

# THE NEXT CHAPTER

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## The Summit of the Future



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# INTRODUCTION

## Harnessing the United Nations Summit of the Future to Address Global Challenges and Forge a Path Forward for Current and Future Generations

Our world stands at a pivotal moment, confronted with vast and varied challenges. Climate change, the rapid pace of technological advances, and increasing social and economic disparities demand a fresh examination of how we manage global affairs. Significant demographic shifts underscore this era of intense change. Predictions indicate that by 2100, over 80% of the world's young people (those under 30) will reside in Africa and Asia, while the median age in Europe and China will reach 50.

This demographic evolution emphasizes the critical role young countries like Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo and others will play in shaping the future on a global scale. Despite their potential, these nations grapple with obstacles such as heavy debt, slow progress on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), conflict and a growing disconnect with existing forms of governance.

This changing landscape necessitates a new, intergenerational approach to global cooperation—one that not only addresses today's pressing issues but is also forward-thinking and prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is within this context that the United Nations Summit of the Future emerges as a crucial event.

Slated for September 2024, the Summit aims to ignite a global conversation on evolving our governance models to ensure they meet the needs of current and future generations. By fostering a fairer, more sustainable, and peaceful world, the Summit of the Future represents a unique opportunity to mobilize engagement and represent the interests of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including UN agencies, member states, civil society, the private sector, and notably, young people and future generations.

The upcoming Summit is more than simply 'an event', it is a rallying point for people worldwide to reimagine and recommit to a collective path forward, embracing global cooperation as the bedrock of our shared future.

**80%**

**OF THE WORLD'S  
YOUNG PEOPLE WILL**

**CALL AFRICA & ASIA**

**HOME BY 2100**

# WHY THIS BRIEF?

This brief underscores the Summit's importance not only as a forum for global dialogue but also as a launchpad for actionable commitments and policies that resonate with the aspirations of current and future generations. It aims to provide partners connecting with national leaders the foundation to engage deeply with the Summit's agenda, recognizing the interconnected nature of global challenges and the imperative for unified, innovative responses.

**Important Strategic Alignment:** It offers strategic insights for aligning national policies with the global agenda set forth by the Summit, ensuring that national development strategies contribute to and benefit from global sustainability efforts.

**Leadership and Influence:** The brief highlights the critical role of national leaders in shaping the Summit's outcomes, positioning them as key architects of the future UN agenda and global governance models.

**Intergenerational Equity:** It emphasizes the necessity of incorporating the voices and concerns of young people and future generations into national and global decision-making processes, fostering a legacy of sustainability and inclusivity.

**Global Cooperation:** The brief advocates for strengthened international collaboration and partnership, recognizing that the challenges of our time transcend borders and demand a concerted, unified response by working with and for young people.

**Actionable Insights:** Providing actionable recommendations, the brief serves as a practical guide to leverage the momentum of the Summit, implementing policies that drive national and global progress towards the SDGs leading up to the last SDG summit in 2027.

In essence, this brief is a foundational document for global partners engaging national leaders. It offers a comprehensive overview of the stakes involved in the Summit of the Future and presents a roadmap for leveraging its outcomes to enhance national development, contribute to global efforts, and ensure a sustainable future for all.

It is a resource for partners seeking to position their countries as proactive, influential actors in the global arena, committed to fostering a world that values equity, sustainability, and the well-being of future generations.

# KEY MESSAGES

The messages urge us to prioritize young people, be courageous, and leave a legacy that honors all generations.

The words we use are not just empty phrases, but they inspire us to take action and create a better future for all. We have the power to leave a lasting legacy that will benefit generations to come.

## 1 Let young people lead the way

Half of the world's population is under 30, and they are not just waiting around. They are ready to lead and come up with solutions to the challenges we face in the 21st century. The UN should be the platform for this generation to turn their ideas into our shared future.

## 2 Political leaders must fight for every generation

With the Summit of the Future on the horizon, our world needs its leaders to start caring for every generation, armed with the political ambition to champion real change and renew faith in a future for all.

## 3 Act now for the future

We need to fight for every generation and bring about real change, especially as we approach the Summit. This is our moment to redefine what is possible and renew our faith in achieving great things together.

## 4 Ditch the pessimism, Embrace the courage.

It is a race against time to prove that our global efforts are making a real difference in people's lives. By working to achieve the SDGs, we can transform people's skepticism and frustration into hope and trust in a better future.

## 5 Securing the Future for All Generations

Our choices today shape tomorrow. This Summit is our opportunity to set a new standard for uplifting every voice, young and old, crafting a thriving future for everyone who comes after us.

# SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

**The Summit of the Future, set for September 2024, is a significant milestone in global cooperation, aiming to highlight the urgent need for a united approach to addressing the world's most pressing challenges.**

The Summit aims to create a platform for dialogue and action, focusing on the adoption by World Leaders of a transformative Pact for the Future. The Pact, currently negotiated by representatives from every country in the world, will be structured around five chapters and complemented by two annexes.

**Chapeau:** expressing a collective realization of the present global challenges and opportunities, laying down the principles for a strengthened, agile multilateral system that can rebuild trust and respond dynamically to an evolving world.

**Chapter 1: Sustainable Development and Financing for Development:** This chapter is expected to frame a renewed commitment to the 2030 Agenda, with an urgent call to action for sustainable financing and the realization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

**Chapter 2: International Peace and Security:** This chapter is about strengthening collective responsibility for maintaining peace and security across diverse domains, addressing new forms of conflict, and revitalizing commitments to disarmament and peace operations.

**Chapter 3: Science, Technology, Innovation, and Digital Cooperation:** This chapter deals with harnessing the potential of technology and innovation for the collective good.

**Chapter 4, Youth and Future Generations:** This chapter aims to underscore the critical role of young people and the necessity of empowering them through education, inclusive policy-making, and leadership in shaping the future.

**Chapter 5: Transforming Global Governance:** This chapter will include proposals to rejuvenate global governance to ensure it is effective, more inclusive, adaptive, and capable of facing current challenges and prepared to seize future opportunities.

**Annexes:** The Pact is expected to include two annexes: i) the **Declaration on Future Generations**, which will emphasize the importance of safeguarding the interests of future generations in policy-making, and ii) the **Global Digital Compact**, which will outline principles and actions for governing the digital realm while also laying out a pathway for a safe, inclusive, and equitable digital future.

Overall, the Pact for the Future aspires to recalibrate global cooperation, renewing commitments and trust to tackle current challenges and unlock the promise of the future.

The Summit of the Future isn't just a standalone event; it's a step stone toward a larger vision and plan for the rest of the century. known as the 2100 Roadmap. Backed by the United Nations Foundation and the Unlock the Future coalition, the Roadmap is a strategic plan designed to guide global efforts in driving smart investments in the SDGs and beyond, with a strong focus on intergenerational equity, sustainability, and inclusivity.

It's about making global governance more flexible, participatory, and in tune with the aspirations and needs of the world's young people and future generations. This initiative puts a spotlight on the critical role young leaders play in crafting the policies and breakthroughs that will shape our shared future, emphasizing

the importance of meaningfully incorporating their views into global decision-making processes.

Set to be unveiled at the final SDG Summit in 2027, the 2100 Roadmap is more than just a set of guidelines; it's an intergenerational vision inspired by young people for a future where every generation can thrive, taking the collective wisdom from the Summit of the Future and turning it into concrete, lasting change.

By envisioning a comprehensive strategy that culminates at the final SDG Summit in 2027, the Summit of the Future is not merely an event but a milestone in an ongoing journey towards realizing a shared vision for a sustainable and inclusive global community.

# SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

## Responds to Global Call:

Spearheaded by the UN Secretary-General, it is humanity's commitment to building a fit world for current and future generations.

## Key Milestone:

The Pact for the Future - a global agreement to reimagine the UN to meet 21st-century needs.

## What's in the Pact for the Future?

### Chapeau



Global Call to Action



Peace & Security



SDGs and Financing for Development



Tech, Innovation and Digital Cooperation



Youth and Future Generations



Transforming Global Governance

### 5 Chapters

### 2 Annexes



Global Compact for Digital Cooperation



Declaration for Future Generations

# EMERGING PROPOSALS

The Summit has ignited an intense discussion on concrete actions to tackle the critical issues our world is grappling with. Central to this conversation are 12 proposals, representing the unified perspective of over 170 child, youth, and future-oriented groups. These proposals, focused on reimagining the UN for 21st-century needs, demonstrate a strong dedication to sustainability, fairness, and empowering young people for a better future.

**Empowering Young People:** The proposal aims to establish national youth consultative bodies where none exist, setting up intergenerational dialogues to build partnerships between governments and young people. It seeks to promote the representation of young people in political structures and includes actions to remove barriers preventing meaningful youth participation in all societal aspects. Additional steps include enhancing youth delegates' presence in UN events and developing global standards for inclusive and safe youth engagement.

**Achieving SDGs and Global South Leadership** This proposal focuses on expediting the implementation of an SDG Stimulus at the UN and in other relevant forums to address the financing gap for sustainable development. It emphasizes scaling up and fulfilling ODA commitments, particularly aiming for 0.7% of GNI for ODA to support countries facing specific challenges. The aim is also to create a more enabling global environment to mobilize domestic resources and catalyze private sector investment in sustainable development.

**Global Debt Relief to Ease the Load:** Calls for enhancing the representation of young countries in the IMF and World Bank to address global debt relief. It includes proposals for a significant increase in resources for the International Development Association and reviews of Capital Adequacy Frameworks by multilateral development banks. The goal is to enable countries to prioritize government SDG expenditures over debt repayments.

**Urgent Climate Action and Justice:** This proposal aims to integrate developing countries more effectively into global climate policy, increasing support for adaptation and mitigation and accelerating renewable energy technologies. It seeks to improve financing mechanisms for climate action and ensure early warning systems' universal coverage by 2027. It also calls for a finalization of international agreements on biodiversity and plastic pollution by 2024.

**New Agenda for Peace:** This proposal focuses on addressing the root causes of conflict and enhancing human security. It stresses the importance of balancing spending on arms with investments in sustainable development. It seeks to strengthen resilience against violence and insecurity by promoting a culture of peace and access to justice. It includes a call for a comprehensive review of global military expenditures' impact on achieving the SDGs.



**Global Social Protection:** This proposal advocates for increased investment in social development, particularly targeting women and girls, to establish universal and sustainable social protection systems. It seeks ambitious outcomes at upcoming global summits on social development and financing for development. The goal is to create jobs and livelihood opportunities, especially for young people in developing countries.

**Improve Child Wellbeing:** Targets long-term economic growth by scaling up investment in critical social services for young people and ensuring access to universal health coverage. It requires building education systems suited for digital and green transitions and increasing in education investment in developing countries.

**Tackle Corruption and Improve Taxation:** Strengthen efforts against illicit financial flows, corruption, tax evasion, and avoidance, and to recover assets from illicit activities. It proposes a global minimum tax level for high net-worth individuals and calls for constructive engagement in negotiations on international tax cooperation.

**Funders Collective to Unlock Youth Financing:** Spearheaded by the Unlock the Future coalition, this initiative aims to shift financing practices to increase support for youth-led innovation and action towards the SDGs. It proposes creating a Global Youth Investment platform to attract financing for youth-related programming and revitalizing the United Nations Youth Fund. The focus is on boosting youth participation from developing countries in UN activities.

# THE ENGINE ROOM YOUTH SURVEY

Young People are casting their votes on 12 proposals, including:



## Taxing Luxury for Good

Should we tax super pricey stuff to pay for important projects in needy communities?

E.g. France introduced a "solidarity tax" on plane tickets that funds health projects worldwide.



## Empowering Young Dreamers

Do you want a platform that helps young creatives and leaders bring their ideas to life with funds and resources?

E.g. Kickstarter offers backing for creative ventures like innovation and films that support communities.



## Guardians of Tomorrow

Should we have a global advocate to protect the interests of future generations?

E.g., Wales has a Commissioner for future generations to focus on sustainability and long-term planning.

**Launch a Global Digital Compact:** Establish a governance structure for AI that promotes ethical deployment aligned with the SDGs, focusing on transparency, accountability, and oversight. It calls for establishing norms and principles for military applications of AI and building capacity in developing countries for emerging technologies. The aim is to ensure that AI benefits are distributed equitably, preventing an AI arms race and addressing access disparities.

**Special Envoy for Future Generations:** Aims to ensure that global policies consider intergenerational equity and promote sustainable governance. The envoy would advocate for future-oriented policies across all domains and support the implementation of future generations' declarations. The proposal also includes establishing a high-level meeting on future generations and annual reporting on foresight integration.

**Emergency Platform:** This proposal addresses the need for a responsive multilateral system to manage complex global shocks, particularly for vulnerable populations. It suggests developing protocols for convening emergency platforms tailored to different types of global shocks. The platform would operate temporarily and support, without duplicating, the efforts of existing UN organs and specialized agencies.

# WHY DO WE NEED THE UNITED NATIONS?

**In an age marked by profound global challenges, the United Nations emerges as a beacon of hope, guiding the world toward unity and cooperation.**

With climate change accelerating and pandemics wreaking havoc, the limitations of solitary action have become starkly evident, underscoring the necessity for collective, coordinated responses. This reality breathes life into the UN's core mission: to champion multilateralism and intergenerational collaboration as the keys to a more peaceful and sustainable future.

The Summit of the Future embodies this mission, symbolizing the UN's dedication to bridging the global community. This summit aims to forge a Pact for the Future and a Declaration on Future Generations, committing to a unified approach in addressing the multifaceted issues that know no borders. This initiative reflects the UN's commitment to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future, emphasizing the evolution of global governance to cater to every country and every person's needs, with a special focus on empowering young people and protecting future generations.

The UN's role in facilitating global cooperation transcends the mitigation of current crises, striving to establish the foundations for enduring peace, justice, and prosperity.

Through encouraging dialogue, understanding, and partnerships among nations, the Summit aims to strengthen the UN's reputation as a cornerstone of hope and a catalyst for transformative change in the 21st century and beyond.

The Summit of the Future is not merely about addressing present-day challenges but about crafting a durable framework for unity and collective action. This pivotal moment offers the world a chance to renew its faith in the UN as the cornerstone of global unity and action, aligning the dreams of present and future generations with tangible solutions. The Summit underscores the UN's indispensable role in securing a flourishing future for all.

# FUTURE BEYOND 2024

The journey to the Summit of the Future captures a collective global effort to foster a sustainable future, beginning with the global adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

Despite unforeseen crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, governments worldwide reaffirmed their commitment to this cause, as evidenced by the UN75 Declaration and its 12 critical commitments. This was further bolstered by the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" report and companion youth "Our Future Agenda" report, which called for an accelerated push towards the SDGs and improved intergenerational cooperation for a better future for all.

This Summit of the Future aims to rejuvenate the multilateral system and align it more closely with the UN Charter and the 2030 Agenda's goals. The anticipated Pact for the Future will also prepare for future collaborative efforts, notably aligning with significant upcoming events like Beijing+30 and the World Summit for Social Development.

Most notably, it will set the foundation for the final SDG Summit in 2027, the last checkpoint to assess the SDG progress made. It will also launch the 2100 Roadmap, a youth-led intergenerational framework to design the succession agenda for the generations to come.

**2015**

**Adoption of the 2030 Agenda**, introducing 17 Global Goals to guide global efforts for a better future.

**2020**

**UN75 Declaration** featuring 12 overarching commitments and a directive to tackle global challenges.

**2021**

**Our Common Agenda by the Secretary-General** a report set in motion for reimagining the UN, proposing the Summit of the Future.

**2023**

**SDG Summit** marking the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda's timeline.

**2024**

**Summit of the Future** aimed at reinvigorating the multilateral system

**Beijing+30**

Review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration

**World Social Summit**

Review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration

**COP30**

second presentation of Nationally Determined Contributions

**2027 SDG Summit**

global progress review and preparation for 2100

# MOBILIZING GLOBAL ACTION

**Leveraging the momentum of the Summit of the Future involves a comprehensive strategy that unites the efforts of governments, civil society, the private sector, and individuals.**

This summit is not merely an event; it marks a pivotal moment, providing a platform to design long-term governance models and intergenerational mechanisms for a sustainable future. It emphasizes the significance of open and inclusive discussions, the strengthening of global alliances, and advocacy for bold solutions to tackle 21st-century challenges:

## **Active Participation and Global Dialogue:**

Engaging with a variety of stakeholders is crucial for advancing the shared vision for the future. The discussions facilitated by the Summit will enable the exchange of ideas, obstacles, and tactics, fostering a holistic approach to global governance. This engagement will play a vital role in shaping policies that cater to the changing needs of young people and future generations, ensuring a 2100 world grounded in sustainability, fairness, and resilience.

**Strengthening High-Impact Coalitions:** The Unlock the Future Coalition unites the world's largest youth organizations, reaching over one billion individuals globally, and represents a joint dedication to intergenerational fairness. By collaborating with partners and networks, the coalition aims to garner support for the appointment of a UN Special Envoy for Future Generations, ensuring that future policy frameworks prioritize the well-being of future generations.

**Amplifying Pact Outcomes:** Advocacy plays a crucial role in translating the Summit's vision into actionable policies and commitments. The focus on pivotal agreements, such as the Declaration for Future Generations, emphasizes the necessity of ensuring these outcomes are not merely aspirational but are actively integrated into national and international agendas. This advocacy will be critical in galvanizing global support and ensuring that the Summit's objectives are aligned with actions and commitments towards sustainability and equity.

## **Extending the Summit's Impact:**

Emerging from the Summit are concrete proposals that address critical global issues such as climate action, social justice, and economic reform. These proposals represent the Summit's collaborative spirit, drawing on the collective wisdom and innovation of global stakeholders to catalyze systemic change. They are destined to gain broader traction both within and beyond the UN framework, showcasing the Summit's far-reaching impact on global governance and cooperation.

**Political Will and Partnerships:** The cultivation of political will and strategic partnerships is pivotal for the post-summit landscape. The leadership and innovative approaches of member state champions, leading minds, and young changemakers will be vital in transforming Summit pledges into reality. Their efforts will champion sustainable development and inspire a global movement towards a more equitable and resilient future.

# TO WRAP IT UP

**The Summit of the Future is a significant moment in our journey towards a sustainable future, showing what can be accomplished when the global community comes together with a common vision.**

**As we look beyond the Summit, we have the power to shape a legacy of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development, forging a future that will be remembered with gratitude by generations to come.**

This document has been prepared by the Our Future Agenda at the United Nations Foundation to provide information, insights, and data based on current research and analysis. It reflects the Foundation's commitment to diversity of ideas and open dialogue and discussion. Readers are encouraged to consider multiple perspectives and sources when evaluating the content.

**UN Foundation Our Future Agenda**

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