



Partnership for Future Generations in Africa

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Chapeau

As we head towards negotiating the Pact for the Future, we, on behalf of ourselves and coming generations, would like the Pact to herald a new era in global governance where prosperity and poverty are not contingent upon where one lives. As you all know, Africa has been wronged in various ways while the Global North immensely benefited from its own wrongs for centuries. The Pact for the Future provides an opportunity to course correct by putting the well-being of the people in the Global South at the heart of global policy agenda. This is the only way the Pact can have a meaningful impact in future majority countries. Otherwise, the Summit of the Future would have been a wasted opportunity by giving future generations a Pact for Despondency.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Twice in our lifetime, the UN has come up with both the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. However, these noble goals did not materialize into concrete progress, especially in Africa. We therefore call for a region by region approach to development, with targeted goals peculiar to the contexts and challenges of each region of the globe. As such, we recommend the UN partner and work in collaboration with the African Union to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063. Also, since the African Free Continental Trade Area provides an opportunity to increase intra-African trade, to boost local production and to eradicate poverty on the continent, we recommend that any global sustainable development and financing mechanism align with these core development agendas on the continent. It is our belief that Africa has a development deficit, and galvanizing action to fix this would be a win for all future holders. Africa does not need aid, we need working institutional and regulatory frameworks, in addition to sincere partnership, for an harmonious, human and nature-centric development to take place on the continent, resulting in sustainable ripple effect across the globe. Sustainable development and financing for development, this time, must create beneficial path-dependencies for the current and future generations, animals and other species, and the environment.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Since the present configuration of the international order is premised on the idea of collective security, majorly European security either political or economic, throwing our world into rival sub-groups undermining the missions of the UN, it is high time our international governance system shifted from collective security to the idea of collective peace. Collective peace entails global fight against inequalities and exploitation, acting on de-escalating global warming, and entrenching wellbeing economics. Since the root cause of unrest across the globe stems from our failure to manage diversity and make room for shared prosperity, only way by remodeling the UN system to suit the growing needs of the Global South. Needless to point out that , the instrumentalization of the UN by the West and its allies have discredited the institution in the eyes of low and middle income countries. The existence of NATO as a military arm of the developed countries remains a significant threat to international peace and security in the future. Was it not by a UN resolution that a coalition of NATO countries mobilized enormous resources in a nick of time to topple one man and set the whole of Sub Saharan Africa ablaze in 2011?

For the UN to be a long-term fit institution, there is a need to put such required mechanisms in place in order not to use the institution as a weapon of personal or regional vendetta. To achieve this, we believe the future does not need a UN where some members arrogate to themselves the status of permanent membership to the detriment of the majority (non-permanent members). That dichotomy is obsolete, colonial, and non-futuristic, and failed to promote international peace and security. Also, we call for an international order where indigenous values systems are not negotiated and negotiable in monetary terms. We therefore look forward to an international order that promotes the overall wellbeing and security of human beings, enshrined in respect for diversity.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The future is science, technology, innovation and digital. As a result, we believe first in the vulgarization of access to high speed, affordable and reliable internet connectivity in low and middle income countries as a precondition of digital cooperation. We therefore call for putting ICT and the development of AI at the heart of socio-economic development in Africa, putting in place regulatory frameworks to stave off digital colonization and the equitable distribution of the profits and dividends of the digital economy. By digital cooperation we mean partnership not digital aid. We want a future where technology and innovation are used to reduce social inequalities and not to widen the gap between the poor and the rich. We want a future where advanced AI serves as a tool for the flourishing of humanity in sync with nature. As such, we call for the Pact to embrace the idea of the Windfall Clause in order to guarantee the equitable distribution of benefits from advanced AI.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Given the fact that youth and future generations have more at stake than our current decisions and policy makers, we call for an increased dialogue between the older and younger generation to close the existing loophole in our decision making processes with regards to the long-term. As a result, we recommend the establishment of Youth and Future Generations Councils in all UN member states to speak and act for themselves and the coming generations. While we recognize

the tokenistic existence of various youth councils or institutions housed in governments across the globe, we call for, this time, the actual existence of Youth and Future Generations Councils to work in collaboration of the UN Special Envoy for Future Generations to promote long-term policies in the best interests of youth and future generations at both national, regional and international level. Since countries in low and middle income countries are host to future people by the year 2100, we call for targeted policy interventions in future majority countries in order to safeguard their stake in the future. This involves robust investment in education, foresight and future studies, health and care societies, youth leadership and long-term governance.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Transforming global governance entails addressing the followings: entrenched spheres of influence, minting debts for private gains, widening gap between the rich and the poor, overexploitation of nature, global warming, growing distrust between UN agencies and national governments, institutional calcification, intragenerational injustice and intergenerational buck-passing, and risks from emerging technologies. A revamped global governance system requires the dissolution of the UN Security Council while repurposing the UN General Assembly into a world parliament would best serve the interest of collective peace and collective prosperity. A transformed global governance should take into account respect and promotion of international cultural diversity, and the preservation of indigenous values. As such, we recommend the Pact to be an inclusive and diverse looking instrument, expunged of Eurocentrism or any other form of domination and discrimination. Also, we consider the creation of a special international political zone to host the headquarters of major international institutions as a vital feature of the new international order and the territorial independence of the UN, thus devolving international sovereignty to the UN for the benefits of all. Also, since financing the UN is crucial for a revamped multilateralism, we call for the institution of an international tax system deductible from use of international airspace and high seas by carriers and vessels.