

Summit of the Future Plenary

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia

New York, 23 September 2024

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

- We have gathered here today driven by a common purpose: concern for the present and a commitment to shaping a better future.
- This Summit is crucial because the choices we make now will define the world for future generations.
- I thank Germany and Namibia, alongside Sweden, Zambia, Jamaica and the Netherlands, for their leadership in guiding this essential global dialogue.
- Today, the world faces an alarming surge in conflicts.
- The cooperative spirit that has long underpinned international relations, embodied by the United Nations, is under severe strain.
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and other global hostilities are existential threats to global peace, security, and humanity.
- These challenges do not affect just one region; they endanger us all.

- In these turbulent times, restoring trust and solidarity among nations is not merely desirable—it is imperative.
- Croatia understands this deeply.
- Thirty years ago, much like Ukraine today, we were a nation ravaged by war, defending our sovereignty against a far more powerful aggressor.
- Today, Croatia stands as a proud member of both NATO and the European Union.
- Our painful history has shaped Croatia's resilience and provided us with a unique understanding of the challenges that come with conflict.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Despite the myriad challenges we face, we must prioritize sustainable development as a foundation for global peace and security.
- Sustainable development is not just an aspiration; it is essential for stability.
- To achieve this, we must foster global solidarity and urgently reform the international financial architecture to support these goals.
- Croatia firmly believes that effective multilateralism—rooted in respect for international law, the UN Charter, and genuine partnerships—is the way forward.

- Only through a unified approach, combining security, development, and human rights, can we ensure prosperity for all.
- Croatia's experience as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2023, and our efforts in peacebuilding, are now integral to the global peace framework.
- This is our legacy.
- We are also committed to the efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- I am proud to say that Croatia currently ranks 8th out of 193 countries in SDG implementation.
- This achievement reflects our commitment to sustainable growth and positions Croatia as a model for how even smaller nations can lead by example.
- We continue to advance three key processes: digital transformation, demographic renewal, and decarbonization.
- These priorities, embedded in our national policies, drive our growth while ensuring sustainability.
- Croatia's forward-looking vision balances economic progress with social responsibility.
- Looking ahead, I see three critical areas that require our collective attention:

- First, conflict prevention is more urgent than ever.
- Our experience in Croatia reminds us of the importance of early action and diplomacy to avoid unnecessary suffering.
- Second, we must not waver in our commitment to sustainable development.
- Climate action, protecting biodiversity, and reversing environmental degradation are essential for our survival.
- Third, we must strive for a more equitable and inclusive global governance system.
- International institutions must evolve to be more representative, promoting human rights and social development that reflect the diversity of the world's nations.
- The outcome of this Summit provides us with a clear roadmap.
- Now, it is up to us to turn these plans into reality.
- The time to act is now.
- Croatia stands ready to contribute to our joint effort of a more just, peaceful, and sustainable global order.

I thank you.