



## European Minority Parliamentarians Caucus

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### **Chapeau**

The Summit of the Future 2024 marks a pivotal moment for global cooperation, offering a unique opportunity to address critical challenges and bridge gaps in global governance. This event, recognised as a once-in-a-generation occasion, aims to reaffirm existing commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Charter while charting a path towards a reinvigorated multilateral system capable of positively transforming people's lives globally. With growing members across Europe, the United States, and Africa, the European Minority Parliamentarians Caucus (EMPC) emerges as a significant contributor, bringing diverse perspectives from minority communities across these continents to the table. The unique insights and experiences of the EMPC members can shape the Summit's discussions and outcomes, as they offer fresh ideas and innovative approaches for more effective global cooperation. By actively involving the EMPC, Member States can lay the groundwork for a truly inclusive and equitable future capable of addressing current challenges and emerging threats that may jeopardise our progress.

### **Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development**

Over the centuries, many countries in the Global South have endured exploitation, colonisation, and economic extraction by the Global North. These historical injustices have contributed to the current disparities in wealth, development, and access to resources. To address this systemic inequality and injustices, financial and non-financial compensation and redress should be provided to the individuals and communities harmed or disadvantaged by these past actions, policies, or practices. This compensation in the form of reparations acknowledges and addresses these historical injustices. The EMPC suggests various reparations regarding financial compensation, land or resources restitution, education and skill development, infrastructure development, and truth and reconciliation processes.

Moreover, acknowledging and validating the emotional and psychological harm caused by historical injustices are essential components of truth and reconciliation processes. Recognising and addressing mental trauma is crucial for ensuring comprehensive reparations that go beyond material compensation and seek to heal the emotional wounds of those affected. By considering the mental well-being of the affected individuals and communities, reparations programs aim to promote healing, reconciliation, and a path toward recovery and empowerment.

The EMPC advocates for inclusive and sustainable policies that prioritise marginalised communities' needs, highlighting the unique challenges faced by minority communities in the Global South, who often face food insecurity due to systemic inequalities and lack of resources. The EMPC emphasises the need for comprehensive, multi-dimensional strategies to address the root causes of food insecurity in the Global South by linking food security to poverty, migration, and conflict. The Summit should recommend more agricultural infrastructure, technology, and research to improve food production and distribution in these regions.

The EMPC emphasises empowering local farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices that prioritise biodiversity, climate resilience, and environmental health. We strongly advocate for land rights, fair trade, and agrochemical reduction policies to protect farmers and communities from cheap imports undermining local industry and livelihoods.

## **Chapter II. International peace and security**

The notion of bringing policing administration and oversight under civilian jurisdiction has been successfully carried out in the form of community policing in England. Community policing in England was first implemented in the 1970s as a response to rising crime rates and a desire to improve police-community relations. The concept gained momentum in the 1980s and 1990s with the introduction of various initiatives and programs aimed at fostering collaboration and partnership between the police and local communities. These initiatives included the establishment of neighbourhood policing teams, community consultation forums, and community beat officers. Since then, community policing has continued to evolve and is now an integral part of the policing strategy in England. Community policing emphasises the collaboration and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and local communities to address crime and maintain public safety. It aims to build trust, foster positive relationships, and involve community members in shaping and implementing crime prevention strategies. By emulating this approach, nations can work towards proactively engaging affected communities, thereby building the community's trust towards law enforcement, and addressing the root causes.

In this context, the EMPC recommends that the United Nations enact a commission with the mandate to intervene in war-torn zones. This commission must be led by experts from the affected country. A peace and security-keeping commission supported by the United Nations and led by the affected state can empower local actors to take charge of their peacebuilding processes while benefiting from international support, expertise, and resources. This combination can significantly increase the chances of achieving sustainable peace and security by providing a platform for dialogue and understanding among different factions and communities, ultimately working towards resolving deep-rooted grievances and avoiding re-traumatisation. The involvement of the United Nations provides international legitimacy to the commission's efforts, potentially facilitating diplomatic negotiations and mediations.

## **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

The digital, scientific, and technological divide between the Global North and South was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic when the Global South experienced a "vaccine apartheid"<sup>1</sup> during the period when the Global North was reluctant to share their medical and technological supplies with the Global South.

EMPC recognises the complexities of identity and advocates for an intersectional approach towards the acknowledgement of the diverse experiences and challenges faced by marginalised communities, especially those of African descent, based on factors such as gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, and migration status. Understanding these intersections allows for more targeted and inclusive strategies when considering digital literacy and access to science, technology, and innovation, enabling people of African descent to participate actively in shaping a more inclusive future. The Summit should leverage technology

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<sup>1</sup> [Vaccine apartheid: The Global South fights back | Coronavirus pandemic | Al Jazeera](#) ...Many countries are now rightly distrustful that the rules of the global economy will not allow them to deal fairly with the serious questions we face, from climate change to the threat to our human rights posed by the ever-powerful Big Tech lobby.

and media platforms to amplify marginalised perspectives and stories. The youths' skills in utilising social media, online platforms, and digital activism to raise awareness, challenge biases, and engage with a global audience should be harnessed during the Summit of the Future to counter prevailing narratives and stereotypes by advocating for greater understanding and inclusion. The EMPC highlights the importance of technology transfer and cooperation between the Global North and South, recommending the establishment of partnerships and platforms that facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills, and technology from developed to less developed regions.

## **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

According to world population statistics, Africa has the youngest population in the world, with 40 percent below 15 years and less than four percent above 65<sup>2</sup>. Nevertheless, their youth are excluded from most of the platforms, and discussions about their future and the lack of tertiary education are used as "an instrument of systemic discrimination", as indicated by the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. Providing access to tertiary education is a potential vehicle for change that requires frequent re-examination and recalibration, especially for children of African descent who are multilingual and multiliterate.

In the spirit of the United Nations of leaving no one behind, it is therefore imperative to equip the youth and future generations in marginalised communities with a viable form of tertiary education that includes their lived experiences. Similarly, the EMPC urges the Summit of the Future to facilitate discussions and workshops that foster understanding, respect, and appreciation between different age groups and ethnicities, encouraging intergenerational partnerships and initiatives, in order to challenge stereotypes and build age-inclusive communities.

The Summit of the Future would be closing infrastructure and intergenerational gaps, such as technological illiteracy of the older generation, unreliable electricity supply, limited internet connectivity, and inadequate transportation networks, that pose obstacles to the adoption and effective utilisation of innovative industrial technologies by providing access to sufficient funding and investment. This will create sustainable technological ecosystems that foster innovation and technological advancements, supporting intergenerational collaboration and alliances between academia, industry, and governments, inhibiting the brain drain caused when talented professionals, including those well-versed in technology, seek opportunities abroad.

## **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

The EMPC urges the United Nations to use the Futures Summit to champion a call for a diverse group of marginalised youth, scholars, researchers, and policymakers to effectively engage and contribute to future forecasts, developing solid knowledge and solutions that enable them to shape the discourse on global governance. The Summit should actively seek and advocate for the representation of marginalised communities in key global governance institutions such as the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and other international bodies and push for greater participation in decision-making processes, including appointing Global South leaders to leadership roles in these institutions.

Most Global South countries have complex and restrictive regulations and policies that impede the adoption and diffusion of new technologies. These burdensome bureaucracy, corruption, and inadequate intellectual property protection often deter investments and hinder technological advancements. The EMPC recommends loosening such barriers for local innovation while setting better intellectual property protection.

In discussions regarding international governance, the Futures Summit need to emphasise the distinctive obstacles that countries in the Global South encounter, including inadequate technical knowledge, deficient governance, and their unequal bargaining leverage to decentralise the current imperialistic power balance.

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<sup>2</sup> [World population by age and region 2022 | Statista](#)