SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE INFORMATION BULLETIN

BULLETIN NO 2

Headlines and Key Remarks from the "Informal Consultations with Member States on the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future: Scope and Elements" – 20 April 2023

The Summit of the Future (SOTF) Information Clearinghouse Bulletin is an initiative to objectively present the <u>headlines</u>, <u>resources</u> and <u>key elements</u> discussed by the Secretary-General, Member States, NGOs and other stakeholders in the SOTF preparatory process and is intended to give an overview of the latest developments.

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Informal Consultations with Member States on the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future: Scope and Elements (20 April 2023)

ABOUT

On April 20th, 2023, the Co-Facilitators of the Summit of the Future (SOTF), H.E Ms. Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative (PR) of the Federal Republic of Germany, and H.E Mr. Neville Melvin Gertze, PR of Namibia, organized Informal Consultations with Member States (MS) to discuss the preparatory process for the SOTF. This first exchange allowed MS to address pressing priorities for elements to be included in the summit and The Pact for the Future.

To define the scope of the summit, the co-facilitators proposed a guiding framework through a concept note and updated <u>Road Map</u> that MS' proposals should meet. They reflected on the elements proposed by the Secretary-General (SG) in Our Common Agenda (OCA) and its related policy briefs, and preliminary ideas about a possible format of the ministerial meeting in September. Additionally, the consultations aimed to reinvigorate the multilateral system, address gaps in global governance, and boost the implementation of UN-75 commitments.

HEADLINES

Scope and Elements of the SOTF – The Co-facilitators gave guiding principles to MS on the scope and elements, to consider the following:

- That the proposed element should reinvigorate the multilateral system and strengthen Global governance to respond to current and future challenges in line with the U.N Charter and international law
- MS should identify and address gaps in global governance especially those that have emerged as obstacles to the achievement of Agenda 2030.
- MS should boost the implementation of the UN-75 commitments that are not sufficiently addressed through existing intergovernmental processes including those related to the full implementation of the 2030 agenda
- Agree on the preparatory ministerial meeting on September 21st to help pave the way towards a concise and action-orientated SOTF by agreeing on important guard rails for a feasible scope and concrete deliverables of the Summit in 2024
- The Co-Facilitators of the SOTF have acknowledged the request for a substantial reduction in General Assembly meetings. In response, they have agreed to temporarily suspend the meetings, enabling MS to prioritize the upcoming SDG Summit, scheduled for September 2023. This pause will also allow them to consult with their respective capitals and allocate sufficient time for the review and analysis of new proposals, policy briefs, and reports
- Prior to the meeting, the SG had published the Policy Brief on <u>Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policy Making and Decision-Making Processes</u> (March 8, 2023) and the High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Effective Multilateralism launched their report <u>A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future</u> (April 11, 2023)

COMMON THEMES

Prioritizing SDG Summit:

4 All MS were in agreement that the SDG Summit and the SOTF are twin summits intrinsically linked and mutually reinforcing, and the priority over the next few months should be the SDG Summit set for September 23, 2023. They said that the Declaration issued during the SDG Summit should serve as a crucial component towards achieving a conclusive outcome at the SOTF in 2024. To this end, MS called on all the co-facilitators of the processes related to the OCA and the Secretariat to significantly reduce the

number of meetings they convene to avoid jeopardizing the due attention that should be given to the SDG summit

- MS also said that there is a need to review and analyze new proposals within a short time and therefore, called for an incremental validation process to conduct preliminary consideration of the documents upon submission, while reserving a comprehensive review of all elements until after the submission of all policy briefs and reports.
- The SOTF must prioritize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and develop a clear implementation plan for fast-tracking achievements

SOTF Ministerial Meeting:

- 4 MS say that the meeting should serve a triple purpose of providing a link between the SDG Summit and the SOTF; defining the scope of the SOTF without closing doors on any work stream, and taking stock of gaps and opportunities in OCA processes that could support the fulfillment of the SDGs beyond what was agreed in 2015.
- **4** They also suggest three objectives that MS could take to the ministerial preparatory meeting for agreement: strengthening and updating the multilateral system, addressing urgent global threats and challenges, and meeting emerging and future challenges.
- **4** The co-facilitators will determine the mode and format that will allow for the most effective and efficient use of the Minister's time
- 4 MS believe that intergovernmental negotiations leading to the ministerial meeting should exclusively focus on consultations regarding the scope, topics, and other elements of the SOTF, allowing a full year to fill in gaps and comprehensively consider proposals to effectively reposition the United Nations.
- 4 At a minimum, the Ministerial Preparatory meeting should reach an agreement on and outline the objectives of the SOTF. MS require sufficient time to determine a scope that aligns with these objectives.

UN Reforms – MS express their appreciation for the UN 2.0 initiative presented in the OCA report and acknowledge their duty to build on the current political momentum and take advantage of this exceptional chance to assess if the present UN is both desirable and suitable for the future. They anticipate the SG's policy brief on this matter to deliberate on practical measures and actions to reinforce the UN's function under the charter and international law.

- Most MS align themselves with the <u>statement</u> made by the PR of Cuba, on behalf of the G77 and China
- Other pressing elements to be addressed at the SOTF as suggested by the MS include: New Agenda for Peace; focus on future generations; reforms in the International Financial Institutions; mechanisms for managing future crises; digital transformation, technology, and how to make multilateralism inclusive and efficient

RESOURCES

- 1. <u>Recordings of the Meeting</u>
- 2. <u>Our Common Agenda</u>
- 3. SDG Summit
- 4. <u>HLAB Report</u> (Summary report)
- 5. Policy Brief on Youth Engagement

MS STATEMENTS

- 6. G77 and China
- 7. European Union
- 8. Group of Friends of the Rule of Law

KEY REMARKS

Cuba on behalf of G77 and China	 The scope and elements of the summit, as well as its path of action, will be determined by the MS. The summit should address implementation means for the 2030 agenda, including funding, technology transfer, and capacity building. The reform of the international finance architecture and measures that go beyond GDP will be fundamental to reduce disparities in financing for development. The summit should provide recommendations to continue to reform the international trading system and ensure the building of stable, sustainable supply chains. Solidarity and cooperation should prevail to achieve development and wellbeing for present and future generations.
<u>European Union</u>	 SOTF should be based on the UN75 Declaration and Our Common Agenda, which are designed to accelerate the implementation of existing agreements. Criteria for an ambitious & bold pact for the future should encapsulate the interest of youth and future generations, which are essential in the context of the SOTF. The Emergency Platform proposal aims to improve the response to diverse emergencies, such as pandemics, environmental emergencies and Black Swan events. The Global Digital Compact (GDC), the New Agenda for Peace, GDP, reform of the Global Financial architecture, code of conduct for Information Integrity, or a UN 2.0 are all policy briefs that respond to gaps in the governance system.
Pakistan on behalf of a group of like-minded countries which include Algeria, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic and my own delegation Pakistan	 The revised roadmap for informal consultations are now devoted mainly to consideration of the scope and elements of the SOTF rather than the consideration of the policy briefs as was the case previously The scope and elements of the SOTF should be the proposals that are made by MS and which are accepted in the intergovernmental negotiations SOTF should include a New Agenda for Peace, SDGs, climate change in line with the U.N Framework Convention on Climate Change, human rights in all their aspects, including, in particular, the right to development and the reform and strengthening of the UN and other international institutions including the International Financial architecture Youth engagement and Beyond GDP may be considered more appropriately in the context of the SDG summit. The focus of the process should be on agreeing on the scope and elements of the SOTF in accordance with the mandate set out in resolution 76/307.
Austria on behalf of 51 members of the group of friends of the rule of law	 The goal is to implement the 2030 agenda and make the UN more effective, resilient, and fair Rule of law is an essential instrument and should be the firm foundation of our efforts to build more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and a sustainable common future on our planet as agreed to in SDG 16. Strengthening the rule of law requires enforcing the key prohibition on the use of force for the maintenance of International Peace and Security. Most proposals based on the OCA Report either strengthen the rule of law or depend on the rule of law to be successful. The conscientious implementation of Human Rights conventions is a fundamental prerogative of a just social order. The focus should be on strengthening and improving the UN and the International System, and on the humanist digital transformation, nuclear disarmament, and conflict prevention with a strong New Agenda for Peace based on partnerships.

Denmark on behalf of the Nordic countries (Finland Iceland, Norway Sweden, Denmark)	 The vision is to achieve all SDGs for everyone everywhere, but challenges have emerged including the COVID-19 pandemic and unforeseen developments such as in the digital space. The achievement of the SDGs and sustainable peace are intertwined, and a holistic approach is needed across the humanitarian development piece nexus. Gaps in global governance systems hinder implementation, and the SOTF should reinvigorate the multilateral system; identify and address gaps in global governance, and boost implementation of commitments. Data that is accurate, timely, disaggregated, relevant, accessible, and easy to use is needed for decision-making. A human rights-based approach that recognizes the needs of people, places gender equality and equity at the heart of the multilateral architecture, and encourages meaningful participation of youth and civil society is necessary. The SOTF is urgent, and decisions made today will affect the future.
Argentina	 All efforts and resources should be focused on achieving the best possible results in the SOTF through intergovernmental negotiations that are open, transparent, and inclusive Overlapping efforts should be avoided Human rights and gender, women, and diversity should be included in the process Attention should be given to the rights of youth and older adults in an intergenerational dialogue Climate change, trade, non-proliferation, arms control, terrorism, and digital matters should also be discussed
Armenia	 Preparatory consultations towards the SOTF will fill the existing gaps and missing elements from the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda such as evolving new technologies and rapid digitalization strengthening the global response mechanisms to emergencies and reform of the International Financial architecture SOTF can play a crucial role in addressing the structural issues of global governance and reinvigorating multilateralism by strengthening the UN capacities Armenia welcomes the UN 2.0 initiative and emphasizes the need to address the vulnerabilities of countries in special situations. Armenia prioritizes human rights, and fundamental freedoms, protecting vulnerable people, and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. Renewed multilateralism and a strong UN are key to a sustainable world. SOTF provides an opportunity to assess work done and strengthen commitments to sustainable development. We call for a stronger focus on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and SIDS during the SOTF and in The Pact of the Future We need to mobilize all relevant resources to deliver on the challenges of these countries adequately while looking beyond 2030 and trying to address the challenges of the future.
Australia on behalf of Cairns Canada New Zealand and Australia	 Cairns welcomes the decision to reschedule the Ministerial Preparatory meeting for the SOTF to September 21. SOTF provides an opportunity to consider gaps and opportunities in achieving the SDGs beyond what was agreed in 2015 and how to respond to challenges not identified. The UN-75 Declaration and subsequent OCA Report show broad political support for a multilateral system that is equitable, inclusive, efficient, and effective.
Brazil	The proposed criteria for assessing proposals for the summit are not sufficient and need to avoid duplication of existing efforts.

	 The SOTF should boost the implementation of the 2030 agenda and address the need to reform the Security Council. Brazil is interested in discussing a New Agenda for Peace with a focus on prevention, peacekeeping, disarmament, and specific settlement of disputes. We support the GDC and believe the summit should focus on achieving present targets and providing means of implementation to tackle challenges. The summit should promote a more inclusive and equitable multilateral system, including through the reform of the International Financial architecture
Cameroon	 We are lagging behind when it comes to resources for the implementation of the SDGs. There is a lack of a coherent framework for action in multilateralism Four debates are underway on revitalizing the General Assembly, reforming the General Assembly, reforming the General Assembly.
	Security Council, strengthening ECOSOC, and making the secretariat international instead of being a government secretariat
China (Chinese)	 The summit should promote the implementation of the 2030 agenda and support MS in addressing challenges related to financing, technology, and capacity building, while also aligning with a long-term vision of improving global economic governance and development. The design of the summit should highlight the importance of solidarity and cooperation among all countries towards a common future, and reaffirm the commitment to the UN Charter and multilateralism. The preparation for the summit should be driven by MS, with discussions on the summit scope including proposals from MS, and sufficient preparation time for indepth participation of all MS
<u>Costa Rica</u> (Multilingual)	 We need to identify priorities and set a clear route toward achieving them with inclusive and active participation Work should be guided by good faith and generate trust at all levels Building solutions within a framework of human security Some processes may benefit from separate, independent processes Education should be at the heart of renewing the UN Consider how to include ongoing debates without duplication The SOTF may have different types of results, not just one
Croatia	 Cultural and organizational change is needed, including strengthening solidarity and finding compromises Investment in dealing with climate change, biodiversity loss, weapons of mass destruction, pandemics, and misuse of new technologies is necessary It is necessary to increase the authority of global and regional systems for coordinating and governing the UN. This requires implementing nexus approaches and improving cooperation, coherence, and coordination among the three pillars of the UN, which are peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights Summit will provide a unique opportunity for necessary reforms, especially in the implementation of the 2030 agenda Focus on inclusion, good governance, and protection of the environment Ministerial meetings should help link SDG Summit to the SOTF.
Dominican Republic (Spanish)	 There is a need for a realistic agenda that takes into account the strengths and weaknesses of the UN and MS. We call for concrete responses to pressing issues and the guarantee that decisions are not taken at the expense of future generations. Global solidarity and the shaping of global citizens are urgently needed.

	 The participation of different stakeholders including civil society, young people, academia, and the scientific world is fundamental to ensure the success of the summit. Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls should be placed at the heart of global multilateral architecture. The SOTF should provide a space for a shared vision for a better future for all.
Egypt	 The influx of proposals is making it difficult for delegations to digest them, and therefore there should be an incremental validation process for proposals. Some MS are feeling mistrustful about what to expect in the coming months. We should liberate ourselves from any commitment to reaching an outcome during the upcoming ministerial. The reform of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) needs to be addressed.
India	 Delegations have limited time to digest new proposals due to the influx of proposals. There should be an incremental validation process of elements to identify which proposals could be included in SOTF and which need more time to be studied. There is mistrust among some MS regarding what to expect in the coming months given the increasing workload on delegations and limited time for studying proposals. It is suggested to liberate ourselves from any commitment to reaching any outcome during the upcoming ministerial on September 21st and focus on validating proposals. Reform of the IFIs and addressing the gap between them and the UN needs to be addressed. The ministerial should endorse the elements and scope of the summit, then there is one full year to fill in gaps and thoroughly consider proposals to reposition the UN correctly.
Indonesia	 Most parallel meetings were focused on the preparation for SOTF. This week alone, there were four meetings on the SOTF and only one meeting related to the preparation of the SDG summit We need to focus on the concrete elements and deliverables of the SDG summit, rather than shifting our focus to the SOTF
<u>Japan</u>	 We must act now and prepare steadily for SOTF, which will not only complement but help turbocharge the implementation of the 2030 agenda and address the gaps in global governance, including updating and reforming the United Nations. The elements of the summit should help reinvigorate and strengthen the multilateral system and global governance in line with international law, including the UN Charter. The summit would be an appropriate opportunity to place the focus on the rule of law, which should guide the UN in pursuing its purpose of the maintenance of international peace and security. Empowering people through a human-centered approach is one of the most pressing issues and should be addressed at the summit.
Maldives	 Addressing challenges faced by the present generation is critical to guarantee a better world for future generations. The summit should address urgent climate crises, peace and security challenges, sustainable and reliable sources of financing, gender equality, and reform of the multilateral system. The global community should combat the existential threat of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, investing in renewable energy, and supporting climate adaptation and resilience measures.

	 Developing countries require significant resources to achieve SDGs, and the summit must identify solutions to facilitate the necessary investments in our shared future. The summit must work towards the elimination of gender-based violence, discrimination, and exclusion, and place gender equality at the forefront of all dimensions of sustainable development. Our institutions require greater inclusivity, representation, and commitment to multilateralism as the cornerstone of our collective efforts to meet contemporary and future challenges.
<u>Mexico</u> (Spanish)	 The adoption of The Pact for the future as the main outcome of the summit is the right path to follow The preparatory meeting should focus on defining concepts and ideas that can be agreed upon inter-governmentally Three specific elements are important: reform of the International Financial architecture, the GDC, and a New Agenda for Peace The Pact should prioritize a comprehensive understanding of structural drivers of conflicts and propose effective responses for International Security
<u>Panama</u> (Spanish)	 We need to ensure equality of laws, self-determination of peoples, and continuance of rules and an order-based world and ensure promises are kept Need more ambitious and urgent climate action to reach Paris Agreement targets Building and strengthening international cooperation at all levels We need to learn from the good practices and experiences of certain countries to prevent and address future crises Importance of sharing knowledge in terms of science, technology, and innovation Build capacities for developing countries to benefit from scientific progress and achieve SDGs
Qatar	 SOTF aims to strengthen multilateralism and address current and future challenges Concrete proposals and action plans are needed to achieve these goals, and existing successful instruments should be used to avoid duplication and ensure effectiveness The time before the summit is limited, and substantive discussions among MS and stakeholders should begin without delay
Romania	 The process of making multilateralism more efficient is important for the future. SOTF is an opportunity to forge a new global consensus. Decisions made now will affect future generations. The digital transformation and a human-centered approach should be reflected in deliberations.
Singapore	 There are three starting points for the scope of the SOTF: the outcome of the SDG summit in September, the 12 commitments of the UN-75 Declaration, and modalities resolution 76/307. The scope should include reaffirming the UN Charter, reinvigorating multilateralism, boosting the implementation of existing commitments, agreeing on concrete solutions, and restoring trust among members. The theme of the summit is "Multilateral solutions for a Better Tomorrow", and new and emerging issues such as digital technologies, gaps in global governance, and global preparedness for crises should also be addressed. The summit must produce substantive, actionable outcomes that produce real outcomes on the ground for people.
South Africa	 The New Agenda for Peace should be a core part of the summit, as sustainable development cannot be achieved without peace and stability in the world. The summit should focus on future generations and include the Declaration on Future Generations in the outcome.

	 The reform of global governance and the United Nations, including the Security Council, should be a key consideration to build fair, equitable, and inclusive international institutions that reflect current realities. The summit should also focus on the reform of the International Financial Architecture critical to creating a conducive international environment for countries to address social-economic challenges. The summit should address the mechanisms for managing future crises and strategic forecasting while avoiding duplication of existing structures.
Sri Lanka	 The concerns we have about the present generation should be the basis of our concerns for future generations. The policy crisis that we frequently discuss has raised concerns about the difficulties that future generations may face if the current generation does not overcome present challenges The scope and elements of the most pressing issues to be addressed at the SOTF would be the Development agenda, climate change, reform of international institutions, and human rights protection are pressing issues for the SOTF Financing is critical for realization of the 2030 agenda and bridging the financing and development gap is essential The SG's policy briefs would be useful inputs, premature discussion on specific proposed elements without agreeing on overall scope of the summit would be prejudicial Science, technology, and innovation play an important role in realizing development goals and creating a more just world Institutional frameworks needed for technology transfer and capacity building and fostering mutual cooperation and collaboration in STI fields at national, regional,
Switzerland (multilingual)	 and international levels SOTF is important for strengthening multilateralism and making decisions to strengthen global governance The summit will accelerate the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN The Pact for the future should be accompanied by a concrete action plan Stressing the importance of using existing successful instruments to avoid duplication and better exploit synergies
Tajikistan	 Concerns about future generations are closely related to the challenges faced by the current generation, and issues such as poverty eradication, food insecurity, climate change, disaster risk reduction, reform of financial architecture, and gender inequality should be reflected in our deliberations. Water is an important issue that was omitted from the OCA, and Tajikistan is ready to work with relevant U.N. departments to address this gap
Thailand	 The importance of sustainable development as the fundamental need to be addressed to have an impactful SOTF. The need to focus on catalytic issues, such as strengthening peaceful means, using diplomacy, preparing for the future through better foresight, and finding common agreement and moving forward together for the future of humanity.
Tunisia	♣ We should not overload the SOTF with unrealistic objectives and duplicate other processes but rather think of how to make it a game changer in how we do business. This involves addressing issues such as closing the divide between commitments and actual implementation, reforming the multilateral system to make the UN more effective, and rebuilding trust among MS, a commitment made in the UN-75
Ukraine	+ The UN Agenda is currently stalled on many tracks but a breakthrough is possible if a fair assessment of the current state of play is done, identify the main threats and

	 obstacles, and ensure that consensus is not perceived as the lowest common denominator The process should include an open discussion about conflict resolution and peacemaking A comprehensive, just, and lasting peace consistent with the UN Charter should be a universal approach to conflict resolution Accountability of crimes against humanity should be an important part of peacebuilding
<u>United Kingdom</u>	 It's important to use the coming months to agree on the scope of the summit and start substantive negotiations ahead of September 2024. The focus should be on impactful, inclusive, and relevant tracks that meet the SDGs and UN commitments. The scope of the summit should not be prematurely limited before discussing each policy brief
USA	 These consultations have provided valuable recommendations to address gaps in the multilateral system and anticipate new threats. Initiating these discussions early should help reach a consensus on a balanced set of priorities for the SOTF and ensure that the summit is as productive as possible. Elements of the summit should include strengthening the multilateral system, addressing gaps in the UN's capabilities, and meeting future challenges. Setting priorities requires assessing the UN's comparative advantage, ongoing processes and mandates in other UN agencies, and multilateral bodies. Priority issues include preventing conflict, ensuring a just and global digital transformation, strengthening the integrity of public information, and improving the ability of the multilateral system to respond to complex crises. The US welcomes discussions on evolving the International Financial architecture, including reforms introduced at the World Bank.
Vietnam	 The elements and priorities of the summit must be determined through a MS-driven process to get objectives and direction of future actions by governments, the UN systems, and relevant stakeholders. The critical issues in the area of peace and security, technology, and digital transformation among others could be discussed under different interactive dialogues of the SOTF. Adequate resources must be ensured to tackle inequality among MS by enhancing resilience, fostering economic growth, encouraging additional resources, technology transfer, and reforming the financial system. Developed countries should fulfill their finance for development commitments, reschedule debt payments by developing countries, and reduce their prudence
Interpol	 Interpol recommends three proposals for the summit's scope and elements: Discussion of the clear links between international peace and security and sustainable development as a guiding point. Incorporation of proposals from the SG's OCA Report and subsequent policy briefs, including the Emergency Platform, the GDC, and the New Agenda for Peace. Meaningful and regular opportunities for permanent observers to participate in the summit and its lead-up. Permanent observers like Interpol can offer valuable input and unique perspectives tailored to MS. Let the SOTF be a summit of optimism, resolve, and action to ensure a safe and sustainable future for generations to come.