

*Unlocking the Power of  
Next and Future Generations*

# THE ROAD TO 2100

Unlock  
the   
Future



The front cover illustration is a vision of the future by young visual development artist and illustrator [Devin Elle Kurtz](#) (@devinellekurtz). Other imagery is by [Nomad Visuals](#) (@nomadvisuals).

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*“We need to make youth participation the norm, rather than the exception, across decisions, policies and investments. The upcoming SDG Summit in September and 2024’s Summit of the Future represent key opportunities to accelerate these efforts.”*

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

*“We need more, not less, participation and activism by young people to drive progress on peace, human rights, and sustainable development. We need you to be disruptive because the challenges of today will not go without it. The future belongs to you.”*

AMINA J. MOHAMMED, THE UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

*“I raise up my voice—not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard... we cannot succeed when half of us are held back.”*

MALALA YOUSAFZAI, GIRLS’ EDUCATION ACTIVIST

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Developed by the [Unlock the Future coalition](#), this paper presents a 5-year Action Plan designed to empower all young people, particularly the most marginalized and underserved, to help them unlock the full potential of their future.

This paper draws from the shared wisdom of young change makers and experts, inspiring a 2100 Roadmap that serves as a springboard to tackle current and future challenges through global cooperation. It positions the 2024 Summit of the Future as a stepping stone to reflect on past lessons and focus on empowering next and future generations.

Through the [Unlock the Future Declaration II](#), we extend an open invitation for you to join us in this vital endeavor to build a better, more equitable world for young people everywhere. Together, we will:

- **Rally Political Support and Accountability:** Mobilizing solidarity and action for SDG and Climate Goals to deliver concrete outcomes in the lives of all generations, especially young countries and communities at risk of being left behind.
- **Explore 2100 Trajectories:** Delving into global frameworks and future scenarios to guide the multilateral system in navigating the current opportunities and future challenges.
- **Resource the Future:** Investing and nurturing young people’s leadership in decision-making and unlocking access to increased and improved financing for SDG delivery.
- **Jumpstart the Engine Room for the Future:** Establishing collaborative spaces to harness collective intelligence and foster dialogue, aiding in shaping the 2100 Roadmap.
- **Amplify Young People Through Storytelling:** Leveraging diverse mediums to shape the 2100 Roadmap vividly, echoing the collective dreams and aspirations for the future.

Join us as we embrace the opportunities before us, building a foundation rooted in equality, sustainability, and boundless opportunities for all.

**Let’s unlock the future we want together.**



# OUR IMPACT

*Our Action Plan aims to create a solutions-packed and proactive environment to drive collective action, financing, and intergenerational solidarity for a better future. As we navigate our five-year journey, we aspire to realize the following:*



## ▶ IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- **Political mobilization for next and future generations**
- **Alignment on 2100 opportunities and risks**
- **Enhanced intergenerational cooperation**
- **Increased youth-led innovations**
- **Rejuvenated UN Engagement**

## ▶▶ LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

- **Expedited SDG implementation**, driving investments that make a real difference in the lives of next and future generations.
- **A more equitable multilateral system**, with inclusive avenues for young people and young countries to influence global decision-making, especially from the grassroots level.
- **A vision for the future**, sparking global thinking towards a resilient future and setting the groundwork for an intergenerational plan for the post-2030 framework.



## 5 YEAR ACTION PLAN

### The Need

#### PROBLEM

Half the global population of 8 billion are young people under 30, primarily in Asia and Africa.

Slow progress on the SDGs impacts young people the most, and two-thirds living in countries vulnerable to ecological disasters. Young countries spend five times more on debt than on the SDGs.

By 2100, these trends will escalate, with 80% of a projected 10.3 billion people residing in Asia and Africa.

#### PEOPLE

The Unlock the Future coalition gathers the world's largest youth-focused organizations under one banner to unlock a better future for next and future generations.

The next generation are young people under 30, including children, adolescents, and young adults. Most young people live in young countries where over 50% of the population is under 30.

Future generations are those yet to be born who will inhabit the world leading up to 2100.

#### REASON

*Investing in next and future generations is a smart investment for sustainable development.*

*We have the opportunity and responsibility to empower young people, equip them with the skills for the future, and ensure their voice is heard in decisions that affect their present and future.*

### The Work

#### MISSION

*Launch a 2100 Roadmap that addresses current and future global challenges through intergenerational action, focusing on the five pillars of the SDGs to foster a sustainable future by 2100.*

#### PARTNERS

1. Member States and policymakers, especially from young countries
2. International organizations, such as UN Youth and the African Union Envoy
3. Civil society, notably those working with marginalized young people
4. Private sector experts, particularly in technology, energy, and finance
5. Leading academics and scientists

#### ACTIONS

1. Rally political support and accountability
2. Explore 2100 trajectories
3. Resource the Future
4. Jumpstart the Engine Room for the Future
5. Amplify young people through storytelling

### The Results

#### IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

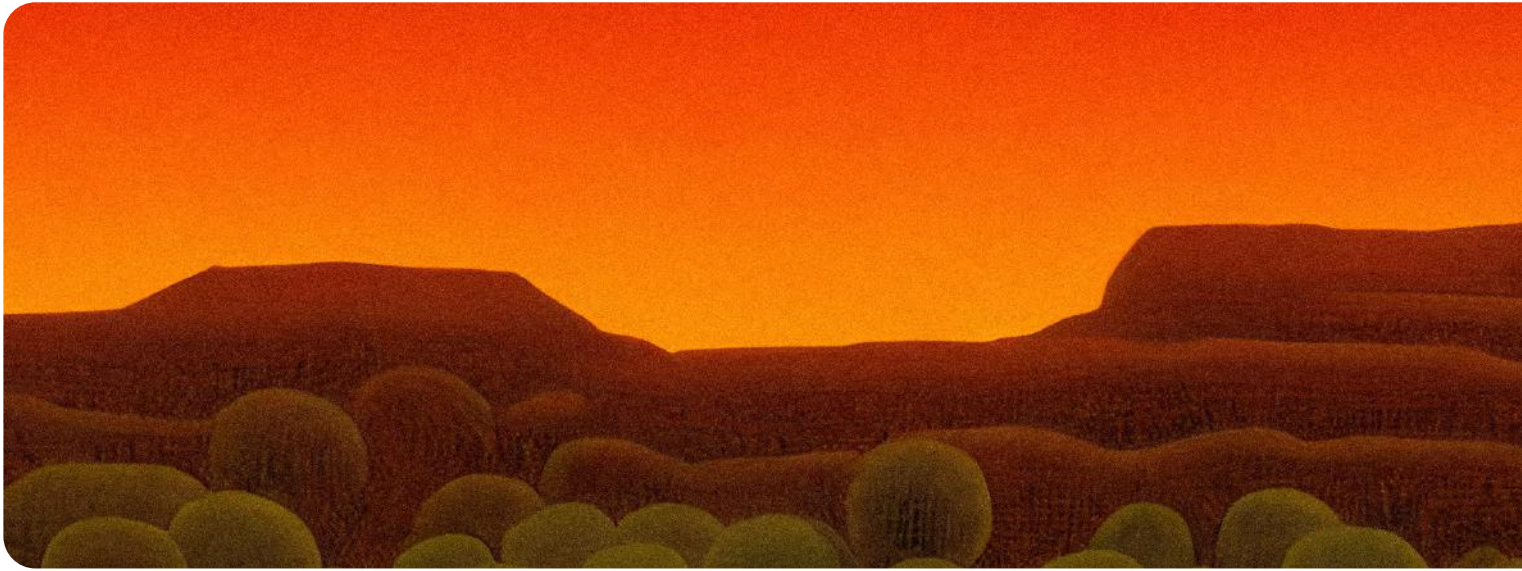
1. Political mobilization for next and future generations
2. Alignment on 2100 opportunities and risks
3. Enhanced intergenerational cooperation
4. Increased youth-led innovations
5. Rejuvenated UN Engagement

#### LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

1. Expedited SDG implementation
2. A more equitable multilateral system
3. A vision for the future

#### VISION

*Support the UN to deliver a better future for people and the planet by working with and for young people.*



# INTRODUCTION

In 2015, 193 world leaders committed to a global plan to change the course of our future: the 2030 Agenda and its [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). Their target? To protect the planet and ensure prosperity and peace for all people by 2030.

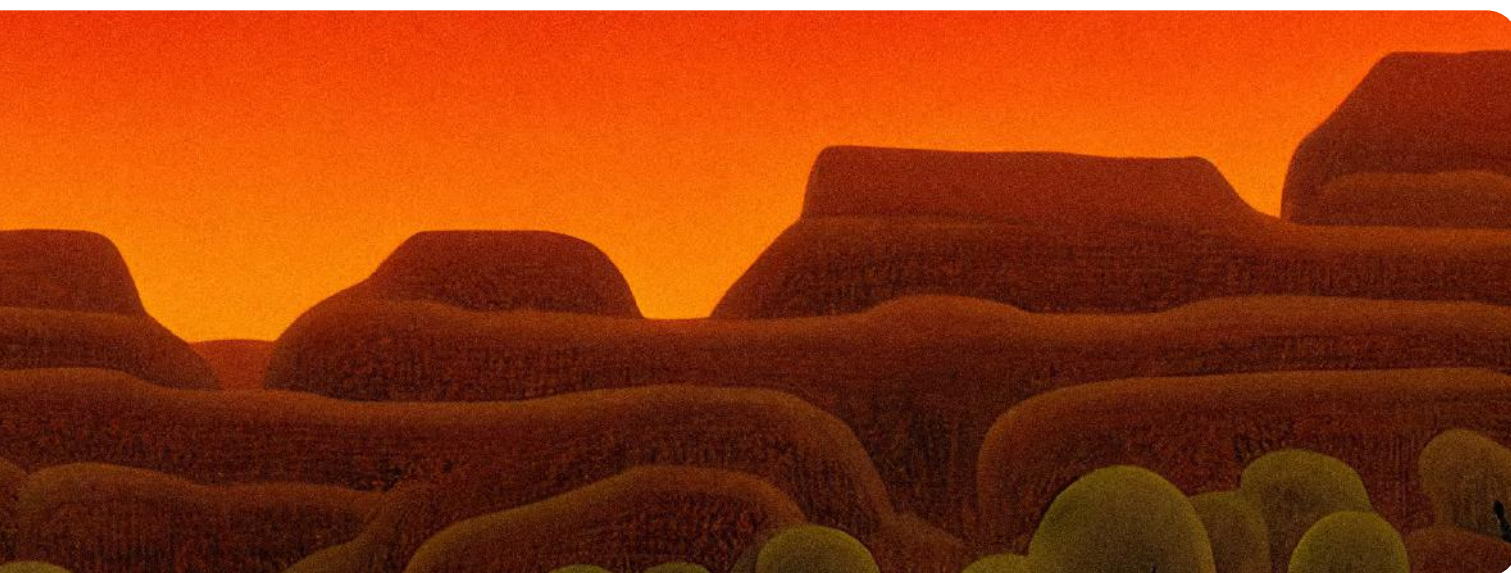
The SDGs apply universally across all countries and stakeholders, ensuring no one is left behind in the 21st century. They are built on five interconnected pillars - people, planet, peace, prosperity, and partnerships - offering a more holistic view of development. The SDGs remain a testament to the UN's ability to think, plan, and act for the future.

But since the launch of the SDGs seven years ago, progress has been slow - [only 15% of the goals are on track](#). The intervening years have seen a rising youth population globally, mainly in Asia and Africa.

Increased violence and the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted education, deepened generational divides, and

fueled poverty and joblessness. Our planet's ecological systems hang in the balance, with drastic climate changes, from severe floods to extreme droughts, and an alarming decrease in biodiversity. Countries with high youth populations struggle the most under mounting debt, which hampers their investment in SDGs. This situation is even more dire for the most marginalized children and youth, who endure the worst deprivation and live on the edge of vulnerability.

The 2023 SDG Summit marks the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda. The UN Secretary-General has called for a "[Rescue Plan for People and Planet](#)," urging countries to take decisive action to support developing nations. This includes commitments at a national level to reduce poverty and inequality, along with efforts to strengthen public trust in local, national, regional, and global governance and increased civic engagement. It is time to be honest about the achievements and failures of our implementation so far. We are not yet



without hope, but we're far enough along to reflect on our journey, learn from it, and make bold moves for the future by doubling down on investments in young people and [young countries](#).

The good news is that the UN system has shown remarkable resilience in an unpredictable and rapidly changing global landscape. The UN Secretary-General's [Our Common Agenda](#) report responds to a call for stronger international cooperation by Member States during the [United Nations' 75th anniversary](#). Central to this effort is maximizing the potential of the [Summit of the Future](#) in 2024. This global gathering of world leaders provides an opportunity to adopt a 'Pact for the Future,' enhancing the UN's ability to think, plan, and act for the future.

**Building on this momentum, this paper introduces a bold acceleration strategy to propel the SDGs and prepare for the future,**

**sparking a five-year intergenerational movement to design a 2100 Roadmap.** This Roadmap aims to tap into growing demand from civil society, business leaders, and Member States for new ways to bolster intergenerational dialogue and long-term thinking. It positions the 2024 Summit of the Future as a stepping stone to reflect on past lessons and focus on empowering next and future generations. A key goal is to enable young people to rally for more decisive global action to make their mark on the multilateral stage. Their values, energy, creativity, and determination will be pivotal in steering our collective course toward a sustainable future.

# OUR WORLD NOW

**Our global population has doubled in just 50 years, from [4 billion to 8 billion people](#).** Half of these people are under 30, making the next generation the largest in history.

**Countries with young populations are most affected by this demographic boom.** Africa is home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing population, burgeoning cities, and bold innovations in everything from fintech to clean energy. In Nigeria, for instance, more than half of the population is under 20. This shift could [unlock exponential economic growth and prosperity](#), not only in Africa but around the globe.

**However, slow global progress on the SDGs puts the future at risk.** The stark disparity in access to quality education and skills development is alarming, with [nearly 300 million young](#) people unable to read or comprehend a simple story. Despite the rapid growth of technology, [more than half of the world's young people](#) are still on the wrong side of the digital divide. This gap is costing them opportunities to create better futures. Young women and girls bear the brunt of this inequity, being [twice as likely as young men](#) to be excluded from education, employment, or training. Conflicts now average [30 years](#), more than double the frequency twenty years ago, with the world facing the [highest number of violent conflicts](#) since the Second World War.

**Moreover, the looming threat of climate change is a pressing concern.** [Two out of three young people](#) live in countries highly susceptible to ecological damage within their lifetime.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION NEEDS YOUNG PEOPLE.

**The future of our planet hinges on swift international action.** Young people are [natural champions of international collaboration](#), addressing challenges that no single country can tackle alone. An impressive [70% of young people](#) worldwide are actively involved in social and political causes. They are championing climate action, rallying for equality, and spearheading movements for racial justice. Despite this active engagement, young people remain underrepresented in formal policymaking positions. Only [2.6% of parliamentarians worldwide](#) are under 30. Only [nine countries](#) around the globe have voting rights for citizens under 17, while as many as [20 countries](#) have voting ages of 20 or older. A global system that overlooks its youngest voices will struggle to keep up with the rapid pace of change.

**International cooperation needs young people.** Their innovative ideas, conviction, and long-term perspectives are needed to invigorate crucial multilateral conversations

## ALMOST 4 BILLION

Young people represent half of the world's population, making the next generation the largest in history.

## NEARLY 300 MILLION

Young people are unable to read or comprehend a simple story.



toward a more inclusive and networked approach. Young people are harnessing their voices and platforms to fuel transformative change and intergenerational solidarity, and in doing so, they are knitting together a more interlinked and collaborative world. This is the power of young people: relentless, bold, less anchored to ‘how things are done,’ and unafraid to shake up the status quo. It is this spirit that we must nurture to tackle the challenges no single country can face alone for the benefit of us all.

**However, trust in global solidarity isn’t built on faith alone.** Young people crave concrete evidence that international systems can deliver sustained outcomes to enhance their lives, particularly in a world fraught with crises. According to the [Open Society Foundation’s 2023 Barometer](#), young people are increasingly inclined toward the idea of a single, powerful leader or even army rule, particularly in young countries. This

starkly contrasts older generations whose faith in democracy and fair elections remains steadfast, underscoring that young people’s faith in institutions is steadily dwindling. This pattern underscores the urgency to engage young people in meaningful ways to rekindle their faith in good governance and collective action. Earning their trust is indispensable for our collective future.

# OUR WORLD BY 2100

*Looking ahead, towards the world by 2100, our future faces many interlocking challenges that impact people, the planet, peace, prosperity, and partnerships – the five fundamental principles (5Ps) of the SDGs. Young people and young countries have a vital role in tackling these challenges, as investments in them will shape the trajectory of future generations. A snapshot of these future projections across the 5Ps is outlined below:*

## PEOPLE

The global population is expected to reach 10.3 billion by 2100, with over 80% of this concentrated in Asia and Africa. This demographic shift risks driving high poverty and unemployment, upending the lives of young people in these regions. Aging countries like Japan and Italy are expected to face a 40% population decline, leading to a shortage of skilled workers and economic risks.

As more young people move to cities to address these gaps and meet growing care demands, the strain on food, water, and energy resources will rise to unsustainable levels. It is estimated that almost 84% of people will live in cities by 2100, requiring new construction that could equal all infrastructure ever built across history, from housing to transportation.

## PLANET

Our planet's natural ecosystems are under increasing pressure due to a potent mix of climate change, biodiversity loss, and human activity. Predictions show a potential temperature rise of 2.7°C by 2050, overshooting the Paris Agreement targets. Extreme weather events are expected to intensify and become more frequent. Despite being least responsible for the crisis, young

countries are most impacted, highlighting the climate injustice as they bear an unequal burden primarily caused by wealthier nations.

Alarmingly, children born in 2020 are expected to face a seven-fold increase in heatwave exposure across their lifetimes compared to their grandparents. This uptick leads to immediate, life-threatening health risks, including malnutrition and heightened vulnerability to infectious diseases.

## PEACE

As 2100 nears, ongoing conflicts, climate effects, and economic instability, especially in young African countries like Sudan and Niger, hint at potential future turmoil. The Russian aggression against Ukraine is a direct challenge to the UN Charter that will reverberate for many generations to come. Without intervention, 150 million people are expected to face extreme poverty by 2030, primarily young women and girls. Increasing state fragility and decreased trust in government could be further exacerbated by social media and misinformation.

Despite their potential, young leaders and entrepreneurs risk being caught in a cycle of underemployment and inadequate education, escalating gender-based violence and amplifying unrest. In this scenario, global



public goods like peace, stability, and humanitarian actions could foster resilience, intergenerational solidarity, and economic recovery.

## PROSPERITY

Young people - already twice as likely to live in extreme poverty and three times more likely to be unemployed than adults - face greater economic risk in the coming decades. This adversity is worsened by growing inequality and lack of access to quality education, work, and financial services, which impacts young women and girls the most.

Workplaces are also evolving rapidly due to technological advances like artificial intelligence and automation, with young countries like Sierra Leone, Ghana, and India capitalizing on most of these trends. While this evolution is redefining job roles and settings, it also increases job insecurity for young people, particularly due to automation's impact on skilled jobs, the growing digital divide, and limited financial support for young entrepreneurs and startups. Young women and girls, who are already facing 132 years to close the gender equity gap, are most likely to find themselves at the sharpest end of this divide by 2100.

## PARTNERSHIPS

By 2100, enduring conflicts such as those in Ukraine could significantly impact international cooperation and public finances, worsened by the lingering effects of pandemics like COVID-19. Among the hardest hit are countries like Chad and Zambia, where over 70% of the population is under 30. These young nations, mainly in Africa, might struggle to balance debt payments with investments in next and future generations, potentially spending five times more on debt than on the SDGs. If their debt burdens keep growing 60 times faster than their domestic revenues, investing in the future will become even more difficult.

A concerted global effort is necessary to reform international financial institutions, restructure debt, improve global tax coordination, tackle illicit financial flows, and accelerate progress to meet the 2030 Agenda targets and beyond. These actions should be implemented to promote gender equality and inclusivity.

In summary, the path towards 2100 is fraught with complex, interconnected challenges that require proactive and coordinated global action. The role of young people and young countries will be pivotal in shaping our shared future.



# OUR ACTION PLAN

Our 5-year Action Plan spearheads a global initiative to craft a 2100 Roadmap, a strategy aiming to expedite the achievement of SDGs and secure critical investments for young people and their futures, mobilizing the Unlock coalition alongside a network of committed young people and leading thinkers, activists, policymakers and philanthropists. The 2100 Roadmap is more than a future plan; it's an acceleration strategy for the final push toward SDG implementation to inspire global change and ensure no generation is left behind.

This intergenerational initiative envisions a world founded on sustainability, equality, and opportunities for all. It also aims to garner investments, commitments, and resources to cater to the needs of next and future generations in a post-2030 world, recognizing the pivotal role of young people as architects of the future. Their influence within the United Nations and their role as [custodians of future generations](#) will be consistently emphasized. A concentrated focus will be placed on supporting marginalized and vulnerable young people, particularly from young nations, directing resources and opportunities towards those least able to access global and regional platforms.



## ACTION 1

# RALLY POLITICAL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The 2100 Roadmap is built on an inclusive, future-focused vision that combines seasoned professionals' expertise with young leaders' creativity. Action 1 is vital to designing the Roadmap by mobilizing political support for the Roadmap's development and execution, promoting diverse leadership of young visionaries. Key steps include:

- **Establish a Visionary Futures Task Force:** Assemble a group of young leaders, advocates, and seasoned experts from various fields to guide the 2100 Roadmap's strategic direction, ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized voices are represented.
- **Engage Champions and Advocates:** Cultivate a diverse group of champions and advocates who will support and build consensus for the 2100 Roadmap, involving UN Youth and the African Union Youth Envoy, and highlighting critical perspectives that are too often neglected.
- **Mobilize for the Future:** Convene leading minds and innovators to discuss solutions during major UN events, ensuring that those often unheard voices help shape the 2100 Roadmap.
- **Promote Action and Accountability:** Assist young people in delivering and tracking SDG and climate commitments by world leaders.



## ACTION 2

# EXPLORE 2100 TRAJECTORIES

By blending intergenerational research and foresight, Action 2 focuses on using lessons from existing global frameworks to explore how the multilateral system can accelerate the SDGs and prepare for the future. Key steps include:

- **Explore What Makes Multilateralism Tick:** Study successful global frameworks, institutions, and campaigns designed to address the needs of next and future generations, reviewing ideas from existing research, such as the [Brundtland report Our Common Future](#), [Rio+20 Declaration](#), and the [High-Level Board on Effective Multilateralism’s Report](#).
- **Map Next Generation Needs:** Collaborate with polling experts and young people to understand divisive trends, find common ground, and unite generations to address shared challenges through global cooperation.
- **Future Scenario Planning and Research:** Engage in future scenario planning that leverages [UNICEF Innocenti’s](#) foresight research and [UNDP’s Data Futures Platform](#) to project future global challenges and opportunities facing young people and young countries, producing intergenerational white papers on the Roadmap’s focus areas.
- **Identify Smart Buys for the Future:** Pinpoint initiatives, technologies, and innovations that promise long-term high impact, capitalizing on current advancements and anticipating future trends and possibilities.



## ACTION 3

# RESOURCE

# THE FUTURE

Our primary goal is to empower young people, fostering their leadership and expertise to achieve the SDGs. Beyond pushing for young people's participation, our efforts will support and empower young minds to lead with bold and innovative ideas, shaping a future that reflects the diversity, vibrancy, and inclusivity of the young changemakers it empowers. Key steps include:

- **Empower Young Champions:** Support young thinkers and leaders to act as agents of change across the global system, showcasing their ideas, creativity, and passion for influencing the UN and making a difference.
- **Invite Bold Ideas for the Future:** Encourage young people worldwide to submit innovative ideas addressing pressing issues aligned with the SDGs and the 2100 Roadmap. Provide online resources, toolkits, and guidelines for idea development and submission.
- **Host the Big Brainstorm:** Guide selected young innovators through an annual design sprint process, connecting them with leading policymakers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and activists to refine their concepts through expert advice and collaborative problem-solving.
- **Launch the Funders Collective:** Unlock accessible, flexible, and sustainable financing for young people aligned with the 17 SDGs, focusing on the most promising solutions to demonstrate the power of youth-led innovation and intergenerational collaboration.



## ACTION 4

# JUMPSTART THE ENGINE ROOM FOR THE FUTURE

Through Action 4, we aim to launch the [Engine Room](#) for the Future as a hub for intergenerational dialogue, creating spaces for young individuals with fresh perspectives to collaborate with experienced leaders from various sectors. It is within this diverse mix of minds and visions we begin to shape our shared future, creating a 2100 Roadmap that promises a resilient world characterized by progress, prosperity and shared humanity. Key steps include:

- **Organize Intergenerational Forums:** Facilitate virtual gatherings to hear the voices and ideas of the next generation and leaders from across sectors, generating insights and feedback to construct a collaborative 2100 Roadmap.
- **Forge Issue-Specific Action Groups:** Support youth-led groups of bright minds, innovators, and advocates focusing on different pivotal themes of the 2100 Roadmap, tasked with providing fresh insights to guide the collective vision.
- **Build a One-stop Futures Hub:** Collect resources, toolkits, and educational content to aid the Action Groups, serving as a knowledge reservoir and connection point for existing futures networks to facilitate informed discussions and deliberations.
- **Host a Solutions Showcase:** Organize spotlight events where Action Groups showcase their solutions to a global audience, including representatives from governments, international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector.

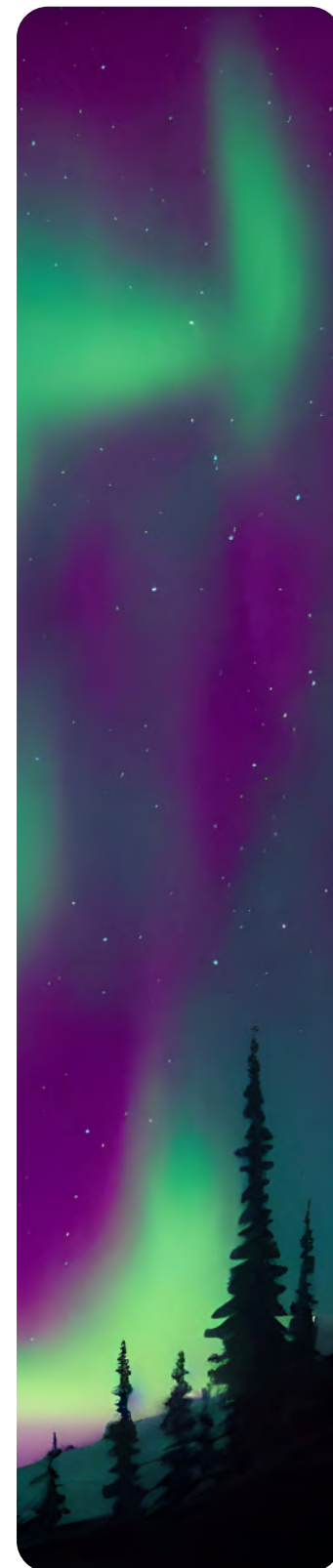


## ACTION 5

# AMPLIFY YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH STORYTELLING

Harnessing the transformative power of young people to shape public opinion and drive action, Action 5 aims to provide open and creative platforms that depict potential future scenarios and empower young people to influence this evolving narrative. Using the universal medium of art, our efforts will help to break down barriers and highlight essential policy matters and future trends. Key steps include:

- **Experiment with Creative Formats:** Explore diverse storytelling formats, including film, art, and music, to make global policy issues and future trends relatable and inspiring to spur urgent action, such as [Our Common Agenda Decoded](#).
- **Simulate Future Scenarios:** Create a digital, choose-your-adventure story following a week in the life of a 13-year-old girl in varied geographies, letting users witness the immediate and long-term consequences of their choices.
- **Translate Data into Stories:** Develop the Next Gen Navigator, a digital platform transforming complex demographic data on future trends into engaging real-life stories, fostering dialogue, accountability, and action.
- **Forge Artistic Collaborations:** Launch the Story Lab platform to collaborate with artists worldwide, create visual narratives, and amplify the needs of next and future generations, influencing public narratives and global debates on the urgency to act now for the future.



# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

*We can create a brighter future for all by supporting and empowering young people to lead and contribute to the SDGs. Our planet's future and the well-being of all generations depend on our collective efforts. Get involved by taking these steps:*

- **Engage in the 2024 [Big Brainstorm](#):** Engage your leaders and young staff in a design sprint to share their ideas and innovations to achieve the SDG and climate goals, helping to empower the next generation of leaders to shape a sustainable future.
- **Join the 2024 [Engine Room](#):** Connect with this global hub for young people and expand your organization's networks, creating a vibrant ecosystem for young changemakers and their visionary projects as they drive the 2030 Agenda and design the future.
- **Take on Intergenerational Research and Dialogues:** Partner with us in research and dialogues to bridge the generational gap, promoting trust and collaboration to identify common goals and create a shared vision for a sustainable future.
- **Help us Design the Story Lab and the Funders Collective:** Invest in initiatives that amplify young people's success stories and mobilize resources for youth-led projects, building a solid foundation for young leaders to thrive and make a lasting impact.
- **Support the Unlock Declaration II:** Join the Unlock the Future coalition and support partners to ignite SDG Action for next and future generations.

We can create lasting, positive change for a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future. Let's make the next five years a turning point in our journey toward a world that truly leaves no one behind.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

[The Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. These 17 Goals, devised by the United Nations in 2015, are built on the principle of “leaving no one behind.”

While some progress has been made on the SDGs since their launch in 2015, it has been slow, and [only 15% of the goals are on track](#).

## WHAT IS “OUR COMMON AGENDA”?

[Our Common Agenda](#) is a report that the UN Secretary-General presented in response to a call for stronger global cooperation by Member States during the [United Nations’ 75th anniversary](#). The report outlines a new vision for multilateralism and guides towards a more equitable, just, and sustainable world. It highlights the importance of the 2024 Summit of the Future, where a fresh global consensus can be reached to accelerate the SDGs and bridge gaps in the UN system to tackle future challenges.

[The UN Foundation’s Our Future Agenda](#) program began in response to the Secretary-General’s request for young people to shape the Our Common Agenda report. A group of young changemakers under the age of 30, the [Next Generation Fellows](#), helped refine ideas in the report by speaking to over 600 young people worldwide and meeting with UN leaders, the findings of which are captured in the [Our Future Agenda](#) report.

## WHAT DOES MULTILATERALISM MEAN?

Multilateralism is a principle of collaboration between nations to address issues that transcend national boundaries, such as climate change, global health crises, and international trade.

In a multilateral system, decisions are made collectively to achieve globally beneficial outcomes. The United Nations is a prime example of multilateralism in action, bringing together 193 Member States, non-governmental organizations, private actors, and other international organizations, to negotiate and collaborate on tackling pressing global challenges.

## WHAT IS THE 2100 ROADMAP?

The 2100 Roadmap will be a bold acceleration strategy to propel the SDGs and prepare for the future. This Roadmap will tap into growing demand from Member States seeking new ways to bolster intergenerational dialogue and long-term thinking. It will envision the 2024 Summit of the Future as a stepping stone to reflect on past lessons and focus on empowering next and future generations. The 2100 Roadmap will enable young people to make their mark on the multilateral stage.

## HOW DO WE DEFINE YOUNG PEOPLE?

[Definitions of youth](#) vary between UN entities, countries, and regional organizations. For example, UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA define young people as between the ages of 10

and 24. At the same time, UN-Habitat and the African Youth Charter consider ‘youth’ to include those aged up to 32 and 35, respectively.

The Our Future Agenda program defines ‘young people’ as those under 30, including children, adolescents, and young adults. This broad definition has been selected based on our ambition to empower the entire ‘next generation’ of young leaders, thinkers, and activists to be designers of their own future. This definition accounts for nearly half the world’s population, ranging from young children who remain dependent on the prior generation to people in their twenties who are already shaping their economies and societies.

### WHO ARE FUTURE GENERATIONS?

‘[Future generations](#)’ refers to everyone who will come after us. Their lives and eventual ability to effectively enjoy all human rights and meet their needs are already influenced by our actions today. These people will be vastly more numerous than present generations, as the global population is projected to reach [10.4 billion people by 2100](#) and will be most heavily represented in African and Asian Countries. While children and young people alive today may have overlapping interests with future generations, the two are distinct.

### WHAT DO WE MEAN BY YOUNG COUNTRIES?

Young countries are those where young people – those under 30 years old – account for over 50% of the population. Many of these countries – predominantly located in Africa and Asia – also have significant increases in their youth populations in the coming years.

### WHO ARE THE NEXT GENERATION FELLOWS?

The [Next Generation Fellows](#) program was established by the United Nations Foundation to respond to the UN Secretary-General’s request for young people to shape the [Our Common Agenda](#) report.

The Next Generation Fellows are recruited based on their designated thematic focus in its second iteration. They are positioned across the global system to help shape the policy agenda, inspire bold thinking, and drive solutions and innovation at scale.

### WHAT IS THE ENGINE ROOM FOR THE FUTURE?

The Engine Room for the Future is a global virtual forum open to all, where young changemakers can forge connections, collaborate, and mobilize their impact initiatives ahead of key global moments.

The purpose of the [Engine Room](#) is to serve as a hub for intergenerational dialogue, creating spaces for young people with fresh perspectives to collaborate with experienced leaders from various sectors. Within this diverse mix of minds and visions, we begin to shape our shared future.

### WHAT IS THE 2023 SDG SUMMIT?

The [SDG Summit](#) is a two-day Summit hosted in September 2023 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This Summit will mark the halfway point to the deadline for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It will respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world and is expected to reignite hope, optimism, and enthusiasm for the 2030 Agenda.



## WHAT IS THE 2024 SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE?

The [Summit of the Future](#) builds on the discussions and outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit, as they represent the global community's shared vision for sustainable and inclusive development. Convened by the UN Secretary-General and due to be held in September 2024, it presents an opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen shared principles and advance solutions to deliver more effectively for people and the planet.

Member States are committed to adopting a Pact for the Future at the Summit to consolidate collective agreements and demonstrate global solidarity for current and future generations. It aims to solidify collective agreements and showcase international solidarity for current and future generations, enhancing cooperation and delivering more effectively for people and the planet.

## WHY 2100 AND NOT 2030?

While 2030 serves as an important milestone in our journey for sustainable development, our vision and actions must extend to 2100 to truly address the complex and interconnected challenges we face. This long-term view is essential for effectively tackling global challenges that transcend borders and call for international collaboration.

Slow progress on SDG and Climate goals is impacting young people the most, and the consequences of poor quality education, healthcare, and jobs will impact not only their lives but entire generations. These aren't just problems for today; they will shape the world for years to come. That's why it's crucial that we invest in young people through the SDGs and beyond. This isn't just about making

things better for young people now; it's about making sure everyone has a brighter future.

This urgency to act now for the future is most apparent in the climate change movement. Climate scientists have warned that we must limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius to prevent catastrophic environmental consequences. Achieving this target requires sustained investment, policy changes, and societal mobilization that stretch beyond 2030. It calls for an ongoing commitment from every generation until 2030 and beyond.

Moreover, as a global institution, the UN needs to address not only the challenges of the 21st century but also prepare for unforeseen challenges in the future. This requires a long-term perspective that extends to 2100. It is vital to engage young people in this institutional update as they are the custodians of future generations. Their faith in institutions is crucial for maintaining social cohesion and preventing deeper polarization, distrust, and violence. Global cooperation, therefore, needs to deliver tangible results for young people, restoring their trust in institutions and inspiring them to act with cooperation and collective hope for the future.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT?

You can engage in the [2024 Engine Room](#) through taking on intergenerational research and dialogues, helping design the Story Lab and Funders Collective, and supporting the Unlock Declaration II. Your support can create lasting, positive change for a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future.

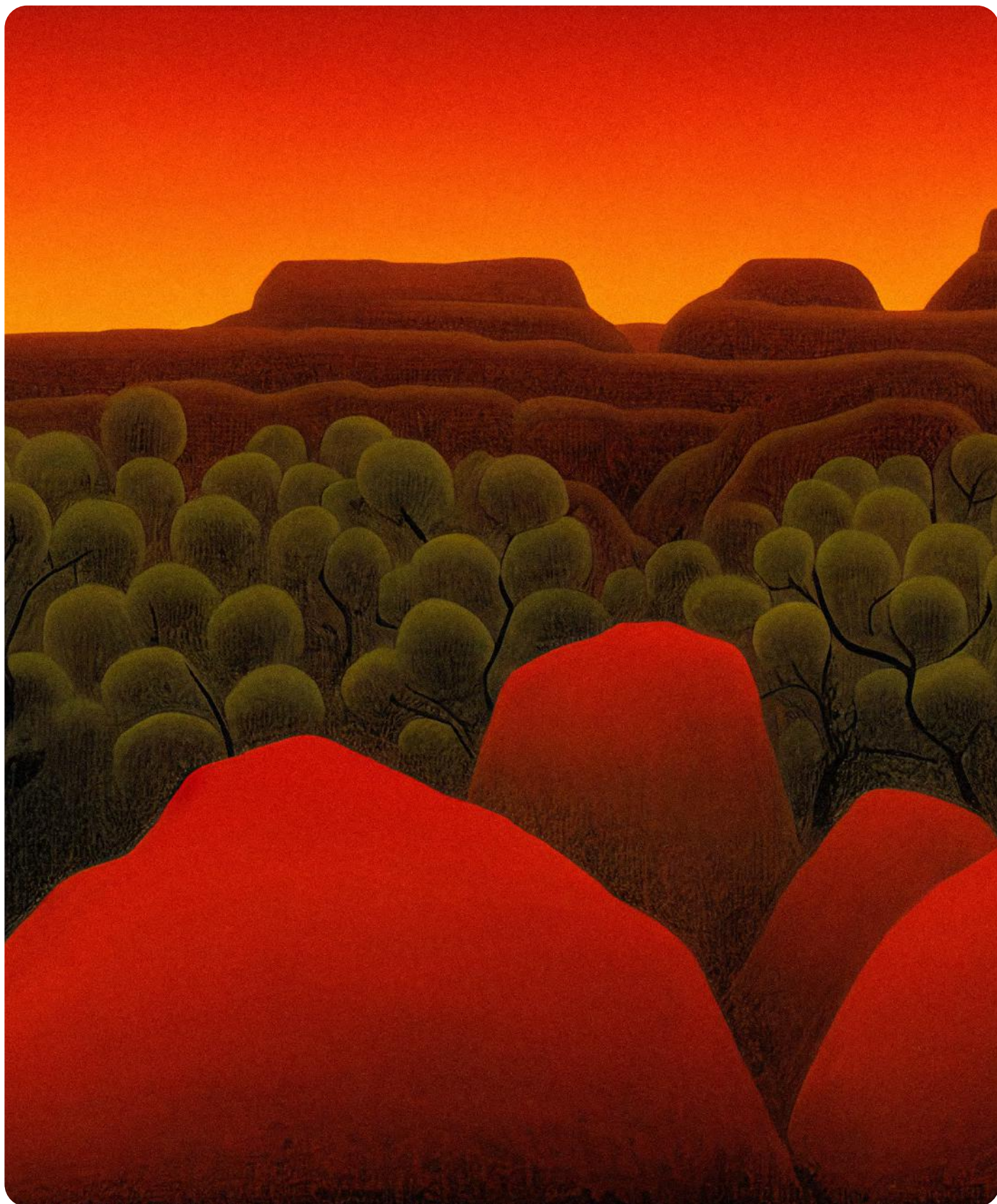
## WHAT IS THE UNLOCK THE FUTURE COALITION?

Hosted by the United Nations Foundation, the Unlock the Future coalition is more than an alliance – it’s a powerhouse of ambition and hope, gathering the world’s largest youth-focused organizations under one banner to unlock a better future for next and future generations.

The coalition reaches almost one billion people worldwide, engaging leading experts, policymakers, and young changemakers to bring this vision to life. It works together to advance shared goals at the UN system, create opportunities for joint action for impact, amplify young voices to influence the global agenda, and boost funding for the young people who will shape our tomorrow.

### The coalition includes the following organizations:







**Unlock  
the ●  
Future**