

## CONCEPT NOTE

### CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

Civil society plays a fundamental role in shaping a future that, today more than ever, needs multilateral approaches to ensure an inclusive, sustainable, and safe society for all. Since 1947, sixty-eight UN-supported civil society conferences have resulted in successful outcomes. As a result of previous interactions with civil society organizations, we now look forward to the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future to be held in Nairobi on 9-10 May.

The Summit of the Future will take place 22-23 September in UNHQ New York, resulting in an intergovernmental Pact for the Future, annexed with a Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations, which all hope to deliver a UN for people and planet in the 21st century and beyond. The convergence of these processes represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strategize the path forward for the United Nations and the global community, to advance the work marked by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and build a world where no one is left behind. Civil society is an essential partner in a global endeavor that must come up with solutions and approaches from all sectors in society, in a spirit of collaboration and true networked and inclusive multilateralism.

### OBJECTIVES

We hope that the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future, set to take place 9-10 May in Nairobi can achieve **three main objectives**.

1. **INCLUSIVE**. Increase awareness, ambition and **accountability for the Summit of the Future** beyond New York, and support the amplification of diverse voices and initiatives to inform an **inclusive Pact for the Future** .
2. **IMPACTFUL**. Keeping in mind that by May, we will have more clarity on the likely substance of the Pact for the Future, use the Nairobi moment to build multi-stakeholder **Smart Coalitions** constituting Member States, civil society, academia, think tanks, foundations, and the private sector, to champion, act on, and push forward specific issue areas or big-ticket reforms proposed in the consensus language of the Pact. These coalitions seek to both raise the ambition of the Pact for the Future, and see through its implementation and action. In other words, this civil society-hosted, multistakeholder *"Pact Package"* seeks to be a **step one in setting up multi-stakeholder implementation of key reforms and issues across the Pact for the Future**.
3. **INNOVATIVE**. Seize the conference itself as an opportunity to innovate the way civil society interacts with intergovernmental processes. **To showcase an effective model** of intergenerational cooperation and solidarity, championing diverse expertise, and doing something new in a civil society-hosted multi-stakeholder forum.

## ENGAGING BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER

- Before: Tell us what you are doing toward the Summit of the Future already; engage in regional forums and pre-conference events; raise awareness of the May and September moments; join a subcommittee and help us plan.
- During: Host a civil society event; co-host or join a smart-coalition; showcase your projects; build out the civil-society hosted, multistakeholder "*Pact Package*."
- After: Continue to work across the smart-coalitions to raise the ambition and accountability of the Pact for the Future; inform the Pact negotiations with inclusive perspectives; feed into what the UN's Summit of the Future moment beyond just its negotiated outcome; and follow through the commitments of the smart coalitions to implement reforms, beyond the Summit of the Future.

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