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## Chapeau

In the line what was agreed in the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, the Chapeau should set the basis for the Pact for the Future by underlining the commitment to the **core principles of the UN Charter**, stressing the linkages to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and the **Agenda2030** and reaffirming the interlinkages of the **three pillars of United Nations** – development, peace and security, and human rights. Furthermore, the Chapeau should acknowledge the need for gender transformative, **intersectional approach** in the Pact, that recognizes and addresses underlying structural causes of inequality, such as norms and power relations. Chapeau should encourage in adopting inclusive approaches across all Chapters and themes.

Moreover, the Chapeau should clarify the interlinkages between the Pact and the **Paris agreement** and efforts in resolving the **climate crisis** that jeopardizes the realization of human rights and the sustainable development goals and hence, is the core challenge to consider in all future-related considerations. Finally, the Chapeau should support the path for **locally led responses** and strengthening **local agency** across all Chapters as well as acknowledge the necessity of the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus** that would foster greater coherence among different actors working in fragile contexts and allow finding appropriate ways to address local needs of local communities and respect human rights of vulnerable people in a more flexible way.

## Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

The Political Declaration adopted at the 2023 SDG Summit included much needed recommitment to SDGs and offered means to accelerate the implementation of the goals. The Pact of the Future should emphasize and elaborate the **connections between the SDGs and the Addis Abeba Action Agenda and the Pact itself** and **present concrete measures** on the materialization of the Political Declaration.

There is a great risk that the Sustainable Development Goals are not achieved by 2030, and **the delay will produce new, more difficult development challenges**. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated poverty, which is interlinked with the rising levels of hunger. Through its work, Felm has witnessed the consequences of different shocks; only during the past year, Felm has supported

its partners with 14 additional food security projects. The food security is directly linked and impacted by climate crisis which challenges and jeopardizes the living conditions particularly of the most marginalized groups. Often women and girls are in the most vulnerable position. Felm encourages to put special attention in finding concrete means to support **poverty eradication and food security**, particularly of the most marginalized groups, and invest in tackling the **inequalities** within societies that hinder the possibilities to achieve all development goals.

The negative development trends may accelerate low-intensity conflicts at the local level. Felm has observed that in some developing countries, radicalization is growing, causing worrying scenarios. In Africa, democratic development seems to be in decline as military coups and authoritarian regimes take control. Local civil society organizations report of signs of shrinking civic space. It is vital to draw careful attention to the linkages between **development and security and peace** and the realization of the sustainable development goal 16.

There is an enormous annual funding gap for reaching the SDGs by 2030. The developing countries are suffering from unfair debt policies and the flows of official development assistance (ODA) are below the commitment of 0,7% of gross national income (GNI). The recommitment to SDGs during the 2023 SDG summit was a first step, but it is essential that the Pact for the Future establishes **concrete measures to fill the funding gap for SDGs** and offers the necessary support for the countries that face the biggest challenges in meeting the goals. These measures should include among others increased **collaboration between different financial institutions, increased support from private sector and private investments, enhancement of good governance, acceleration of domestic resource mobilisation** and a strong encouragement to **donor countries** to create plans to **meet the annual 0,7% GNI target**.

## Chapter II. International peace and security

Felm supports the people-centred approach in peacebuilding highlighted in the *New Agenda for Peace*. In relation to people-centred approach **we would like to call an increasing attention to the role of local peacebuilders** – be they local CSOs, communities, youth groups, women's groups, faith-based actors or other local change agents – **as key actors in the global peacebuilding ecosystem**. They understand best the attitudes and behaviours in the communities as this is where peace and development issues such as violent conflicts and tensions, poverty, social, political, and economic inequalities, have the most direct impact. *New Agenda for Peace* calls for focusing on conflict prevention and sustaining peace in peacebuilding efforts. **However, the sustainable and peaceful transformation in conflict contexts requires locally led solutions, design, and implementation**. This creates enabling environment for transformation and enhances the sustainability of peacebuilding. Also, here the focus should not be solely on the role of national governments but with variety of local actors, networks and stakeholders capable of contributing to peaceful transformation in their own communities and societies, often from bottom up. These actors also know how and when to include local women, youth or people with disabilities in processes. **Supporting and strengthening opportunities and conducive space of these local change agents to build peace should be high in the future global peacebuilding agenda**. The civil society actors should also have a place at the negotiations tables and genuine opportunities to express

their views and take part in the political processes. The role of civil society and local actors needs to be clearly drafted into the operational recommendations of the final document of the summit.

Felm welcomes action 5 on transforming gender power dynamics in peace and security. We want to also emphasise that women's economic and political empowerment, education, better legal protection, sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as respect for their human rights lay a foundation for stability, security, sustainable development and peace.

Globally, there is much discussion and a **growing acceptance** by civil society organisations and philanthropy but also by several institutional donors on **the need to decolonize aid and international cooperation, including peacebuilding**. The UN's sustaining peace agenda has recognized the limitations and problems with the liberal peacebuilding agenda and the linear and pre-determined peace- and state-building interventions. **However, these ideas are not well reflected in the *New Agenda for Peace*** (except for a reference to, rightfully, increase funding to the national action for peace that is longer-term and more flexible). **It would be important that the Summit of the Future would include the conversations on decolonization, on unequal power structures imbedded in the international aid and peacebuilding sectors, in its agenda.** System level change is needed - changes in the structures, policies, practices, norms, beliefs, and attitudes of international aid and peacebuilding frameworks as well as the emergence of enabling environment and space for genuinely locally led peacebuilding. **It is evident that the current system and the ways of working are not able to tackle the interconnected and complex global challenges.** It is also evident that new forms of international cooperation, new ways of working together, new actors emerging, and new ways of forming alliances will be needed to tackle the challenges ahead. At the same time, the universal principles of human rights and international law are still valid and necessary for a functioning global system. The future summit should build on that consensus and spirit which was reached in 2000 while debating the values of the current international architecture: the UN Member States expressed their shared values and global objectives regarding peace, development and human rights already in the Millennium Declaration.

In relation to people centred approach emphasized in the *New Agenda for Peace*, Felm stresses **the need to integrate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to all peacebuilding efforts.** Addressing this interconnectedness should be seen as integral and critical element in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. People who have suffered losses, attacks, family separations and gender-based violence carry grievances and wounds that can perpetuate repetition and cycles of violence, unaddressed traumas and chronic violence can become conflict drivers. Psychosocial wellbeing, often undermined in conflict settings, is an important factor contributing to the capacity of people, communities, and societies to build peace and create change. **The need to integrate MHPSS in peacebuilding has not been reflected in the *New Agenda for the Peace* but as it is key in the people centred approach and it directly contributes to prevention and sustaining peace, it should be more rigorously addressed in the global peacebuilding agenda.**

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

We welcome the open, free, secure and human-centred digital future anchored in human rights and enabling the implementation of the SDGs, but at the same time, remind of the **major challenges** that still exist in the way of realization of this ultimate future goal. Through its work, Felm has witnessed the **unequal digital gaps** between different regions, between rural and urban areas, within different groups of people such as men and women and persons with disabilities. Furthermore, online harassment, dis- and mis-information and other **forms of “the dark side of the digital ecosystem”** as presented in the *Policy Brief 8 on Information Integrity* pose a serious global threat, that can have various of negative consequences, some of which have already realized in many parts of the world. Hence it is necessary that the **information integrity** is **prioritized** when taking the **vital steps in strengthening global digital cooperation and bridging digital divides**.

### Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Many of the unresolved, far-reaching, and interlinked development challenges such as the climate crisis are fundamentally intergenerational issues, as their consequences will be felt most profoundly by future generations, including today's children and youth. Child rights and participation of children and youth are in the core of Felm's work and we applaud the plan to dedicate chapter IV to youth and future generations and annex a Declaration on Future Generations to the Pact. However, we strongly encourage in ensuring and actively supporting the **participation of youth in the process of forming the Pact**, not just the designated Chapter IV. The *Policy Brief on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policymaking and Decision-making Processes* includes great initiatives, collected through participatory means, to ensure youth engagement in all UN decision-making processes. Special emphasis should be made in ensuring that **the voices of the most vulnerable youth** such as persons with disabilities are heard and concrete measures are taken to **enable their participation in different processes**.

### Chapter V. Transforming global governance

The Chapter V will cover issues with great significance from the reformation of Security Council, General Assembly and ECOSOC to strengthening of the Peacebuilding Commission, deepening collaboration between UN and regional organizations, development of measures to complement progress beyond GDP and the reformation of the international financial architecture. Moreover, it is planned to cover issues of fair, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, improvement of the capabilities to address global shocks and issues of sustainable use of Outer Space. **The extensive list of topics under the Chapter V may hinder the possibilities to find concrete and action-oriented solutions to fix the multidimensional and politically contested problems that undoubtedly need to be addressed with careful consideration.** Moreover, the sustainable development issues including the development funding issue covered in Chapter I should be considered simultaneously when taking steps in reformatting the international financial architecture or introducing efforts in moving beyond GDP as these topics are interlinked.

Furthermore, it is vital, when reassessing the financial architecture and models of international aid, to **address the old unequal power structures** and **develop more equal partnerships**. The reformation of the financial architecture should include **the creation of funding tools and mechanisms that address the multidimensional challenges that countries are facing**.

Finally, it is necessary to take steps to **enforce systematic change to the terms of loans**, particularly of the least developed countries, and **improvement of international debt mechanisms**. These acts alone would have the potential of providing increased economic sustainability and national capacity to fund development measures.