



President of the General Assembly 79th Session



Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Implementation of the Pact for the Future – Looking Ahead to 2028

17 July 2025

Informal Summary

Opening Segment

In his opening address at the third informal interactive dialogue, **H.E. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly** emphasized that in looking ahead to the 2028 review of the Pact for the Future, Member States had an important opportunity to consider the structure of the 2028 high-level review and align planning and implementation timelines in order to identify early course corrections and ensure coherence with other global review processes.

Reflecting on discussions from the previous dialogue, the President highlighted the broad support expressed for monitoring and evaluation as essential tools for accountability, as well as the importance of ensuring that implementation is guided by national priorities and contexts. He also noted that Member States had underscored the need to address shared challenges such as limited resources, capacity gaps, and fragmented reporting frameworks, which continue to hinder progress.

Drawing on paragraph 17 of the Pact, which calls for an overall implementation review by 2028 through existing intergovernmental processes, the President emphasized the importance of linking the review to key milestones, namely the 2027 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the review of the Global Digital Compact, and the High-level Meeting on Future Generations. Such linkages, he noted, would promote coherence, avoid duplication, and strengthen Member State ownership.

The President further stressed that the 2028 review must deliver actionable outcomes. To achieve this, he called for early planning, aligned timelines, clearly defined institutional responsibilities, and robust regional and national engagement. He also underscored the need for a carefully designed review format that reflects the Pact's multiple tracks and provisions, measures tangible results, and consolidates progress.

In closing, the President reiterated that the 2028 review must not be a simple procedural exercise. Rather, it should provide a clear assessment of progress, expose remaining gaps, and offer concrete recommendations that will drive international cooperation toward 2030 and beyond, ensuring that the Pact for the Future delivers meaningful and lasting impact.

Scene setting remarks

In his intervention, **Mr. Guy Ryder, Under Secretary General for Policy** underscored that timely and effective implementation is the essential foundation for a successful review of the Pact and its annexes, emphasizing the need to ensure that all processes, initiatives, and decisions are aligned with the spirit and goals of the Pact.

Reflecting on the design, structure, and format of the 2028 review, he highlighted that it should reflect the Pact's core value of fulfilling the commitment to multilateralism and suggested that the review could examine how various intergovernmental processes are integrating and advancing key actions of the Pact.

He stressed that Member States were responsible for approximately 80% of the Pact's actions and therefore, national ownership and leadership were critical to shaping and informing the review. He pointed to encouraging examples of countries already incorporating the Pact into their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), demonstrating organic alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reporting. As the Pact is intended to accelerate SDG implementation, he suggested that progress toward SDG targets leveraging existing monitoring mechanisms could serve as a proxy indicator for measuring success.

He emphasized that a meaningful 2028 review must be grounded in credible data, honest reflection, and a willingness to acknowledge both achievements and remaining gaps.

USG Guy Ryder also provided an overview of ongoing efforts within the UN system to support Member States in preparing for the 2028 review:

- An internal tracking system has been established to monitor progress against time-bound milestones for actions under the responsibility of the Secretary-General and the broader UN system.
- In response to Member State requests during the previous dialogue, a public dashboard has been developed and made available through a dedicated Pact website, enabling Member States to monitor implementation progress.
- Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams are working closely with governments to support national implementation efforts aligned with national priorities. Information from these efforts is being compiled to potentially inform the 2028 review.

- Ongoing capacity-building initiatives are supporting national efforts in monitoring, evaluation, and statistical systems, including through the work of the Regional Economic Commissions.
- The UN system is ensuring implementation integrity through the architecture established by the Secretary-General to support delivery of the Pact and its annexes.
- Efforts are also underway to embed long-term thinking into policymaking and institutional cultures across the UN system.

He reiterated that Pact implementation is a strategic priority, which could also be seen through the UN80 Initiative, which aims to transform how the UN delivers on its mandates, including those emanating from the Pact.

In his scene-setting remarks, **Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, Secretary-General's Envoy on Digitalization and Emerging Technologies** emphasized that the adoption of the Global Digital Compact sent a clear message: digital cooperation is urgent, necessary, and a key element of international relations. He focused his intervention on how the Compact's objectives can be delivered and how its review can be used to maximum effect.

Noting that the Global Digital Compact is built around ensuring that digital technologies benefit people, societies, and our planet, he stated that this is a complex exercise that requires the active commitment of all Member States, meaningful participation of all stakeholders and technology developers, and close coordination among all actors.

He further stated that the Compact is a time-bound call to action that seeks to expand digital cooperation into urgent areas.

The Special Envoy also shared examples of Compact implementation that is already underway:

- The UN is working to support country-level implementation of the Digital Public Infrastructure Safeguards Framework.
- A multistakeholder working group on data governance at all levels has also commenced work under the auspices of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.
- Member States are finalizing negotiations to establish both an International Scientific Panel and a Global Dialogue on AI within the United Nations.

On the issue of alignment and coherence with other intergovernmental processes, he noted that the principles underpinning the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) agreed twenty years ago remain relevant and resonate throughout the Global Digital Compact. He stated that the Compact, as drafted, underscores this alignment, being anchored in the WSIS outcomes and relying on existing reporting channels.

To ensure that information across all Compact objectives is accessible in an intuitive and collaborative manner, he announced that his office will launch a Digital Cooperation Portal by early 2026.

Main discussion highlights

Strategic Focus of the 2028 Review

Member States emphasized that the 2028 review should be forward-looking, results-driven, comprehensive, and impactful. It must align with the outcomes of the Global Digital Compact high-level review and the 2027 SDG Summit, serving both as an accountability checkpoint and a catalyst for renewed political commitment.

Framed within the UN80 milestone, it should emphasize the Pact's role as a guiding framework for revitalizing multilateral cooperation. Positioned two years before the 2030 deadline, the review is a critical juncture for assessing progress and recalibrating global action. Member States also indicated that a strong evidence based approach is essential, with timely, disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data (by gender, location, and income) to track progress and address gaps.

Structure and Scope

Member States also underscored that the review must go beyond stocktaking and provide strategic political direction and measurable outcomes. It should address all three pillars of the United Nations as well as comprehensively cover all the chapters of the Pact, namely Sustainable Development and financing for development, International peace and security, Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation, Youth and future generations and Transforming global governance. In this regard, suggestions were made for a two-tier structure as follows:

- Technical track – in-depth review using data, reporting systems, and monitoring frameworks.
- Political track – high-visibility engagement to secure leadership commitment and integrated national action.

It was also noted that linkages with the Global Digital Compact and Future Generations' tracks should be explicit.

Inclusivity, transparency, and fairness must guide the process, with tailored approaches for least developed, landlocked, and small island developing states (SIDS). Partnerships and voluntary commitments could help sustain momentum.

Alignment and Coherence

Member States noted that implementation should be integrated within existing frameworks, including the High-Level Political Forum, the Peacebuilding Architecture review, WSIS+20, and Beijing+30, and with other global agreements such as the SDGs, Paris Agreement, Doha Programme for Least Developed Countries, and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

For many developing countries, financing remains the central constraint and, as such, debt relief and structural reform of the global financial system, as envisaged in Action 49 of the Pact, are urgent. Also in this regard, engagement with the G20, World Trade Organization, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund is crucial to advance sustainable finance and systemic reform.

Effective follow-up will require transparent reporting, comprehensive monitoring, and accountability mechanisms that allow for adaptive policy adjustments.

UN80 initiative

Member States emphasized that the 2028 review and Pact implementation should take into account the Secretary-General's UN80 reform initiative. The UN80 initiative was recognized as a way to enhance the capacity and capability of the UN system, while the Pact defines the goals and direction for the future. Member States stressed that the two processes are fundamentally interlinked as the Pact articulates what needs to be achieved, while UN80 provides a framework for how to deliver it.

To be effective, the review must ensure coherence of agendas, avoid duplication, and remain focused on the real-world impact the Pact seeks to deliver. Embedding the Pact's priorities into the wider UN reform was seen as key to strengthening multilateralism and building a UN system better equipped for current and future challenges.

UN System engagement and support

Member States emphasized the importance of an active role for the UN Secretariat in developing innovative tools to track progress and monitor implementation of the Pact.

The continued importance of Regional Commissions and Resident Coordinators was also highlighted, particularly in localizing Pact commitments and fostering national ownership.

Member States noted that tailored capacity-building and technical assistance are critical to supporting the effective implementation of sustainable development and should remain a key area of UN system support.

There was strong support for conducting a mapping exercise early in the implementation process to identify synergies and overlaps in reporting. This would help avoid duplication and reduce reporting fatigue for Member States.

Some Member States called for the 2028 review to be grounded in an evidence-based report by the Secretary-General, taking stock of progress made. Others emphasized that the review must be data-driven and people-centered. In this regard, the need for accurate, timely, and disaggregated data, by gender, geography, and income, was underlined as essential for tracking progress, identifying gaps, and designing effective responses. To achieve this, enhanced support for national data systems, especially in developing countries, was crucial.

Overall, Member States emphasized that the UN Secretariat has a vital role in maintaining momentum, tracking implementation, identifying synergies, and ensuring transparency throughout the process.

Multistakeholder Engagement

Civil society contributions such as dashboards, thematic briefs, and governance reform trackers were also highlighted as key to enhancing monitoring, supporting public awareness, and encouraging national-level engagement, particularly by youth.

Considerations for Future Dialogues and Preparations

In their interventions, Member States also emphasized some key recommendations in preparation of the 2028 High-Level review as follows:

Procedural

- Hold regular dialogues under the leadership of the next President of the General Assembly.
- Conduct interim assessments before 2028 to maintain steady progress.
- Sustain continuous activity toward 2028, with the Secretariat mapping commitments, defining roles, and aligning actions with existing mandates and Member States' showcasing the impact of implementation at the national level beyond data.

Substantive

- Maintain a Member State-led, future-focused process with strong engagement and interaction with youth.
- Maintain resources and programming in developing regions in the context of the UN80 Initiative while strengthening national ownership, including through Resident Coordinator support.
- Treat governance reforms in Chapter V as central to implementation, addressing silos through cross-sectoral coordination.

Closing segment

In his closing remarks, the **President of the General Assembly** reflected on the informal interactive dialogues and the role that they have played in sustaining momentum for the implementation of the Pact for the Future, particularly noting that they had provided a space for robust and constructive exchanges on the means of implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and the 2028 review.

He also noted that the dialogues benefited greatly from the diversity of perspectives shared by Member States and have been enriched by insights from the United Nations system on aligning ongoing efforts with the Pact's priorities, with contributions from civil society, youth and other stakeholders also being critical to this effort.

He emphasized that the informal summaries that have been issued throughout the series highlight key messages, emerging practices and lessons learned and going forward can serve as valuable resources for Member States and other stakeholders, offering valuable entry points for follow – up.

He also highlighted three key imperatives that emanated from the third dialogue as being:

- Maintain a focus on impact, ensuring global frameworks lead to real improvements in people's lives.
- Strengthen coherence across the Pact, its annexes, and all related intergovernmental processes.
- Ensure inclusive and participatory follow-up, supported by meaningful engagement from all stakeholders.

In conclusion, he underscored that continued engagement, shared ambition, and coordinated action remain essential to the realisation of the promise of the Pact.
