to the UN); H.E. Amb. Martin Bille Hermann (EEAS Deputy Political Director & Managing Director, Multilateral Relations, Human Rights & Democracy); H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Gambari (Former Nigerian Foreign Minister and UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Co-Chair, Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance); H.E. Sebastian Rogač (Director-General for Multilateral and Global Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia); moderated by Dr. Richard Ponzio (Co-Director, Global Governance Innovation Network) and Nudhara Yusuf (Senior Advisor, Global Governance Innovation Network).*

High-level government representatives took stock of the Pact for the Future at the midpoint of implementation efforts, ahead of its high-level review in 2028. It was highlighted that adoption does not guarantee implementation: efforts and resources should focus on a clear plan for measurement and deliverable results within specific timelines. It was emphasized that Member States should act on ambition through participation, ownership, delivery of tangible results for people's wellbeing, and accountability. Moreover, panelists discussed the challenges small states and developing countries face in implementing the Pact, stressing the need to overcome tight fiscal constraints, fragmented support, and vulnerability to climate-related shocks. Panelists also considered the role of civil society, human rights, and democracy in implementing the Pact, noting the need for civil society partnerships and urging Member States to deepen cross-sector engagement. Pointing out that expectations followed by inaction can deepen cynicism about the Pact and multilateralism as a whole, the speakers argued that multilateralism will be judged by its capacity to manage shared risks, ensure global public goods, and follow-through on national and global institutions' promises. In other words, trust must be earned. The panelists concluded by reiterating their perspectives on successful Pact implementation, including delivery, ownership, financing, intergenerational decision-making, peacebuilding, and credibility.

Key takeaways:

- **Invest in implementation:** Strengthen implementation by equipping small states with early-warning tools through a robust UN Resident Coordinator system and integrated country teams, while establishing a General Assembly Pact Implementation Working Group to drive follow-up and accountability. Embed predictable follow-up with clear timelines, deliverables, and measurable indicators, and track progress in a transparent manner to sustain Member State accountability and attention.
- **Make the Pact actionable:** Translate the Pact into clear national and international measurable indicators to demonstrate where progress is lacking and what goals have been achieved. Presenting positive stories and achieved progress is also key to restoring trust in the Pact and multilateral commitments.
- **Prioritize Pact implementation in UN leadership:** The arrival of a new Secretary-General in January 2027 offers an opportunity to make the Pact a central priority ahead of the 2027 SDG Summit and 2028 High-Level review.
- **Maintain momentum on reinforcing commitments:** The Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, Declaration on Future Generations, Sevilla Commitment, and the AU's Agenda 2063 are reinforcing multilateral commitments, making collaboration on progress essential to advancing reform and full implementation.

- **Anchor implementation efforts in human rights:** Adopt a human-rights-based approach to progress and implementation to ensure efforts improve people's well-being. Strengthening the Peacebuilding Commission and similar bodies can preserve peace, democracy, and human rights, a high priority for the international community.

Civil Society and Think Tank Representatives Interactive Dialogue



Speakers: Natalie Samarasinghe (Executive Director, Vibe Fund); Linda Bonyo (Founder and CEO, Lawyers Hub Africa); Maiara Folly (Executive Director, Plataforma CIPÓ); Daniela Vargas (Executive Office of the Secretary-General); Daouia Chalali (Future Generations Project Director, UN University Center for Policy Research); moderated by Adam Lupel (Executive Director, Coalition for the UN We Need) and Nudhara Yusuf (Co-Chair, Coalition for the UN We Need).

Civil society and think tank representatives contributed to the conversation on Pact implementation by highlighting the need for political will, representation, belief, and a shared vision. The panelists discussed the need for coalition-building, multi-stakeholder relationships, and partnerships, with certain countries potentially becoming champions on different Pact Actions based on national priorities. Regarding the Global Digital Compact, panelists discussed global digital sovereignty and AI governance in Africa, emphasizing the need for developing countries' full participation and stronger funding and institutional frameworks, particularly for human rights protections. Speakers highlighted philanthropy as a strategic component of multilateral cooperation and urged the UN to strengthen its capacity to mobilize and leverage philanthropic partnerships for Pact implementation, particularly amid emerging AI-generated wealth. Panelists concluded that trust in the Pact and the Member State's ability to follow-through on commitments comes from results and effective implementation, which can be strengthened through intergenerational representation and strategic financing in decision-making and long-term governance. Speakers pointed out that this is an important moment to begin reflecting on how the international community wants to start building toward the 2028 Review, while acknowledging positive progress. Finally, existing platforms, such as the [Pact Innovation Forum](#), the [Pact Monitoring Toolkit](#), and the [C4UN Pact Review Recommendations](#) further strengthen continued efforts for the follow-up review.

Key takeaways:

- **Enable inclusive participation:** Including key multi-stakeholder voices from the Global South in critical conversations on peace, human rights, and sustainable development is a necessary step toward aligning priorities and achieving collective goals for current and future generations. Coalition-building remains one of the most crucial components for advancing both Pact implementation and international communication.
- **Govern and finance AI for the benefit of humanity:** Innovative financing should build capacity without creating dependency, strengthen AI governance frameworks, and support diverse participation in implementation conversations to ensure the Global Digital Compact and Pact are implemented across all Member States.
- **Accelerate climate financing:** Coalitions should champion implementation through climate transition roadmaps that track key indicators, deadlines, and finance needs. They should also address climate finance gaps by reducing barriers to finance and technology, addressing the cost of capital, and tackling trade restrictions and illegal tariffs.
- **Commit to intergenerational governance:** Linking Pact Actions to core UN Charter principles and embedding intergenerational responsibility will help to ensure its lasting relevance to long-term governance and [future generations](#). Meaningful youth participation should also be strengthened by applying established frameworks and best practices to address intergenerational challenges, such as climate change.