

Press release

6 November, 2023

Former Presidents, Prime Ministers, UN leaders and Government Ministers Call for a Strengthened United Nations System

A group of prominent former government and UN leaders are calling on current world leaders to build on the outcomes from this year's SDG Summit and utilize the 2024 UN Summit of the Future to strengthen the United Nations system.

In an [Open Letter](#), former UN and government officials from around the world characterize the Summit of the Future as “a once in a generation opportunity” to revitalize multilateralism and strengthen global institutions.

At the United Nations, the current General Assembly President, Dennis Francis, recently re-appointed Ambassadors Antje Leendertse (Germany) and Neville Melvin Gertze (Namibia) as co-facilitators for Summit of the Future preparatory negotiations. And in a [letter dated 19 October 2023](#), the co-facilitators indicated that they will hold informal consultations on the preparations for the Pact for the Future on 9 November, where they will outline their approach, timeline and plans for consultations in the coming months.

One of the signatories to the Open Letter, **Maria Fernanda Espinosa**, President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, former Foreign Minister of Ecuador and current Executive Director of GWL – Voices for Change and Inclusion said, “The momentum for the Summit of the Future has been building at the UN for a number of years. With little time before the September 2024 Summit and a world very much in need of a revitalized multilateral system, these negotiations should be a top diplomatic priority this year.”

Another signatory to the Open Letter, **Danilo Türk**, former President of Slovenia and current President of Club de Madrid, added that, “Notwithstanding today's geopolitical divides, there are many compelling arguments why we should aim for a balanced yet far-reaching package of global governance reforms at the September 2024 Summit. With only one year to go, negotiations preparing for the Summit of the Future will require the attention not only of UN ambassadors, but also political leaders, from all regions of the world.”

The Open Letter was announced September 16 at a UN SDG Mobilization Weekend side event hosted by the Coalition for the UN We Need and has been gathering signatures since then. The Letter currently has 55 signatories.

For further information or to arrange interviews with Ms. Espinosa or Prof. Türk:

Contact Mwendwa Kiagora, Communications Coordinator, Coalition for the UN We Need

Email: mwendwakiogora@gmail.com / WhatsApp: +1 254 722 725237