

#GLOBALFUTURESFORUM26



2026 CONCEPT NOTE

Reimagining Multilateralism Beyond the Pact for the Future

A Global Civil Society Co-Creation Forum
on the Future of the United Nations



11 JULY 2026



NEW YORK, HYBRID GLOBAL ONLINE,
SCANDINAVIA HOUSE.



Convened by the Coalition for
the UN We Need (C4UN) and Partners



Introduction



The Global Futures Forum (GFF) 2026 convenes at a moment when the rules, relationships, and institutions shaping international cooperation are being fundamentally redefined.

Following the adoption of the Pact for the Future in 2024, the launch of the UN80 Initiative, growing debates around reform of multilateral institutions, and mounting geopolitical fragmentation, the global community now faces a deeper question:

What comes next for the United Nations system and global governance?

GFF 2026 is designed not as a conventional conference, but as a collaborative civic laboratory for multilateral renewal, a space where civil society, feminist and youth movements, UN stakeholders, regional networks, and reform actors can collectively shape practical ideas for the road to 2028 and beyond.

The Forum builds directly on the 2023 Global Futures Forum and the resulting People's Pact for the Future; the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi and the launch of the ImPACT Coalitions; the 2025–2026 Regional Futures Forums; and the broader ecosystem of actors advancing democratic global governance reform.

GFF 2026 forms part of a strategic three-day sequence of events in New York during High-Level Political Forum week:

9 July – High-Level UN-led dialogue on the future of the UN

10 July – MGoS official session @HLPF

11 July – Global Futures Forum 2026

Core Questions



1. What does a reformed United Nations look like in the 21st century?

Building from the July 9 UN discussions, participants will explore institutional redesign, democratic multilateralism, financing, participation beyond states, and governance innovation

2. What kind of leadership is needed for the UN's next era?

Participants will set expectations for UN leadership including examining the future of the UN Secretary-General selection process, leadership legitimacy, and UN80 reforms.

3. What should success for the Pact for the Future actually look like?

Participants will build on Regional Futures Forums outcomes to further develop recommendations on metrics, indicators, review mechanisms, stakeholder participation, and people-centered accountability processes for the 2028 Review.



Proposed Forum Structure



The Forum should feel like a civic strategy lab, movement assembly, and collaborative drafting process.

Key programme components could include:

08:00-08:30

Check in and registration

08:30-09:00

Scene setting creative

09:00-10:30

Opening Plenary - High-level opening sessions on "From the Pact for the Future to the Next Era of Multilateralism"

10:30-10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 - 12:15

Regional Futures Forum Assembly -
A dedicated segment where Regional Futures Forums present: key priorities, tensions, innovations, and regional visions for multilateral reform.

12:15-13:15

Lunch

13:15 - 15:00

ImPACT Coalition Forum - Dedicated networking and connection segment for ImPact Coalitions to present their main objectives and upcoming engagements to a variety of stakeholders.

15:00 - 16:45

Futures Design Labs

Lab 1 - Measuring the Pact: led by specific partners; focused on accountability proposals, indicators, review architecture.

Lab 2 - Shaping the UN We Need: led by specific partners; forecasting the role of the UN in a new multilateral architecture.

Lab 3 - Leadership and Legitimacy: led by specific partners; recommendations on SG selection, civic participation, leadership principles, and democratic accountability.

16:45-17:00

Coffee Break

17:00-18:30

Synthesis and Plenary Talk Show

There will be an either opening or closing reception - TBC



Expected Outcomes

-  A civil society recommendations framework for the 2028 Review**
-  A collective vision paper on the future UN system**
-  Global Futures Forum Summary Report
-  Re-energized coordination ecosystem
-  Stronger regional-global integration
-  Shared advocacy priorities and roadmap toward 2028

*** These two outcomes will be drafted for consultation and review by participants following the Global Futures Forum 2026 and be finalised for launch at UNGA High-Level Week in September.*



Partners



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