



Pact for the Future 2024

Written Inputs for the Preparation of the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future

*These written inputs are submitted on behalf of the full membership of the **Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding** (CSPPS). CSPPS is the global network of civil society organizations supporting peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts in fragile and conflict affected settings [see for more info: [Home | CSPPS](#)]. CSPPS coordinates civil society participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS). CSPPS is active in the SDG 16 domain and advocates for greater commitment and support for accelerated action to bring about more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.*

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)

Website: <https://cspps.org>

CSPPS focal point: Peter van Sluijs, Coordinator, info@cspps.org

Chapeau (and general narrative)

This year marked the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Halfway through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the world finds itself at a critical juncture. With years of development progress erased after the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic shocks such as a return to geopolitical competition, increased polarization and mistrust, a surge in conflicts globally, rising food insecurity, the climate emergency, and many others, it is probable that the state of polycrisis will continue to characterize global affairs in the coming years. Conflict affected countries have disproportionately felt the brunt of these crises. At the same time prioritized attention for conflict prevention and peacebuilding should not be restricted to conflict-affected settings only but is to be directed as a universal and shared responsibility.

Only 15% of Sustainable Development Goals are on track, with none of the targets for SDG 16 on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies close to achievement in countries affected by manifestations of conflict and fragility. At the SDG Summit in September 2023, we called upon member states to announce bold and ambitious commitments that can accelerate greater action on the 2030 Agenda. We believe that without a strong and steadfast focus on the SDG16+ targets for peace, justice and inclusion, none of the Sustainable Development Goals will be delivered in full. As we now transition into 2024 and towards the Summit of the Future we share following inputs and recommendations in support for the Pact for the Future.

The Pact for the Future provides an important opportunity to build consensus and trust on key global priorities. Priorities that should be directed at securing the political will to effectively address the state of polycrisis and reconstitute a responsive and responsible multilateral system that looks to bring about decisive and impactful governance support that can help to bring about a better future for people everywhere.

Echoing the UN Secretary General's call for a surge in commitment, solidarity and transformative action to achieve the 2030 Agenda, we stress the imperative to prioritize pursuing peace and stability as fundamental enablers of all development efforts and as ends in themselves. In this regard, the New

Agenda for Peace policy brief articulates an important vision for multilateral engagement to support prevention and peace in an age of polycrisis, including through accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to address the underlying drivers of violence and insecurity. Building on our earlier inputs to the New Agenda for Peace, CSPPS stresses the relevance of 4 key thematic areas to accelerate progress on SDG16 and the broader 2030 Agenda. We believe that these areas are pivotal to be brought on board in the Pact for the Future.

1 - While the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs rest on national commitments and leadership, a return to course is only possible through joint, collective, multilateral action as well as mutual accountability. In this regard, open and inclusive political dialogue is essential for reconstituting solidarity, trust, and cooperation vital for a renewed multilateralism that is inclusive and representative of countries that are left behind. Without renewed commitments to a new multilateralism and solidarity, efforts to create a more peaceful world will fall short.

2 - SDG16 is built on the recognition that peace and development are interlinked; that the lack of peace and stability erode development efforts and the failure of institutions to deliver sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development outcomes is a significant driver of conflict. Addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility, preventing conflict, and peacebuilding rest in supporting nationally owned and nationally led peace and development pathways. We hope that the Pact for the Future will give ample attention and recognition to the need to prioritize peacebuilding and peacemaking grounded in national dialogue and reconciliation. At the same time this prioritization needs to be accompanied by enhanced international solidarity for interlocking crisis. The world needs to come together for integrated and collaborative responses.

3 - Global civic space conditions which enable and support the participation of civil society in decision making are under serious constraints. Whereas inclusive and people-centered approaches that are grounded in human security are essential to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness and responsiveness of prevention and peacebuilding efforts. It is vital to recognize the indispensable role of civil society and take steps to protect and nurture civic spaces. Critical to this inclusion is ensuring that specific focus is placed on tackling the gendered dynamics that fuel conflict and exacerbate both gender inequality and violence. Equally critical is supporting the meaningful, inclusive and sustained participation of women, young women and young men, recognizing their valuable expertise, skills and solutions that deserve due space and consideration in peace and security related decision-making. We need to counter the perception of exclusion. It is hoped that the Pact for the Future will support and call for more robust participation of civil society.

4 - Reversing the trends of deficient aid to conflict-affected countries, the underachievement in addressing fragility, and underinvestment in peacebuilding and prevention is imperative to realize the 2030 Agenda. Transforming the funding and financing mechanisms for prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding is urgently needed. The focus needs to shift to the provision of predictable and adequate financing. The principles as enshrined in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States provide an essential framework to support the transition of countries from conflict and fragility and build peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

The Pact for the Future as currently being drafted ahead of the Summit of the Future should present an actionable agenda that brings on board and addresses the above-mentioned reflections on key thematic areas. For individual chapters, brief recommendations are inserted below. It is hoped that the Pact for the Future unites the international community in rebuilding trust at all levels and support a functioning multilateral system able to address the world's challenges while at the same time supporting efforts towards a more peaceful world.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

A lack of financing and investments has thus far had devastating impacts on a government's ability to deliver people-centered results across the entire 2030 Agenda. Decades of investing in institutional reforms has left critical gaps in governance processes that render governments unable to respond to the challenges of their people today and weakening their resilience to future global crises. Any further investments and financing towards the 2030 Agenda overall must be complemented by comprehensive reforms to a global financial infrastructure that has exposed deepening cracks in recent years.

- Clear “National Commitments to SDG Transformation” to act on SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda, governments must also come up with financial commitments – including commitments to domestic resource mobilization and budgetary commitments to deliver on the SDGs. For donors, this also includes financial commitments towards SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda, which can also play a key role in helping donors meet their commitments to 0.7% of GDP for official development assistance;
- Echo and come forward with support for the Secretary-General’s call for an ambitious “SDGs Stimulus Plan”, which calls for an additional \$500 billion per year towards sustainable development financing;
- Scale up financial commitments, member states and the international community must reform the global financial architecture and development system. This includes comprehensive reforms to International Financial Institutions to ensure a fairer system that addresses the debt crisis faced by many countries today, fairer taxation and tackling illicit financial flows;
- Expanding measurement of economic progress to a “Beyond GDP” model. By looking beyond GDP and considering a broader range of indicators, such as measures of social inclusion, social well-being, access to justice, or other, we can more accurately progress towards the SDGs and make informed decisions about how to allocate resources and address areas where progress is lacking;
- Ensure that increased core, flexible funds are provided to grassroots organizations close to communities;
- Reiteration of the establishment of a Global Tax Body facilitated by the United Nations, to help reduce tax evasion and illicit financial flows, and help ensure fairness and transparency of the global tax system.

Chapter II. International peace and security

- Collaborative and active partnerships across nations and stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector, youth, women, etc.
- A global shift to prioritize resources towards conflict prevention, peacekeeping and improving people’s lives instead towards military expenditures;
- View peace as the mere absence of war to ones that explore prerequisites for positive peace (e.g. fostering unity and cohesion, combating prejudice, removing extremes of wealth and poverty, advancing gender equality);

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

- Ensure diverse and inclusive cooperation across stakeholders in which expertise and knowledge moves beyond western conceptions of expertise and knowledge and includes, community-based and indigenous practices, for instance;
- Recognize 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;
- Prevent mis- and dis-information and center knowledge acquisition around wisdom and collaboration in which transparency, justice, and a search for truth is prioritized.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

- Include youth in participatory decision-making processes in which intergenerational collaboration is prioritized;
- Ensure a space for youth representation and participation in multistakeholder dialogues, enabling encouragement and active participation;
- Including youth as key actors and contributors to social transformation and social change, both in the present and for the future.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

- Prioritize inclusiveness, accessibility, and diversity of representation in the conception of global governance;
- Enable political expediency to ones that center integrity and trustworthiness on the part of nation-states and their leaders;
- Put forward reform characterized by experimentation, search, innovation, and creativity.

For more information on this submission please contact:

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) via info@cspps.org