



President of the General Assembly

Gayap Dialogue

on

“Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow – Designing the Summit of the Future”

11 April 2024

SUMMARY

The President of the General Assembly at its 78th session, H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, convened a second ***Gayap Dialogue*** to explore ways towards an impactful **Summit of the Future** under the theme of “*Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow*”. The discussion centered on the overall form and design of the Summit, including on the possible discourse that will ensure sustained action beyond September 2024.

The participants noted that, in order to live up to its theme, the Summit should aim for an action-oriented outcome and ensure the public feel a part in the Summit’s process. Inclusivity was therefore emphasized, as critical to ensuring ownership for sustained action at national, regional, and global levels. To this end, participants elaborated several key indicators of a successful Summit, including tangible impact on the **people**, participation of leaders, and engagement with stakeholders, particularly youth.

Participants underlined that the Summit should be seen as a distinctive event rather with an overriding purpose for world leaders to reaffirm commitment to the values and principles of the UN Charter, rather than just another gathering during the UN General Assembly High-Level Week. It must be packaged in a way that encourages meaningful engagement and activities, not merely the delivery of statements. Participants also noted the need to focus on precise messaging that the international community wishes to convey through the Summit.

Participants also discussed the ongoing intergovernmental process, noting that there are sufficient areas of convergence that could be elevated further in the discourse within the Summit. Importance of continuously emphasizing the principles that bind us together as an international community and the richness of multilateralism was also highlighted.

The preparations for the Summit must, therefore, aim at creating an environment that is conducive to fostering fresh approaches and positive discourse, providing space to facilitate genuine exchange, and focusing mainly on areas of convergences, not divergence. These include issues of peace and security, reform of the international financial architecture, technology and digitalization, as well as the effects of climate change. These areas of convergence are important building blocks for propelling efforts towards and beyond the Summit.

Participants further underscored that the Summit should provide a clear path on a way forward, that brings about the spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Emphasizing that in essence the Summit should not be a New York-centric discussion, it was stressed that the Summit must be felt at Capitals and contribute to other multilateral processes, such as the COP29, and advance better cooperation between the UN and other regional organizations.

Overall, the participants were mindful that the Summit of the Future will not resolve all complex challenges but saw it as rather part of ongoing process that starts with world leaders and stakeholders conveying commitment and the will to reinforce the utility of our multilateral system; and to mobilize necessary actions moving forward.

Participants, therefore, shared the President of the General Assembly's sentiment that the Summit must not be seen as an end in and of itself, but rather as a first step in a process towards bolstering our multilateral system to ensure that it is fit for purpose and catalyzes transformative actions on existing commitments to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals, for a better future for all.
