



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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The UN Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow

The United Nations [Summit of the Future](#) will take place on 22-23 September 2024 at UN Headquarters in New York, with the participation of Heads of State or Government. It is designed to strengthen the multilateral system's response to current and emerging global challenges.

The Summit of the Future marks a turning point for the UN itself, responding to the question: **Can the UN effectively manage multiple global challenges at once, and what institutional reforms are needed to restore trust in the UN-led multilateral system?**

The answer to this question will come in a declaration, the **Pact for the Future**, and negotiations are just beginning. After extensive consultations, a [zero draft of the Pact](#) was issued on 29 January 2024 with the aim of reaching consensus on a final text by May/June of this year. A first reading of the draft will occur during the week of 6 February (during the Annual Parliamentary Hearing in New York), followed by a second reading the week of 21 February, and a third and final reading later in April.

The **Pact for the Future** will use easily understood language to engage people from all walks of life. It will comprise an introduction followed by five main thematic chapters:

- Sustainable development and financing for development
- International peace and security
- Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation
- Youth and future generations
- Transforming global governance (UN 2.0)

Each of these chapters will tackle long-standing and emerging reform issues faced by the UN system and the international community at large. With regard to the chapters on youth and digital cooperation, two other agreements will be negotiated alongside the Pact and attached as annexes: a **Declaration on Future Generations** and a **Global Digital Compact**.

The IPU and the Summit of the Future

The Summit of the Future represents an important opportunity to build on the IPU's efforts more than 20 years to strengthen the voices of parliaments and parliamentarians at the UN.

The UN Millennium Summit of September 2000, which followed on the heels of the First World Conference of Presiding Officers of Parliament (held at UN Headquarters in August 2000), concluded with the [Millennium Declaration](#) in which, for the first time, Heads of State and Government resolved “to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues” (Chapter VIII, Strengthening the United Nations).

Since then, the IPU has worked to engage parliaments and parliamentarians in UN policy decisions and field operations. This work has two key strategic objectives:

- Provide a parliamentary perspective on major UN negotiations before final agreement is reached
- Support the implementation of international agreements once they come into effect

Several [resolutions of the UN General Assembly](#) have endorsed these objectives and provided practical guidance on their implementation.

Yet more can be done. For the IPU, the potential for greater parliamentary engagement in UN deliberative processes and operational work has yet to be fully exploited. It is in the UN's best interest to allow for new modalities of interaction with parliaments and parliamentarians to ensure the UN succeeds in delivering to the world on its many promises, from disarmament to poverty eradication and much more.

Regrettably, the zero draft of the Pact for the Future issued on 29 January 2024 makes no mention of the role of parliaments in multilateralism and at the UN. The IPU, through its New York Office, is working with several Permanent Missions to the UN to introduce language on parliaments in the chapter on global governance and, to the extent possible, in other parts of the document (such as on youth participation in the political process).

What you can do as a parliamentarian

This process represents a real opportunity. All members of parliament can be engaged in the Summit of the Future by providing input to the Pact, through their own governments, and by supporting its implementation afterwards.

As a parliamentarian, you can:

- ✓ Ask your Foreign Minister and/or your Permanent Representative to the UN for briefings on the negotiation of the Pact for the Future.
- ✓ Insist that the text include language on the role of parliaments in strengthening the UN and advancing institutional reforms (particularly in the chapter on global governance and in its follow-up mechanism).
- ✓ Consult with your constituents on the substantive questions addressed by the Pact for the Future and its annexes (Declaration on Future Generations; Global Digital Compact).
- ✓ Let the IPU New York Office know of any action you have undertaken.

For more background on the parliamentary dimension to the work of the UN, please consult the IPU [partnerships web page](#).

Further questions can be addressed to the IPU New York Office at ny-office@ipu.org