

# What is the UN Summit of the Future - Why and How Should I Engage?

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION BRIEF

---

### Background

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2021 came at a time when the whole world was confronting the shared threats of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, the risks and opportunities of technological advances, and stagnation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In recognition of these trends and unprecedented interconnectedness, Member States pledged to **strengthen global governance** and asked the Secretary-General for his recommendations to address current and future challenges (A/RES/75/1).

The UN Secretary-General responded with [Our Common Agenda](#), calling for solidarity between people, countries and generations, and a corresponding **renewal of the multilateral system to accelerate the implementation of existing commitments and fill gaps in global governance** that have emerged since 2015. The Secretary-General proposed a [Summit of the Future](#) as an opportunity to take these steps, which could, if adopted, accelerate **implementation of each of the Sustainable Development Goals**. The primary outcome document will be the [Pact for the Future](#), annexed to which will be a [Declaration on Future Generations](#) and a [Global Digital Compact](#).

### Purpose

This Summit aims to restore trust and showcase effective international cooperation in addressing current and emerging challenges. It seeks to accelerate progress towards existing commitments and respond to emerging opportunities. The Summit of the Future will bring together world leaders to forge international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future.

### The Opportunity

Currently, civil society is largely absent from new global governance systems. The upcoming UN Summit of the Future presents a crucial opportunity for creating a new international cooperation platform. Civil society still has time to collectively advocate for meaningful inclusion.

### The Risk

Without collective action, civil society could be left out of the post-COVID platforms and governance structures being designed to address global challenges.

### The Entry Point

Civil society must unite ahead of the UN Summit of the Future to demand the addition of specific language in the [Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future](#) to **elevate health, community leadership, community data, and equal and inclusive community engagement**. These elements are essential for driving transformative change, improving system outcomes, enhancing efficiency, promoting social accountability, and building more just and resilient societies.

### What You Need to Know

The Summit of the Future will take place on **22 – 23 September 2024**, in New York, in the margin of the [UNGA week](#). The Summit of the Future is co-facilitated by Germany and Namibia. Its outcome document, the **Pact for the Future**, is to be negotiated through intergovernmental negotiations throughout the next months. It consists of a chapeau and five chapters on (i) sustainable development and financing for development, (ii) international peace and security, (iii) science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation, (iv) youth and future generations, and (v) transforming global governance. You can find the timeline for the negotiation [here](#).

**The Declaration on Future Generations** will consider specific steps to account for the interests of future generations in national and global decision-making. It will be annexed to the Pact for the Future. Stakeholder consultations took place in January 2024 and additional consultations are planned for May and June 2024. You can find the timeline for the negotiation [here](#).



**The Global Digital Compact** is expected to outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all and will be annexed to the Pact for the Future. Online consultations took place in 2022 and 2023, additional informal consultations are planned for May and June 2024. *You can find the timeline for the negotiation [here](#).*

## Where Are We Now

The **zero draft** of the Pact of the Future was published on January 26, 2024. An initial stakeholder consultation on the Pact took place in December 2023. Another stakeholder consultation took place on February 21, and we are expecting to see a **second draft, open for comment - May 14, 2024** (after the UN Civil Society Conference planned in May 9-10 in Nairobi).

## How to obtain special accreditation to attend the Summit of the Future (SOTF), 22 - 23 September 2024?

In order to participate in the Summit, civil society and other relevant organizations that **are not in consultative status with ECOSOC** must express interest and apply for special accreditation before May 31, 2024: *Register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1010324/>*

## What You Can Do:

- Read the first [written submissions from NGOs and civil society members](#) on the Zero Draft.
- Find out how you can [engage in the process towards the Declaration](#) on Future Generations
- Be ready to give inputs (and submit written comments online) into the second draft of the Pact of the Future (scheduled for mid-May 2024).
- Select key issues and make key objectives for continued advocacy as we go into the SOTF- narrow in on 3-5 key objectives that your organization wants to accomplish.
- Engage with partners, coalitions and government at local, regional and global levels: there is strength and power in numbers! Reach out to your networks to see who else will be following the Pact of the Future.
- Submit positions papers, statement and share your concerns and elements for inclusion!
- Attend and contribute to discussion of (virtually or in-person, if registered) of the UN Civil Society Conference (9 – 10 May, Nairobi - Kenya), one civil society engagement opportunities of the SOFT
- Follow up right after the UN CS Conference with your in-country partners, Country missions in NYC and members States who will negotiate the Pact of the Future in NYC in September. Find out who the focal point is and request meetings to help inform their internal preparations leading into each intergovernmental negotiation session before the SOTF.
- Register to obtain a special accreditation to attend the Summit of the Future.

For more information, visit [2024 UN Civil Society Conference | United Nations](#) - How to [engage on the Summit](#)

ITPC has just release a White Paper titled:

### **From the Ground Up: How Community Action Redefines Global Crisis Management - Key considerations ahead of the 2024 UN Summit of the Future - ITPC May 2024.**

Download it [here](#)

The paper argues that the package of community leadership, community data, equal and meaningful community engagement, and community-led action are sophisticated, cost-effective instruments that drive transformative change, better system outcomes, greater efficiencies, social accountability, and ultimately, more prepared, just and resilient societies.

Consult the [ITPC Community Info Brief](#) on the UN Civil Society Conference (9 – 10 May, Nairobi - Kenya), one of the civil society engagement opportunities leading to the Summit of the Future.

