Global Governance Innovation Proposals to be elaborated upon in the interim People's Pact for the Future

To create the “Future We Want and United Nations We Need” in the lead-up to the September 2024 Summit of the Future, diverse peoples and perspectives from across civil society—at all levels and in every corner of the globe—must be encouraged to make their mark. Convened from 20-21 March 2023 in a hybrid format in New York (home to the United Nations), the inaugural Global Futures Forum aspires to pave the way for a 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit and a 2024 Summit of the Future where the voices of civil society worldwide are heard, broadly discussed, and incorporated. With more than 2000 registered participants, the Global Futures Forum has sought: (1) to finalize and widely socialize an interim “People's Pact for the Future” (following a seven-part e-consultation series, virtual town halls, policy reports and briefs, regional futures forums, a youth research series, and several global policy dialogues), as a vehicle for feeding diverse civil society ideas and insights into official discussions on the Pact for the Future; (2) to channel timely, intergenerational perspectives into wider (multi-track) Summit of the Future intergovernmental negotiations; and (3) to encourage civil society-led coalitions and networks to mobilize around select, high impact proposals for making multilateralism more inclusive and capable of addressing 21st century challenges and opportunities. The People’s Pact for the Future will be elaborated upon in the coming weeks in an interim format, finalized in early 2024, and will be found the Coalition for the UN We Need website. At present, it is organized around seven core themes:

**Human Rights & Participation**

1. Double the Resources of the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) to improve the effectiveness of the Treaty Body System, and support closer cooperation between the OHCHR and other UN bodies through the Pact for the Future.

2. The Procedures of UN Human Rights Mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Bodies, need to adopt an Intergenerational Strategy that brings more Children’s and Youth Voices to the work of the Human rights Council.

3. Increase the number of UN Staff with Human Rights Knowledge, Education, and Experience.

4. Develop Guidelines for the Regular Inputs of deliberative Global Citizens’ Assemblies to the UN agenda.

5. Redefine how Civil Society relates to ECOSOC, the General Assembly, the Security Council, and other UN bodies.

**Development**

1. Update the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Clarify SDGs Implementation Responsibilities.


4. Define Alternatives to GDP.

**Environmental Governance**

1. Add to the ICC Rome Statute the Crime of Ecocide.

2. Set-up an Earth Governance Regulatory Body.

3. Pursue a multi-faceted Decarbonization Agenda.

Global Economic & Financial Architecture

1. Establish an International Anti-Corruption Court to tackle corruption and illicit financial flows.
2. Increase Transparency in World Trade Organization Decision-Making and include New Stakeholders in National Committees on Trade Facilitation.
4. Convene a Biennial Summit for the World Economy to achieve more Equitable Socio-Economic Recovery.
5. Expand the IMF’s Special Drawing Rights as a Means for Debt Relief and Financing Critical Global Public Goods.

UN and Global Governance Innovation

1. Increase the Secretary-General’s Independence, Qualifications.
2. Create a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.
3. Facilitate the instrument of a UN World Citizens’ Initiative.
4. Create a high-level UN Civil Society Envoy.
5. Initiate an Article 109 UN Charter Review Conference.

Global Digital Compact

1. Establish a UN Department of Digital Governance.
2. Empower Individuals by Democratizing the Internet.
3. Protect Human Rights & Privacy Online w/Universal Stand.
4. Close the Digital Divide Within and Between Countries.
5. Develop an Online Moral Code of Ethics.

Peace & Security

1. Prevent war by strengthening international mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.
2. Implement UN Charter Article 26 through plans and action for disarmament that convert military resources into economic and social development resources.
4. Include nuclear weapons abolition in the post-2030 SDGs, with the goal of achieving their complete elimination by 2045.
5. Advance the human rights to peace, nuclear abolition, and climate protection in the World Court and Human Rights Council.

On the way forward, among the multiple channels to facilitate robust, constructive, and diverse civil society engagement worldwide in the Summit of the Future’s preparations are: first, welcome the knowledgeable participation of at least one civil society and one youth representative on national delegations from the start of summit preparations; and second, allow one civil society representative and one youth representative to contribute their ideas, immediately following government interventions, at all Pact for the Future and individual track intergovernmental negotiations feeding into the Summit of the Future.

Adapting our essential United Nations organization to current and emerging crises will require institutional, legal, and operational (including financial) reforms, for which the interim People’s Pact for the Future will offer several concrete ideas, building, in some cases, on the most novel proposals seeded by Secretary-General António Guterres in his Our Common Agenda report. Taken together, these kinds of innovations can ensure—with the support of a high ambition coalition of diverse states and civil society organizations with shared policy goals—that the Summit of the Future seizes the opportunity to renew global governance and face the collective moral and practical imperatives of our time. In myriad ways, these proposals are complementary to, and will better prepare the UN system to help deliver on, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement.

To review the full-length interim People’s Pact for the Future, visit the C4UN website here in mid-April 2023.