

Summit of the Future UNGA 79th Session

Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Delivered on 23 September 2024

By H.E. Mr. Luc Mercelina, Prime Minister of Sint Maarten

UN General Assembly Hall

Secretary-General, Your Excellencies, esteemed colleagues,
distinguished guests,

I'm honoured to be here today as the Prime Minister of St Maarten, representing the entire Kingdom of the Netherlands in all its diversity. I thank UN Secretary-General António Guterres for initiating this Summit and spearheading efforts to forge a new international consensus on how we can deliver on a better present and safeguard the future.

I would also like to thank President Nangolo Mbumba of the Republic of Namibia and Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the Federal Republic of Germany for the extraordinary leadership that their countries have shown in bringing to life an ambitious Pact for the Future.

My special thanks go to Prime Minister Holness of Jamaica. Together we're presenting the historic Declaration on Future

Generations. This will help us make better decisions that take into account the interests and needs of future generations.

The Summit of the Future presents a crucial opportunity to get things right for both present and future generations. At a time of profound global change we need to recommit to multilateral collaboration in tackling the world's most pressing issues, such as climate change, gender inequality and poverty. And collectively maintain a laser-sharp focus on the long-term challenges that demand urgent action.

This Summit is a chance to commit to strengthening the multilateral system based on the international rule of law, while also pursuing necessary reforms to ensure it is fit for purpose, effective, responsive, inclusive and able to withstand future challenges.

We should not forget what constitutes the fundamental principles of the UN architecture and its pillars of peace and security; development; human rights; and the rule of law.

The Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the solid foundations on which our multilateral system of rights and obligations is

built. Member states all stand to benefit from a shared commitment to uphold and respect these agreements.

The Pact for the Future clearly delivers on essential elements that are important to countries with particular vulnerabilities, in areas like water management and food security, for example. As a Kingdom uniquely positioned on two continents and with a proven history of dealing with water, we're pleased to see that this Pact effectively addresses elements that are also crucial to Small Island Developing States. We are also pleased that the Pact emphasizes the need for continuous learning and exchange.

From defending ourselves against the sea with the Delta Works project, to creating new land like the province of Flevoland, the history of our Kingdom is a testament to the power of collaboration and learning. Of course, water offers many opportunities too, and supports thriving economic sectors like tourism in the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom, where our crystal-blue waters attract many visitors.

This Pact for the Future, supplemented by the Declaration on Future Generations, is another major step forward in making our multilateral system fit for the future.

Your Excellencies,

We now have the opportunity to prove that we can pass on a better, fairer and more sustainable planet to future generations.

Let's make our collective efforts count.

Thank you.