



Organization: Coalition for the UN We Need

Website: <https://c4unwn.org/>

Focal Point: Daniel Perell, co-chair, dperell@bic.org

Chapeau

In 1945 the nations of the world recognized the imperative need for international collective action. Since that time, the world's challenges have evolved, becoming increasingly complex and intertwined. Global institutional structures must match this pace of evolution, and respond to deeper complexities unimaginable at the UN's founding. Solutions must be framed in the context of much stronger international cooperation.

The Summit of the Future represents a seminal opportunity for a reinvigorated and inclusive multilateralism, and a **renewed commitment to first principles** outlined in the UN Charter and other foundational instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Member States should recommit to the rule of law, democracy, inclusivity, gender equality, sustainable development, protection of the environment, and education for all. Further, we call for a **deeper exploration into the persistent challenges underlying our current systems together with a search for new solutions** reflective of emerging necessities. This includes **identifying and applying a new set of normative foundations**—such as solidarity and trustworthiness—that build off first principles, together with a theory of change based on fundamental human rights, the full and effective participation of State and non-State actors, as well as a posture of inquiry.

The Summit of the Future represents a significant opportunity to begin this exploration. A successful Summit will:

- *generate political will around global agendas*
- *build greater trust in the evolving multilateral system*
- *contribute to the evolution of the UN, building on 79 years of lessons learned, to effectively serve the whole of humanity, for present and future generations*
- *recognize that non-state actors, together with Member States, have the interest and capacity to play a significant role in the governance of humanity and our planet*

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

No nation has brought into being a society that fully meets the needs of all its inhabitants, let alone ensure that future generations will have the means they need. Agenda 2030 represents a rallying point for collective action and demands a recommitment to its worthy aspirations. Yet, because present models of development and the global financial architecture have demonstrated their limits, a

new set of normative and institutional bases are required to meet the needs of truly sustainable development.

We must move from development models and a global financial architecture that focus on

- measuring well-being based solely on financial considerations (GDP) to **promoting more holistic dimensions of progress** such as protection of human rights, the environment, and social well-being as well as **valuing moderation and equity**;
- prioritizing profits to **prioritizing justice** (the environment, decent work, labor rights, tax justice);
- rewarding corruption and exploitative practices to **centering shared values, integrity, and trustworthiness**;
- according greater authority based on a nation's wealth or power to **ensuring a truly democratic international order without preference**;
- pursuing development objectives as siloed goals through piecemeal approaches to **recognizing the interdependence of diverse development objectives**;
- viewing beneficiaries as passive recipients of goods and services to **recognizing local populations as essential contributors of knowledge and partners**;
- seeing the material advancement of another nation as a source of competition to **finding ways for the advancement of all nations to become a source of collective flourishing**;
- applying short-term band-aid solutions and technical adjustments to **addressing deeper, enduring structural challenges**.

In light of the above, we propose the following:

- Define alternatives to GDP;
- Establish an international anti-corruption court;
- Increase transparency in WTO decision-making; include new stakeholders in national committees on trade facilitation;
- Tax currency transfers, airline ticket purchases, and other transnational services, and adopt a UN Tax Convention to mobilize public and private finance;
- Convene a biennial summit for the world economy;
- Expand the IMF's special drawing rights for debt relief and financing global public goods.

Chapter II. International peace and security

The primary mandate of the United Nations is to “eliminate the scourge of war” and build common security for all. Disarmament initiatives, arms control, and nuclear non-proliferation efforts to date have been critical, yet, with the highest rates of violent global conflict in over 30 years and questions of security extending into other facets of life, including cyber and space security, levels of trust between and within nations are eroding. New normative bases for the way we view peace that shift from reactive measures and truly embody the rule of law are needed to promote peaceful societies.

We must shift our conceptions of international peace and security from

- framing the goal as the elimination of war to **prioritizing the creation of peace and exploring prerequisites for positive peace** (e.g. promoting social cohesion);
- solely reacting to conflict to **examining deeper root causes of war and conflict** (e.g. prejudice) and exploring enduring ways to address them (education);
- focusing largely on humanitarian measures that manage crises to **adopting a rights-based approach focused on accountability and prevention**;
- describing human nature as inherently violent and perpetually seeking power to **acknowledging and utilizing the positive characteristics of human nature**.

In light of the above, we propose the following:

- Strengthen international mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts;
- Implement UN Charter Article 26 through plans and action for disarmament; convert military resources into economic and social development resources;
- Begin a process to stand-up a UN Emergency Peace Service;
- Include nuclear weapons abolition in the post-2030 SDGs to achieve complete elimination by 2045;
- Strengthen global judicial institutions
- Advance the human rights to peace, nuclear abolition, and climate protection among other issues in the World Court and Human Rights Council.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The challenges before humanity rely on scientific discovery in unprecedented ways. Yet, founded on incomplete notions of progress and purpose together with possessiveness around knowledge generation and sharing, the fruits of innovation can result in unintended consequences, through privacy concerns, discrimination, and inequitable access resulting in a growing digital divide, etc. While the normative dimensions of technological innovation will be unpacked in the global digital compact, needed here is a new set of concepts and approaches underlying scientific innovation and technology transfer more broadly.

We must shift our conceptions of science and technology from

- prioritizing western conceptions of expertise and knowledge to **incorporating wider bases of knowledge including, for instance, Indigenous wisdom and practices**;
- succumbing to market forces to **prioritizing the collective well-being and flourishing of all peoples**;
- prioritizing profit to **recognizing the complementarity of morality, ethics, and spiritual principles in innovation** that can ensure the development and use of science and technology for the well-being of all;
- assuming that the transfer of knowledge and innovation is unidirectional—from developer to consumer—to **recognizing that all of humanity has a role to play in the generation and**

application of scientific knowledge as well as a right to benefit from its fruits,
necessitating a duty to share access to knowledge and outputs;

- prioritizing competitive approaches around knowledge acquisition and sharing to **centering wisdom, collaboration, transparency, justice, and a search for truth;**
- viewing people as products, customers, and consumers to **seeing people as rights holders—safeguarding their dignity and privacy—as well as active agents in innovation.**

In light of the above, we propose the following:

- Strengthen and diversify the STI Forum;
- Establish a UN Department of Digital Governance;
- Empower individuals by democratizing the Internet;
- Protect human rights and privacy online with universal standards, a moral code of ethics;
- Close the scientific and digital divides within and between countries.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Current approaches to development are compromising the trajectory of humanity’s collective well-being. Children, youth, and future generations, in particular, will have to respond to the impact of today’s decisions. A new set of normative bases can help to resolve this seeming tension of whether to prioritize the urgent or the future, and the way we view youth and future generations. Far from passive absorbers of influence, youth have proven themselves discerning protagonists of advancement. When conditions are created for their progress, they have justified the confidence shown in them.

We must shift our conceptions around youth engagement on the international stage from

- Welcoming youth participation solely on “youth issues” to **prioritizing intergenerational collaboration in all areas, including providing the necessary support, resourcing, and accompaniment;**
- tokenizing youth representation and participation to **exploring how qualities and characteristics typically associated with the period of youth are critical to social transformation** (eg. curiosity, sense of justice, detachment from institutions);
- conflating youth and future generations to **recognizing youth as essential contributors of knowledge and action, both in the present and future.**

We must reframe the way we think about the future, shifting from perspectives

- focusing on instant gains and symptomatic ailments to **addressing deeper root causes, leading to enduring transformation;**
- rewarding narrow short-term political, national, and identity interests to **recognizing that the interests and well-being of present and future generations must be considered together;**
- viewing humanity’s movement as a series of setbacks (breeding pessimism and passivity) to **viewing humanity’s movement within a broader arc of history toward greater degrees of interdependence** (instilling a realistic hope);

- remaining at the level of rhetoric to **translating agreements into action, identifying appropriate and enforceable means of implementation.**

In light of the above, we propose the following:

- Include at least one civil society and one youth representative on national delegations for SOTF preparations;
- Allow at least one civil society and one youth representative to speak immediately following government interventions at all Pact for the Future and individual track intergovernmental negotiations;
- Empower youth and teachers to deliver intergenerational transformative education programs to local communities to generate universal solidarity and protect/regenerate the biosphere;
- Strengthen civil society and youth co-leadership across all efforts based on the [Young Feminist Manifesto](#);
- Appoint an envoy for Future Generations or similar institution.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

As challenges become more global, complex, and consequential, the state-centric system established in 1945 increasingly struggles to meet the exigencies of the current moment. The gap between the needs of humanity and the capacity of intergovernmental collaboration and institutions to fulfill them grows wider. It is evident that a transformation toward more inclusive, legitimate, transparent, and accountable global governance is needed based on a new set of normative assumptions. Though more coordinated and genuinely cooperative forms of international relations have previously been viewed as idealistic, movement toward that end is now a pragmatic necessity.

We must shift from conceptions of global governance from

- over-focusing on technical adjustments and prioritizing short term fixes to **exploring deeper assumptions underlying institutional and policy reform**, which employ longer term approaches and evidence-based problem solving;
- enabling political expediency to **centering integrity and trustworthiness on the part of nation-states and their leaders**;
- prioritizing narrow national interests to **viewing the whole of humanity as a meaningful constituency**;
- rewarding disproportionate amounts of power to **prioritizing inclusiveness, accessibility, and diversity of representation beyond solely governments**;
- remaining at the level of rhetoric or mere agreements on a page to **building actionable political will so that agreements translate into the lived realities of people around the world** - overcoming the need for consensus at all cost which results in lowest common denominator decisions;
- tending to work in silos and fragmenting complex issues to **responding appropriately to the cross-cutting nature and complexity of today's challenges**;

- remaining attached to current arrangements to **prioritizing results-oriented reform characterized by experimentation, evidence, and creativity**;
- employing *ad hoc* participation of non-State actors (citizens, elected representatives, and civil society) to **embracing a diversity of inputs at the centers of deliberation and decision-making**;
- prioritizing inconsistent and selective application of the rule of law to **proactively committing to the effectiveness, legitimacy, and credibility of international judicial institutions**.

In light of the above, we propose the following:

- Establish a Global Resilience Council;
- Add the crime of Ecocide to the ICC Rome Statute;
- Set-up an Earth Governance Regulatory Body;
- Increase the Secretary-General's independence and require enhanced qualifications;
- Create a UN Parliamentary Assembly;
- Facilitate the instrument of a UN World Citizens' Initiative;
- Create a high-level UN Civil Society Envoy;
- Initiate an Article 109 UN Charter Review Conference;
- Empower and augment appropriate international judicial institutions.