



President of the General Assembly 79th Session



Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Implementation of the Pact for the Future – Means of Implementation

26 March 2025

Informal Summary

On 26 March 2025, the President of the General Assembly convened the first informal interactive dialogue on the implementation of the Pact for the Future. The informal interactive dialogue which was held under the theme ‘means of implementation’ was the first of a series of three dialogues which are conceived as a platform for Member States to exchange views, share best practices and ideas as they further implementation efforts and lay the groundwork necessary for the review of the Pact in 2028.

Opening Segment

H.E. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly, in his opening address, emphasized the importance of sustaining the momentum of the Pact for the Future and reiterated the objective of the dialogue series, which is to accelerate its implementation by creating a platform for Member States to exchange experiences, best practices, and ideas. He further underscored the need for implementation of the Pact in a manner that acknowledges and considers the unique challenges that every country faces. In this regard he outlined the need for tailored approaches and the fostering of an enabling environment through smart investments and reforms. He also outlined the need to close the resource gap, trade policies with flexibility for developing countries and strengthened international cooperation as ways of creating the necessary environment for implementation to advance.

H.E. Antonio Guterres, Secretary – General of the United Nations provided Member States with an overview of the work that the UN system has undertaken since the adoption of the Pact to advance and support implementation efforts, as well as the next steps. In this regard he informed of the establishment of a principal-level steering committee that oversees six working groups focused on actions and reforms in key areas namely Sustainable Development Goals acceleration, peace and security, international financial architecture, digital technologies, UN governance and youth. He further noted the creation of two task teams focusing on future generations and the need to look beyond GDP as a measure of progress and guide to policymaking, as well as the establishment of an internal tracking system to monitor UN system progress on Pact implementation.

Importantly, the Secretary-General also emphasized the launch of the UN80 initiative earlier this month, a strategic effort aimed at improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of the UN's operations. This initiative includes a comprehensive review of mandate implementation, and consideration of possible structural changes and programme realignments across the UN system. UN80 is designed to support and accelerate the implementation of the Pact by ensuring the UN is fit for purpose and cost-effective amidst continued resource constraints.

Other implementation efforts highlighted include:

On Peace and Security: The issuance of a report in November 2024 on peacebuilding that contains concrete suggestions on the strengthening of the Peacebuilding Commission and Fund; ongoing work on the second independent progress second study on the positive contribution of young people to peace processes; a review of all forms of Peace Operations (as requested in the Pact).

On Financing for Development: Mapping exercise by Resident Coordinators and country teams to see how progress can be accelerated at the national level; analysis of the impact of military expenditure on the achievement of the SDGs and on the work at the UN, with a final report expected by September; announcement of the Expert Group called for in the Pact to develop measures of progress that go beyond Gross Domestic Product which will take place soon ; ongoing discussions with the World Bank and the IMF to follow-up on the Pact's action points addressing improvements to the international financial system; establishment of an expert group to identify practical steps for action on debt.

On youth and future generations: Progress towards establishing a Youth Investment Platform to ensure that national funding mechanisms and investment platforms are focused on the needs of young people; the establishment of a Strategic Foresight Network and Community of Practice, to ensure UN policies, programmes and field operations are based on long-term thinking; the appointment of a Special Envoy for Future Generations later in 2025.

On technology: Ongoing development of a report on innovative voluntary financing options for AI capacity-building.

Scene setting remarks

Mr. Stephen Heintz, CEO and President of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund noted that the biggest danger in the turbulent times the world finds itself in is not the turbulence itself but rather seeking to address it with yesterday's logic. In this regard he outlined a logic for the future that recognizes the twin realities of global interdependence and multipolar pluralism. He also noted that Pact implementation must be coordinated with ongoing UN initiatives such as the 2030 agenda and other ongoing intergovernmental processes. He further emphasized that the UN and Member States must engage civil society and the private sector in polylateral mechanisms to support implementation, provide accountability and develop ideas for increased global ambition.

Ms. Doreen Bogdan – Martin, Secretary – General of the International Telecommunications Union, in her remarks highlighted that universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation are key to realizing the promise of the Pact and the Global Digital Compact and noted that over 70% of SDG targets can be accelerated through digital means. She shared examples of implementation in practice that highlighted elements that are crucial for implementation such as sustainability, shared prosperity, long – term commitment and capacity building. She also pinpointed to key moments in 2025 that offer unique opportunities to redouble efforts to deliver tangible results at scale, which include the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2nd World Summit for Social Development and the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Ms. Shari Spiegel, Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO), Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations (UN DESA), provided a detailed breakdown of what the Pact for the Future calls for in terms of Financing for Development

and noted that Member States have started taking these actions forward in many ways, including through intergovernmental processes for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development. She further provided some insights on the existing financing gap noting that the recommendations in the current draft can be categorized as being part of an impact focused, large – scale sustainable development investment push. In terms of this investment push, she also noted that financing today isn't what it was ten years ago, and that this agenda now must focus on sustainable development impact. The Investment push also must be publicly led, leveraging private finance and equates to being a public-private agenda.

Main discussion highlights

Peace and Security: In the ensuing statements from Member States, some highlighted ongoing concrete efforts to implement the commitments in the Pact, specifically noting the preparatory work on the Peace-building Architecture Reform, or discussions on the reform of peace missions.

The sharing of best practices, including on the development of national prevention strategies, and the provision of technical assistance for peace mediation were noted as crucial efforts towards the Pact's ambitions of strengthening the peace and security pillar of the UN. Some Member States also underscored the need for the international community to put a special focus on the prevention of genocides and other atrocity crimes and address hate speech as a precursor to such crimes. There was also a call for the scaling up of efforts to promote equal, meaningful and inclusive participation of women and youth, including those affected by conflict in the development and implementation of policies aimed at the improvement of rule of law, accountable governance, fight against corruption, ensuring justice for all.

Several delegations underlined the importance of the rule of law and the need for it to be upheld at both international and national levels must be upheld, with some also calling for broader acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

The benefits of early warning systems and preventive diplomacy in the context of conflict prevention as well as the importance of accountability were further highlighted by some Member States.

The upcoming peacekeeping ministerial meeting was highlighted as an important opportunity for participants to make pledges for peacekeeping, to underline their political commitment to effective

multilateralism and to provide input to the Secretary – General’s review on the future of all forms of peace operations.

SDGs and Financing for Development: Some Member States underscored that a renewed framework of financing for development is crucial and it must be one that ensures affordable, accessible and predictable financing. In line with this, some Member States placed emphasis on looking beyond traditional financing mechanisms and exploring new, innovative ways to mobilize the necessary funding, noting that such mechanisms should include urgent actions on debt relief, restructuring, and innovative financing solutions and should also improve access to concessional financing especially for countries in special situations and middle-income countries.

Member States also highlighted that scaled-up financing for developing countries is fundamental for bringing the SDGs back on track and to turbocharge the achievement of sustainable development by 2030 and beyond.

Member States also reiterated the importance of developed countries fulfilling their commitments in the context of finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building; as well as upholding the financing commitments made under the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

A group of States also emphasized the urgent need to address correspondent banking relationship challenges faced by SIDS; and called for support to operationalize the SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS) as a key solution to both immediate and long-term debt vulnerabilities.

A group of Member States emphasized that unilateral coercive measures remain a major obstacle to sustainable development and called for their immediate lifting.

Youth Empowerment: Youth empowerment was mentioned as a recurring priority, with strong emphasis on investing in education, skills, and leadership opportunities. Participants highlighted that youth are not just beneficiaries but key drivers of sustainable development. Capacity-building and institutional strengthening efforts are increasingly focused on integrating young people into national development planning and decision-making.

Bridging the Digital Divide and Governing AI: Closing the digital divide and harnessing technology featured prominently. Inclusive access to digital infrastructure, along with investment

in digital literacy, technology transfer, and capacity-building—especially in developing and marginalized areas—was recognized as foundational to implementing the Pact.

In parallel, the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) prompted urgent calls for global governance mechanisms to ensure that AI contributes to inclusive and sustainable development. Member States expressed strong support for ongoing intergovernmental efforts, including the establishment of an independent scientific panel and a global dialogue on AI governance.

Capacity-building in digital and emerging technologies was highlighted as essential to ensure no country is left behind. Proposals also included the creation of a global fund to promote equitable access to these technologies.

Multilateral Governance: Calls for reforming multilateral governance were strongly echoed, grounded in the shared understanding that the UN and its Charter lie at the core of multilateralism. The UN80 Initiative was seen as a vital step toward realizing this vision, with the Pact for the Future recognized as a reflection of these principles and remaining central to national priorities and implementation efforts.

Reforming the UN Security Council to improve its representativeness and effectiveness was seen as a critical benchmark for restoring trust in global institutions. Several Member States called for time-bound, text-based negotiations to make tangible progress on this front.

Equally pressing was the call for reform of the international financial architecture. There was a strong consensus that current global financial systems are outdated and insufficiently responsive to the needs of developing countries. Proposals ranged from revising voting rights in multilateral development banks to scaling up access to concessional finance and ensuring greater use of tools like the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) to assess needs and unlock resources for small island developing states and countries in special situations.

Countries underscored that development financing must go beyond GDP, reflect structural vulnerabilities, and be rooted in fairness and solidarity. The issue of indebtedness was linked to systemic inequities in global financial governance, with calls for concrete mechanisms to ensure fair access to global finance.

Partnerships and Whole-of-Society Approaches: Throughout the discussions, the importance of inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships was repeatedly emphasized. Governments called for stronger collaboration with civil society, the private sector, academia, and communities to support implementation. Proposals included the creation of national-level platforms bringing together central and local governments, development actors, and the UN system to foster alignment, resource sharing, and collective action. A whole-of-society approach was seen as essential to translating the Pact’s transformative vision into measurable progress.

Implementation insights and Emerging Good Practices in Pact Implementation: At the six-month mark since the adoption of the Pact for the Future, Member States shared emerging practices that offer a foundational framework for operationalizing the Pact while adapting to national contexts and capacities. The following key actions were highlighted:

- **Strengthen National Leadership and Ownership:** With the majority of Pact actions falling under national jurisdiction, countries reaffirmed that strong political leadership, national ownership, and accountability are essential to translating global commitments into results.
- **Develop National Implementation Roadmaps:** Member States emphasized the need for nationally tailored implementation plans aligned with the Pact’s commitments, featuring clear objectives, timelines, institutional responsibilities, and measurable indicators to ensure focus and track progress.
- **Leverage Existing Institutional Mechanisms:** The importance of leveraging existing coordination structures—such as national SDG frameworks and the UN Resident Coordinator system—for implementation, technical support, and monitoring was emphasized, to avoid creating parallel processes.
- **Promote Inclusive and Localized Planning:** Inclusive development planning and active engagement of local authorities and communities were seen as essential to ensuring that Pact implementation responds to national and local needs.

- **Legislate for Impact:** Translating the Pact’s commitments and annexes into national legislation was identified as an important avenue to institutionalize implementation and ensure long-term accountability.
- **Ensure Robust Means of Implementation:** Effective and inclusive means of implementation are central to delivering on the Pact’s promises. The potential of regional and thematic centers of excellence was highlighted as a way to facilitate knowledge-sharing, technology transfer, and specialized training aligned with national and local needs.
- **Accountability:** Member States emphasized the need for robust and inclusive monitoring frameworks, strengthened national data systems, and shared responsibility at all levels to ensure transparent, results-driven implementation of the Pact.