



President of the General Assembly 79th Session



Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Implementation of the Pact for the Future – Monitoring and Evaluation

19 May 2025

Informal Summary

Opening Segment

H.E. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly, in his opening address, emphasized that a focus on monitoring and evaluation would help Member States identify bottlenecks and enablers, ensure ongoing course correction, and promote accountability across systems. He also noted that because many of the commitments in the Pact for the Future build on established agreements existing monitoring systems can be adapted to serve its objectives, including by - reusing relevant indicators, harmonizing data collection methods, and reducing reporting burdens, especially for developing countries. He also underscored that monitoring, and evaluation can further enhance coherence by enabling insights across intergovernmental frameworks, and such links can help improve policy coherence, identify implementation gaps and consolidate learning. He underlined that countries must have the space and support to define indicators that align with their unique challenges and capacities, so that locally meaningful monitoring and evaluation not only support national ownership and that monitoring efforts must be purposeful and pragmatic.

Mr. Guy Ryder, Under -Secretary – General for Policy, speaking on behalf of the Deputy Secretary- General, emphasized that the Pact is a recommitment to international collaboration and to the promises that the General Assembly has made to the people of the world for a more equitable, just, peaceful and prosperous world.

Speaking on the forward-looking nature of the Pact, he noted that it points the way to the multinationalism of the future that is more inclusive in governance and decision -making, that is

shaped by science, technology and innovation, and one that is mindful of our responsibilities to future generations.

He further noted that the Pact challenging the UN system to do better is also one of the reasons why the Secretary - General launched the UN80 initiative – for a more efficient and effective organization that can deliver on the Pact and the SDGs.

He stated that monitoring and evaluation is critical as it is how we remain accountable in turning our shared vision into real, measurable results and it is important that we also acknowledge the complexity of monitoring and evaluating Pact implementation, owing to its broad nature that encompasses both prescriptive and more general action points and statements of intent that have unspecified timelines.

Mr. Ryder also provided Member States with an overview of some of the Secretariat efforts to track and monitor Pact implementation which include:

- A system wide principal level steering committee that drives and monitors implementation.
- The establishment of an internal management tool which will track implementation of all the Pact mandates under the purview of the Secretary – General and the UN system.
- Clear and measurable milestones have been linked to each mandate and progress against each milestone is being recorded.

Elaborating on the internal dashboard, he noted that it offers a real time picture of how the UN System is implementing mandates and therefore serves as a management tool and an instrument of accountability and eventually evaluation.

He also briefed on the efforts of Resident Coordinators and UN Country teams at the national level in engaging government on how the Pact can be leveraged for SDG acceleration tailored to government priorities and national contexts.

He informed that the Secretariat is leveraging the Regional Economic Commissions to provide technical assistance and capacity building support to national level implementation, which will be inclusive of national level monitoring and evaluation using and aligned to existing national systems associated with the monitoring of the SDGs.

They will particularly also leverage and track the high-impact initiatives launched at the SDG summit in 2023 (e.g. The Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection) and use these as vehicles for Pact implementation.

Scene setting remarks

Mr. Haoliang Xu, Associate Administrator of UNDP emphasized that SDG delivery and transformative results at country level lie at the heart of the Pact for the Future, and monitoring and evaluation of progress is critical to keep us on track.

He provided the meeting with an overview of UNDP efforts to support Pact implementation within the UN system, and at the country level led by Resident Coordinators and UN Country teams. Some of these efforts include:

- Guided by Member State priorities, the integration of the Pact's commitments into national planning and programming processes.
- Ensuring Pact implementation is actionable by placing a focus on helping member states align fiscal strategies, policy priorities and institutional capacities with the Pact's transformative ambitions
- Drawing on insights from the Beijing Action Plan outcome of the eighth national evaluation capacities conference for best practices for monitoring and evaluation.

He noted that some of the key challenges identified so far include limited national capacities and fragmented data ecosystems, which can be overcome through the integration of evaluation into public policy and the budgeting cycle and leveraging the potential of digital tools and AI to improve access to quality evaluative evidence.

He also highlighted the importance of inclusive evaluation systems that can drive more relevant and impactful national efforts.

On adaptation of the Pact, he noted that commitments can be localized at the national level through the embedding of commitments into national evaluation policies aligning with SDG targets and join on the efforts of global to national evidence enhancing initiatives such as the global SDG synthesis coalition, the UNDP National Evaluation capacities conference, and the evaluative evidence database of the UN Evaluation Group.

He also highlighted harmonizing evaluation with the SDGs, climate and human rights reporting frameworks as a way of reducing duplication, strengthening coherence and thus position evaluation as a shared public good.

Dr. Richard Ponzio, Director, Global Governance, Justice & Security Program and Senior Fellow at the Stimson Center presented findings from a new logical framework monitoring tool that the Stimson Centre has undertaken that is part of a proposed broader Pact Monitoring Toolkit.

He noted that this independent initiative aims to inventory implementation gaps and data vacuums in existing monitoring tools to discern where new indicators are needed and to promote corrective action and to allow for collaboration between Champion Governments, the UN, and ImPact Coalitions to demonstrate tangible progress that can, in turn, spur new strategies and further momentum on the road to the official September 2028 high-level review.

Dr. Ponzio noted that their review to date has shown that potentially more than half of the Pact for the Future's Sub-Actions can conceivably leverage or be linked to existing SDG indicators. However, despite their adoption, many SDG indicators lack comprehensive data or the ability to measure trends, thus necessitating urgent improvements in the capacity of National Statistics Offices globally.

Dr. Ponzio further shared some preliminary insights from the Stimson Center's forthcoming *Global Governance Innovation Report 2025* which employs a combination of process deliberations, existing official SDG indicators and proxy indicators that speak to the essential meaning of select Pact Actions, an approach employed due to anticipated data gaps.

More broadly, he noted that their review of about half of the Pact's Actions suggests slow yet visible progress across key elements of the Pact. At the same time he did also express some caution that proposed funding cuts are anticipated to hurt Pact implementation efforts, underscoring the need to leverage the Secretary-General's UN80 Initiative to help advance rather than detract from, the Pact for the Future, by creating a more agile, cost effective and impactful UN system.

Main discussion highlights

Member States underscored that strong political will is essential to translating the commitments of the Pact for the Future into meaningful national action. National ownership and context-specific strategies are critical to realizing the Pact's vision on the ground.

They emphasized that effective implementation must reflect each country's unique priorities, challenges, and institutional processes. A flexible, adaptive approach is needed—allowing countries to showcase progress in areas of strength while developing targeted interventions for priority challenges.

Monitoring and evaluation were identified as central to ensuring accountability, tracking progress, and maintaining collective commitment. These efforts must be data-driven, inclusive, and transparent. Goals and targets outlined in each Action area of the Pact can serve as indicators but must be supported by SMART metrics and time-bound frameworks applied consistently across all chapters.

Member States reaffirmed that the Pact does not exist in isolation; it is meant to complement and reinforce existing global, regional, and national frameworks—including the 2030 Agenda. Ensuring coherence across these efforts is essential to maximizing impact, avoiding duplication, and strengthening reporting and implementation.

Monitoring should not only assess compliance but also capture qualitative progress and support adaptive implementation. There were strong calls to leverage Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as feedback mechanisms to help countries track progress, identify gaps, and learn from one another. The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was highlighted as a key platform for sharing experiences, successes, and challenges.

Persistent challenges in monitoring Pact implementation were identified, including resource constraints, capacity gaps, and the risk of fragmented efforts across overlapping international frameworks. Additional barriers noted include political inertia, polarization, limited fiscal space, financing shortfalls, data scarcity, and unequal access to decision-making. Data capacity, in particular, remains a systemic challenge—especially in low- and middle-income countries—echoing difficulties faced during SDG implementation.

Several Member States highlighted digital transformation, youth-led innovation, and climate-resilient development as critical accelerators of Pact implementation. The need for a futures-oriented lens in all Pact-related action was stressed, and the proposed appointment of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Future Generations was welcomed as a step toward safeguarding intergenerational equity and promoting forward-looking governance.

The UN system—including regional commissions—was seen as playing a vital role in implementation through the provision of timely, disaggregated data and facilitation of knowledge exchange. Member States called on the UN Secretariat to provide regular progress updates and dynamic dashboards to inform Member States of system-wide advances.

There were also strong appeals to utilize the UN Resident Coordinator system in Pact follow-up and to integrate reporting efforts within established intergovernmental mechanisms to avoid additional bureaucracy.

Inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships were consistently emphasized. Member States advocated for stronger collaboration with civil society, the private sector, academia, and local communities. Proposals included national platforms bringing together central and local authorities, development partners, and the UN system to foster coordination, resource pooling, and joint action. A whole-of-society approach was seen as essential to delivering on the Pact's transformative agenda.

Stakeholder participation—especially that of youth and women—was highlighted as a cross-cutting priority in planning, monitoring, and decision-making. Capacity-building and institutional development are increasingly geared toward embedding young people in national development strategies and governance.

The Secretary-General's UN 80 Initiative was recognized as bringing renewed urgency to the Pact's implementation, offering a timely opportunity to revitalize multilateralism and make the UN more responsive, representative, and effective. Member States also emphasized that the strengthening of the institutional foundations of the United Nations will be essential to the long-term success of both the Pact for the Future and the 2030 Agenda.

However, some delegations cautioned against letting the reform agenda under UN 80 overshadow the Pact, noting that such efforts would have been better anchored within the Pact negotiation process.

Regarding broader reform, some Member States called for the Pact’s implementation to outline clear steps for transforming the multilateral system—including reform of the UN, the international financial architecture, and mechanisms to bridge development divides through innovation and access to science and technology.

One delegation proposed an annual General Assembly meeting dedicated to global governance reform, as a structured dialogue to review progress, build consensus, and sustain momentum—especially for the commitments under Chapter Five of the Pact.

Insights and emerging action points for strengthening monitoring and evaluation

- **Leverage Existing Frameworks:** Build on SDG reporting tools—particularly VNRs—which are embedded in national planning and already support stakeholder engagement, data collection, and progress tracking.
- **Strengthen National Data Systems:** Enhance data capacity through international cooperation, capacity-building, and technical assistance. Partnerships with the UN, regional bodies, IFIs, and the broader development community are crucial, especially for developing countries—to create robust, inclusive, and interoperable data ecosystems.
- **Adopt Standardized Yet Flexible Templates:** Use structured yet adaptable reporting formats to enable comparability while allowing for national customization—reducing reporting burdens.
- **Alignment with Regional Strategies:** Engage in regional cooperation and align Pact actions with existing strategies. Periodic regional reviews can complement national efforts, support peer learning, and strengthen collective accountability.
- **Institutionalize Regular Reporting:** Promote regular reporting through General Assembly high-level reviews and Secretary-General briefings, creating spaces for peer exchange, knowledge sharing, and comparative learning among countries with similar contexts.
