

Statement delivered on Tuesday, 20 February 2024
(with updated list of signed up organizations from Monday, 26 February 2024)

To the attention of:

Her Excellency, Ms Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, Co-Facilitator of the Summit of the Future

His Excellency, Mr Neville M. Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations, Co-Facilitator of the Summit of the Future

His Excellency, Mr Dennis Francis, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, President of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly

His Excellency, Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations

Excellencies,

We, the undersigned civil society organizations engaged with UN processes on negotiated outcomes are writing with regard to the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future. Our joint endeavour, building on the 2020 document "Recommendations to ensure meaningful civil society participation at the United Nations" is to ensure that the process ahead is inclusive and participative.

We would like to thank the co-facilitators for presenting the zero draft of the Pact for the Future in an open live format via UN Web TV on Monday, 29 January 2024, and for inviting representatives of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) and civil society to a virtual consultation on 21 February 2024. We are eager to collaborate to make the Summit's process inclusive, trusting, and representative of civil society's diverse voices, as advocated by the #UNmute campaign.

We are concerned about the limited space for civil society in this process. We regret that the letters dated 14 December 2023 and 26 January 2024 do not envisage meaningful engagement of civil society. This falls short of the UN's stated commitment to inclusivity as championed by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres in Our Common Agenda, and the actual mechanisms for civil society participation. This contrasts with earlier UN processes and the need for a summit focused on the future of people and the planet.

While Member States are provided direct avenues for input through in-person consultations and submissions, civil society's engagement is limited to virtual consultations and written inputs at relatively short notice. We are concerned that our feedback is being overlooked, raising questions about the efficacy of these mechanisms. Furthermore, these differential avenues for engagement restrict meaningful interaction between civil society and Member States and eliminate the possibility of genuine co-creation.

In addition, the closed nature of informal consultations with Member States, coupled with the lack of interpretation services, exacerbates barriers for non-English speakers and those outside New York. This process starkly contrasts with the need for a people-centric and open global governance approach, effectively sidelining the input of MGoS and other civil society actors.

Looking ahead to the Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, we emphasize the need for an inclusive conference that provides space for diverse, meaningful, broad, and safe participation - including from historically marginalized and underrepresented communities. We urge that sufficient resources are earmarked for meaningful participation of a diverse range of civil society stakeholders.

The future should be shaped by all stakeholders. There is a pressing need to reevaluate the engagement framework to ensure civil society's contributions are genuinely integrated into the Pact for the Future.

In response to these challenges and based on successful precedents, we propose the following concrete steps for immediate action to enhance civil society participation around the negotiations of the Summit of the Future:

1. **Establish Inclusive Platforms for Engagement and Open Consultations for All:** We advocate for the creation of dedicated mechanisms allowing diverse civil society groups - including historically marginalized and underrepresented communities and informal activists and social movements - to actively participate in UN processes. These platforms should facilitate **direct input into policy discussions, decision-making, and implementation oversight, including digital access** to ensure inclusive participation, enable real-time engagement and feedback. These platforms should embrace a hybrid participation model, combining digital access with in-person engagement to ensure broad, inclusive, and direct civil society involvement. Additionally, broadcasting meetings on WebTV would allow civil society worldwide to remain informed and actively contribute their expertise. This step is crucial to counter the prevailing global north bias, democratizing representation and ensuring all voices and perspectives are equally represented in international dialogues.
2. **Representative Participation:** We advocate for designated seats for MGoS and civil society representatives throughout the preparatory phases, Pact for the Future negotiations and at the Summit itself. This model of representative participation ensures that civil society voices are not only heard but are integral to the decision-making process.
3. **Incorporate a Comprehensive Review of Civil Society's Meaningful Engagement in UN Processes into the Pact for the Future.** Such a review could be conducted based on a list of recommendations and benchmarks for civil society engagement to be established through a manual co-designed by Member States and civil society, which may include but not be limited to:
 - The incorporation of civil society in working and advisory working groups.
 - The integration of civil society in UN governance, such as the appointment of a Special Envoy for Civil Society dedicated to enhancing and facilitating civil society participation across the UN, ensuring that a diverse range of civil society voices are represented in global dialogues.
 - Continuous and open channels of communication between UN bodies and civil society, allowing for ongoing dialogue, exchange of information, and collaboration beyond formal meetings and sessions. This could include regular briefings, consultations, and interactive dialogues.
 - Programs for civil society representatives to enhance their understanding of UN processes, improve advocacy skills, and ensure effective participation.
 - Sufficient resources for meaningful participation of a diverse range of civil society stakeholders at in-person Summits and Conferences.

- Support for civil society-led side events and forums alongside UN meetings and processes. These events provide valuable opportunities for highlighting specific issues, sharing best practices, and fostering partnerships.
- Mechanisms to ensure transparency in decision-making processes and accountability for the implementation of agreed-upon actions and policies.
- Mechanisms to protect, support, and safeguard civil society engagement with the United Nations. This includes strengthening responses to prevent and address reprisal cases and ensure appropriate systems are in place to identify, document and report on incidents, including through clear zero-tolerance messages and by awareness-raising among staff, Member States, and civil society interlocutors.
- An Annual Civil Society Action Day that fosters accountability, review, and dialogue regarding the role and impact of civil society within the UN system.

We look forward to collaborating closely to ensure that the Summit of the Future process is truly inclusive, builds rather than erodes trust and incorporates the diverse voices of civil society, as advocated by the #UNmute campaign.

We look forward to a positive response and fruitful collaboration.

Signed,

AbibiNsroma Foundation/GCAP
Ghana

ACCIÓN Asociación Chilena de ONGs

Accountability Lab

ACRD-Congo

ACT Alliance – Action by Churches
Together

Action for Sustainable Development

Adéquations

African Children and Youth
Development Network (ACYDN)

Afrihealth Optonet Association (AHOA)
- CSOs global Network and Think-tank
on Health and Sustainable
Development

AfroLeadership

AFVMC Assistance to Families and
Migrants

Ágora Ciudadanos Cambiando México

Akira Education & Charitable Trust

ALLIANCE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE
AU MALI/GCAP-MALI

Alternatives Durables pour le
développement (ADD)

Amnesty International

Angels on the Field

Animal People, Inc.

APALAC COALITION

APNEK (Association pour la Protection
de la Nature et de l'Environnement de
Kairouan)

Arab Center for Cyberspace Research
-ACCR

Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation
(ASYARFS)

Asia Dalit Rights Forum

Asia Development Alliance

Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)

Asian Pacific Resource and Research
Centre for Women (ARROW)

Asociación Chilena de Voluntarios

ASOCIACION CIUDADANA POR LOS
DERECHOS HUMANOS

Asociación de Organismos no
Gubernamentales ASONOG.

Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba

Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos

Asociación Generaciones de Paz (ASDEPAZ)

Asociacion Horizontes Tamaulipas AC

ASSHO (Afghanistan Solidarity for Social & Humanity Organization)

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEH)

Association des Dynamiques des Jeunes Marocains

Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale AFEM

Association des Volontaires pour l'Environnement Sain

Association des Volontaires pour l'Environnement Sain

Association du Deveoppement et de la promotion de Droit de l'Home

Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD

Association For Promotion Sustainable Development

Association for Sustainable Development Livelihood Initiatives (SUSTAIN Cameroon)

ASSOCIATION GABON INITIATIVES JEUNESSE

Association Nationale des Partenaires Migrants

Association of World Citizens

Association pour l'Integration et le Developpement Durable au Burundi, AIDB

Autistic Minority International

AVOID ACCIDENT

AwazCDS-Pakistan

AWTAD anti-corruption organization

B.KUNDA GENERAL DEALER

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad

Banka BioLoo Limited

Bio Vision Africa (BiVA)

BOTSWANA WATCH ORGANIZATION

BPID - BULGARIAN PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Brazilian Campaign for the Right to Education

Bridging The Gap Botswana

Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World)

Burundi Child Rights Coalition (BCRC)

BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH DEV

Cameroon Active Youth Association

Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP)

Candid Concepts Development

Captive Eye Organization

Care for the Elderly Intellectuals Public Union

Caribbean Futures Forum

Casa de las Muñecas Tiresias AC

CENTER OF ARAB WOMEN FOR TRAINIG AND RESEARCH

Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC)

Centre for Health Science and Law

Centre Stratégique Pour La Promotion De Développement Durable

Centro de Capacitación y Promoción de la Democracia, CECADE

CHALLENGES /GCAP Togo

Childhood Education International

Children and Young People Living for Peace (CYPLP)

CHIRAPAQ Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú

Citizens' Climate Lobby Colombia

Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS)

CIVICUS

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding [CSPPS]

Civil Society SDGs Campaign GCAP Zambia

climate-solution.org

CNCD-11.11.11

Coalición Colombiana por el Derecho a la Educación

Coalition 2030

Coalition for the United Nations We Need

Colectivo Diversa CODIVER

Colombia social impact corporation

Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat)

Community Action on Sustainable Development Initiative (CASDev) Nigeria

Community Development Initiative (CDI)

Community Legal Education Center

Confederación Colombiana de ONG - CCONG

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Congregation of the Mission

Conseil de Concertation des ONG de Développement (CCOD)

Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de base (CCOAIB)

Conseil de Facilitation et gestion Locale (CFGL)

Conseil inter Ong en Centrafrique (CIONGCA)

Conseil National des ONG de Développement, CNOGD

Consolation East Africa

Cooperation Canada

Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas CONGCOOP

Coordination SUD

CSEM for UHC2030

CSYM HUDUMA CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL YOUTH MINISTRY YLO TANZANIA TZ

CSYM HUDUMA* network

DanChurchAid

Danish Family Planning Association

Danish Red Cross Youth

DECA, EQUIPO PUEBLO

Democracy International e.V.

Democracy Without Borders

DFRD -Dignity Foundation for Relief &Development

Dignity Initiative

DISABILITY PEOPLES FORUM UGANDA

Dóchas

Dr Uzo Adirieje Foundation (DUZAFFOUND)

Društvo Bodi svetloba

Echoes of Women in Africa Initiatives

Elizabeth Lee

Emonyoye Yefwe International

Empower India

Encuentro de Activistas LGBTI

Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA)

European Emergency Circle

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Fingo - Finnish Development NGOs

FN-forbundet / Danish United Nations Association

FOCSIV Italian Federation Christian NGOs

Fondation Eboko

Fondazione Proclade Internazionale-onlus

Forum das Organizações Não Governamentais Angolanas

Forus

Foundation for Global Governance and Sustainability (FOGGS)

Foundation for Innovative Social Development

Free Trade Union Development Center

Freedom Files Foundation

Friends for future

Fundación Arcoiris

Fundaciòn Etica Visionaria (FEV)

Fundación Existimos A.C

FUNDACIÓN MUNDO MEJOR

Fundacion para Estudio e Inestigacion de la Mujer

Fundación para la Democracia Internacional

Fundación Prosperiti Guatecivica

Fundación Victimas Vulnerables Mujeres Afro Independientes (FUNVIMUFROIN)

Fundeps - Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables

Gatef organization

GCAP-Senegal

Gender and Economy Research Center NPGE

Gender Links Kenya

Gender-Centru

Gente Buena Dejando Huella A.C.

Gestos

GESTOS – HIV+, Communication and Gender

Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION (GCE)

Global Civil Society Consortium on Climate Change and the Conferences of Parties (GCSCCC)

Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors - GCSPF

Global Distribution Advocates, Inc.

Global Focus

Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD)

Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Global Participe

Global Social Justice

Greenpeace

Greycells. Association of Former International Civil Servants for Development

Groupe de Réflexion et d'Initiative pour l'Avancement de la Grand'Anse (GRIAG)

Halley Movement for Social and Community Development

Hape development and welfare association

HaritaDhara Research Development and Education Foundation

Hawa Trust Foundation

Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights

HDS natural systems design science

Hellenic Platform for Sustainable Development

HIRED Consult

Homo Exploratoris

| | |
|--|---|
| Human Rights Watch | International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse |
| Human Rights And Forest Braine Africa (Hurifba) | International Service for Human Rights |
| Humanitaire Plus | International Society for Poverty Elimination / Economic Alliance Group |
| HumanizaCom (Humanitarian Journalism and Media Interventions), research group | International Treatment Preparedness Coalition - Global (ITPC) |
| HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement | International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) |
| IDAY Liberia Coalition Inc. | ISIZIBA Community Based Organizations of South Africa |
| IDPAD coalition UK | ISTF Global |
| IFBPW | Journalists for Human Rights |
| Impact Driven Young Leaders Initiative | Jóvenes por una salud integral A. C. |
| Indigenous Peoples Global Forum for Sustainable Development, IPGFforSD | JUMUIYA WOMEN FUND |
| INPADE | Justice House |
| INSTANCE NATIONALE DE PROTECTION DES BIENS PUBLICS ET DE LA TRANSPARENCE AU MAROC " INPBPTM " | Justice, Development & Peace Commission (JDPC), IJEBU-ODE |
| Institute for Economic Research on Innovation | JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF) |
| Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate | Juta Mewangi Enterprise (M) Sdn Bhd |
| Instituto Cidades Sistentaveis | KCOC Policy Center |
| Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos - IDDH | KEIYO WOMEN TRUST |
| InterAgency Institute | Khmer National Liberation Front |
| International Alliance of Women | Kijiji Yeetu |
| International Center for Research on Women | Kikandwa Environmental Association |
| International Federation for Housing and Planning | Kingdom Embassy Center International USA |
| international federation of women in legal careers | Kiribati association of non-government organization (kango) |
| International Movement ATD Fourth World | Kosmos Associates |
| International Movement for Advancement of education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSED) | Krisoker Sor (Farmers' Voice) |
| | Kuwait Environment Protection Society |
| | La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo-España |
| | La Verità Onlus - International Diplomacy |
| | Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization |

Let There Be Light International
Life House Bible Institute
Lithuanian NGDO platform
LUNACOP/GCAP-RDC
Make Mothers Matter (MMM)
Mauritius Council of Sociel Service
MenEngage Global Alliance
Movimiento Raiz, A.C.
MY World Mexico
Nash Vek Public Foundation
Natural Resources Justice Network
Nepal Anusandhan Tatha Bikash
Pratisthan
Net Impact-The Gambia
NGO CSW LAC
NGO Federation of Nepal
NGO JEUNES VERTS
NGO Major Group
Niger Citizen Lab
Nigeria Network of NGOs
Norwegian Forum for Development
and Environment
Oil Refinery Residents Association
OJEDD INTERNATIONAL
Okogun Odigie Safewomb
International Foundation
ONG PADJENA (Participation Active
des Dirigeants Jeunes Élités Niant
l'Aboulie)
ONG Plus de Sida dans les Familles
ONG-ASHAD
OPEN DRC
Organisation d'appui aux Jeunes
Opérateurs Économiques pour la
Gouvernance Locale
Organisation des Femmes
Autochtones pour la Lutte contre la
Violence(OFALV).

OVJNU GLOBAL
Pacific Islands Association of Non
Governmental Organisations
(PIANGO)
Pakistan Development Alliance
PAMPA2030
Parliament of the World's Religions
Pathways for Women's Empowerment
and Development/Integrated
Agricultural Training Center (PaWED-
IATC)
Peace ambassadors
People in Need
People's Participation
PFI/ Pagan Federation International
Foundation
Philippine Rural Reconstruction
Movement
Plan International
Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD
Poly Assistance Tunis
PRESENCE CHRETIENNE
SENEGAL
Presentation Sisters in Ireland &
England
Progr{S}
PROMAD Foundation
Public organization "Ibtido"
RACI
RAWSA(Regional Advocacy for
Women's Sustainable Advancement)
Alliance for African&Arab States
Reacción Climática
Red Católicas por el Derecho a
Decidir América Latina y del Caribe
Red Dot Foundation
Red Mundial de Jóvenes Políticos
México
REPAOC

REPONGAC
 Republica dominicana
 Réseau des organisations du secteur éducatif du Niger
 Réseau Nigérien Anti-Corruption
 Rural Area Development Programme (RADP)
 Savannah Centre for Diplomacy Democracy and Development
 Save the Children
 SEDRA (Servicio Extensión Desarrollo Rural en Agricultura)
 Semillas para la Democracia
 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Hubs (SRHR Hubs)
 Sightsavers (Equal World campaign)
 SKOP
 Social Entrepreneurs Denmark
 SOCIETE SOMMAC
 SOCIETY FOR CIVILIZED AND EDUCATIONAL MULTIPLE SERVICES NGO
 Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria (SOCSEEN)
 Soroptimist International
 Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland
 Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future
 Stichting Mission Lanka
 Students for Global Democracy Uganda
 Success Capital Organisation
 Südwind
 Sukaar Welfare Organization
 Sustainable Common Security
 Swedwatch
 Tasha Research Institute Africa (TASHA)
 The Hindu Institute of International Affairs
 The Millennium Project
 The NGO of "To Healthy Life"
 The People's Matrix Association
 The Royal Golden Cocoon of Java: Cricula Trifenestrata #SDGAction53224
 The Society For Children Orphaned By AIDS Inc. (SOCOBA)
 Together 2030
 Tolocan 33 A.C.
 Transparency Reliance to Unify Equal Life or TRUE-LIFE
 Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network
 Tripla Difesa Onlus Guardie Sicurezza Sociale ed Eco Zoofila
 Uganda Peace Foundation
 Ulalo (formerly Centre for Youth and Development)
 UNA Language Group
 Unidosc, Mexico
 Union de l'action féministe
 Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Développement (UNASCAD)
 UNITAS
 United Nations Association - UK (UNA-UK)
 United Nations University - UNU FLORES
 Universal Episcopal Synods
 Universal Esperanto Association
 Universal Institute of Professional Management
 Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo

UNYA Denmark
Usu Inteligente ASV AC
VIE ET ENVIRONNEMENT RWANDA
Vikas Adhyayan Kendra
Village Farmers Initiative (VFI)
Vision GRAM-International
Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE)
Volunteer Groups Alliance
VWA FANM AYISYÈN (VFA)
WACI Health
WARBE Development Foundation
WATER AND BIODIVERSITY
COMMISSION OF THE SENATE OF
COLOMBIA
WaterAid
We Are TB
WeQ Institute (recognized as non-profit orga.)
WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform
women and Modern World Socila
charitable Center -CWMW
Women Deliver
Women Engage for a Common Future
(WECF)
Women for Water Partnership
Women in Democracy and
Governance (WIDAG)K
Women's Major Group
Women's Power Organisation
World Future Council
World Organization for Early
Childhood Education - OMEP
World Peace Alliance
World Vision International
Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker
Support (WINGS)

Wote Youth Development Projects
CBO
YOTA - Youth Opportunity &
Transformation in Afric
Youth and Women For Opportunities
Uganda-YWOU
Youth For Peace and Dialogue
Youth Forum for Social Justice
Youth Help Sierra Leone
Youths Enterprise Development &
Innovation Society
ZAMBIA DIASPORA AND
MIGRATION FOUNDATION