



# The Hague International Model United Nations

**Forum:** Group of 77 (G77)

**Issue:** Implementing the Pact for the Future

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## Introduction

The United Nations Pact for the Future was adopted at the Summit of the Future in New York on 22nd September 2024 (1). It happened alongside a meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA), and was attended by over 4,000 participants, representing member nations, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society and youth organisations. It represented the outcome of a process begun in 2020 on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the Secretary General Antonio Guterres' follow up report entitled Our Common Agenda.

The Pact for the Future recognises the need for a modernisation of the global order, particularly in this era where we face a polycrisis of climate change, increasing levels of conflict and slow progress on sustainable development. In the words of Antonio Guterres, 'we cannot create a future fit for our grandchildren with a system built by our grandparents'. The Pact for the Future aims to develop better international mechanisms for a safer, more sustainable future, through 56 actions in 5 key areas- sustainable development; international peace and security; science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations and transforming global governance. It was signed by all but 7 countries, and it comes with two annexes- the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration for Future Generations- but for the purposes of this research report, the Pact for the Future itself will be focused on.

The Pact for the Future contains many ambitious goals under its 56 actions. In some cases, specific actions are outlined, but in other areas, commitments are less specific. The implementation of the pact will be reviewed at the 83rd session of the GA on the 5th of September 2028. However, that is a long way away, leaving much work to be done to ensure its actions are carried out.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

A group of 17 goals, including targets for each goal, that form a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. They were adopted by the UN in 2015 under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2). Notable examples include Goal 2- No Poverty, and Goal 5- Gender Equality.

### Development finance

Investments to create positive social, economic and environmental outcomes, and to further sustainable development, often made by development financial institutions in particular, as well as member nations, multilateral partners and financial institutions.

### Nongovernmental organisations (NGOs)

A non-profit organization that operates independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social or political issue, for example Amnesty International or Greenpeace.

### **Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs)**

An entity created by treaty, involving two or more nations, to work in good faith, on issues of common interest, for example the World Bank or the European Union (EU).

### **Civil society organisations (CSOs)**

Non-State, not-for-profit, voluntary entities formed by people in the social sphere that are separate from the State and the market. They can include community-based organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Examples include trade unions and youth organisations.

## Background Information

In this section, the goals of the most relevant aspects of the Pact will be discussed- however, delegates can also read the document themselves in order to understand the scope of the Pact for the Future fully, and other areas that are not discussed here.

### Sustainable development

According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, only 17% of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets are on track to be achieved by 2030. Progress on half is moderate or minimal, and progress on over a third has stalled or regressed. Escalating conflicts, climate chaos, and the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have made the achievement of these goals more difficult. In 2022, an additional 23 million people were pushed into extreme poverty and over 100 million more suffered from hunger compared to 2019. In 2024, 343 million people are facing acute hunger. Progress on education and health, undermined by the COVID-19 pandemic, is slowing in many areas, with falling math and reading skills in students in some countries. Furthermore, LEDCs (less economically developed countries) simply don't have the support needed for the implementation of the SDGs. More investment is needed. Currently, there is between \$45 and \$55 billion per year of private development finance available, but this is highly insufficient. Overall, the SDG investment gap in developing countries now stands at \$4 trillion per year. The World Bank recognises the need for 'billions to trillions' in funding for the realisation of these goals.

On climate specifically, the situation is no more positive. Despite international efforts through the regular Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and the 2015 Paris Agreements, climate change shows no sign of slowing. We saw the warmest year on record in 2023, and greenhouse gas emissions reached new heights in 2022 with no signs of slowing. According to [climateactiontracker.org](https://climateactiontracker.org), current policies internationally set us on track towards a 2.7 degree rise in global temperatures, and even an optimistic scenario based on current pledges and targets would result in 1.9 degrees. Despite this, the Pact is still committed to finding pathways to limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees and getting to net zero by 2050.

Goals laid out by the Pact include scaling up efforts towards the full implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on sustainable development and the Paris Agreement, and to mobilise resources and remove obstacles to sustainable development. There is also a commitment to rethinking how to measure progress, through measures that go beyond GDP to assess planetary and human wellbeing, as well as protecting human rights defenders and strengthening civil engagement.

More concrete actions are suggested in relation to ending poverty, such as strengthening energy

security, and rural development strategies and investments and innovations in the social sector, especially education and health. Well-designed, sustainable and efficient social protection systems for all are mentioned in order to prevent people going back into poverty. The 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development will be vital in order to promote these actions.

For the goal of ending hunger, actions include providing emergency food supplies to areas undergoing extreme hunger, and a commitment to work on sustainable, just and resilient agrifood systems, and to support countries in debt distress to deal with volatile global food markets. Gender equality is another key focus- there are promises to remove social, economic and legal barriers, promote women's leadership and participation in decision-making, end all forms of violence and harassment against women, increase investments to close the gap in the care and support economy, support institutions for the empowerment of women, undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health is also mentioned, according to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 9 and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

The need for financing is also recognised. The Secretary-General's proposal for a sustainable development goal stimulus to scale up financing and investment for the SDGs will be advanced to provide 'sustainable, affordable, accessible, transparent and predictable development finance'. It commits to increasing and fulfilling development assistance commitments, specifically the target of 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) for development assistance that was committed to by most developed countries. Furthermore, signatories commit to modernise measurement of official development assistance, make it more focused and effective, create an enabling environment for mobilisation of domestic resources, and enhance the capacities, institutions and systems of developing countries to facilitate this. To create a better environment for private investment in sustainable development, and to mobilise resources effectively, an ambitious outcome at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025 is key.

## International Peace and Security

The international security landscape is much different to the one that existed when the UN was founded in 1945, and the Pact aims to address the threats to the UN Charter and the challenges the international community faces today in maintaining and promoting peace. There has been a rise in armed conflict and violence, due often to conflict between state and non-state actors, the breakdown of the rule of law in countries, regional tensions, and scarcity of resources due to climate change, which is a bigger and bigger driver of conflict. Present-day conflicts' more complex and international nature makes them harder

to resolve, and we have seen ineffective efforts to solve current conflicts across the world, particularly in Ukraine and Gaza- the number of conflicts ended through peace agreements fell from 23% in the 1970s to 4% in the 2010s. In addition, according to the Global Peace Index 2024, 2023 saw the highest number of conflicts since world war 2 (56), with 162,000 battle deaths, driven in a large part by conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine. Overall, these conflicts have caused \$19.1 trillion in economic impact. A peaceful future looks further away, with 108 countries becoming more militarised in 2023, representing the biggest increase in militarisation since the inception of the GPI in 2007. Alarming, expenditure on peacekeeping and peace-building worldwide represented less than 0.6% of total military spending.

In general, the Pact commits to the principles of just and lasting peace, the rule of law, sovereign equality of nations, and equal rights and self-determination of peoples. It hopes to address the root causes of armed conflict, and ensure equal access to justice, counter discrimination, and promote inclusivity and tolerance. It emphasises ensuring military spending does not compromise focus on sustainable development, and requests the Secretary-General to provide analysis on the impact of the global increase in military expenditure on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by the end of the seventy-ninth session of the UNGA in 2024 (however, progress on that appears to have been minimal). It pledges to protect civilians, refrain from use of explosive weapons in populated areas where they'll harm civilians, enable safe humanitarian assistance, protect journalists and humanitarian personnel, end impunity and ensure accountability for crimes under international law- an aspect that may prove difficult, as with the commitment to uphold the mandate of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and make it able to fully and effectively discharge its mandate.

A particularly important aspect is a commitment to the pacific settlement of disputes, defusing tensions and resolving conflicts. It hopes to revitalise existing tools and mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes, and develop and implement mechanisms such as confidence-building, early warning and crisis management, at subregional, regional and international levels. The use of diplomacy and early diplomacy efforts to prevent escalation is promoted, and it urges the Secretary-General and UN to lead and support mediation, and to support regional and subregional organisations in diplomacy and mediation. It aims to build and sustain peace through reducing violence and intolerance, strengthening and implementing existing national prevention strategies and approaches to sustain peace, and considering developing them where they do not exist to address the root causes of violence and armed conflict, and building national capacity to implement these and sharing best practices on the topic. Finally, it aims to address risks of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and the risks of disinformation and misinformation.

There is an emphasis on adapting UN peace operations, through enhanced cooperation between regional and subregional organisations, especially the African Union, and a request for the secretary general to review the state of peacekeeping operations and how they can be improved in the future- one

of the firmest actions taken. Planning transitions with host countries, and the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel is also discussed. Under the Pact, peacekeeping operations should be accompanied by political and non-military strategies, and the Secretary-General should convene regular high-level meetings with relevant regional organizations to discuss matters pertaining to peace operations, peacebuilding and conflicts. There should also be adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for African Union-led peace support operations mandated by the Security Council in line with Security Council resolution 2719 (2023) of 21 December 2023.

### Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

There is unmistakably a digital divide in the world today, one that is widening rather than closing. In least developed countries (LDCs), only 27% of the population are internet users. Key factors include developing countries lacking sufficient resources to build effective digital infrastructure and implement widespread internet access, as well as lack of awareness and digital skills among populations. Impacts are significant, from a lower quality of life and a lack of education to less successful economies- it's hard for countries to develop effectively if they face barriers in embracing the digital economy. Science and technology are key to reaching SDG and ensuring countries are not left behind economically, however less economically developed countries (LEDCs) and LDCs still have inadequate access to resources and funding to take advantage of scientific innovations for sustainable development.

Many ideas around this are laid out in the Global Digital Compact, an annex to the Pact which forms a global framework for digital cooperation and AI governance. It focuses on ensuring universal Internet access for all people, schools, and hospitals, ensuring online safety, especially for children, regulating artificial intelligence with clear ethical guidelines, promoting open data and standards and establishing global commitments to data governance by 2030.

The pact itself commits to building global cooperation on innovation, increasing the use of scientific knowledge in policy-making, supporting developing countries to retain talent and prevent a brain drain. It pledges to increase efforts to support developing countries, in particular by developed countries and those developing countries in a position to do so, with capacity-building in science, technology and innovation through policy exchanges, knowledge-sharing, technical assistance, financing, joint international research and personnel training tailored to specific needs, policies and priorities of developing countries. It also hopes to support the development, deployment and sustainable use of emerging and open-source technologies and support policies towards open science and open innovation and know-how for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in developing countries, and to scale up financing and research opportunities for scientific research to support sustainable development, increase private investment and develop public-private partnerships by developing a conducive environment in countries.

It commits to taking advantage of new technologies to help people with disabilities, particularly assistive technologies, and improving opportunities for women and girls in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It asks the secretary general to monitor and measure ongoing global progress to bridge the science and technology gap within and between developed and developing countries, and pledges to support national governments to leverage science and technology for sustainable development, including by exploring ways to strengthen the capacity and expertise of United Nations country teams.

### Transforming global governance

Many of our global institutions today, most importantly the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the Bretton Woods financial institutions (the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank), are outdated and unequal. The Pact recognises the need to update them to effectively deal with the crises we face today, which are so different from when they were founded in 1945.

The UN Security Council was made 72 years ago- it is vital that it is adapted to reflect a new world order and shifting security challenges, and to allow it to be effective. The veto power, consistently exercised by the US and Russia in order to block resolutions, has hindered the SC from taking effective action in many cases, such as in Ukraine and Gaza. This paralysis means it can no longer maintain peace effectively. The issue of representation is also heavily contested- the P5, where Russia, the US, China, France and the UK have permanent positions, no longer reflects the reality of today's multipolar order. The UN's membership has nearly quadrupled since its founding, going from 51 to 193 member states as new world powers emerged. The G4 coalition of Brazil, India, Germany and Japan, and the African Union have been particularly vocal about pushing for permanent representation.

The Pact has aimed to address this and to make the UNSC more representative- specifically to redress the historical injustice against Africa, but also to improve representation for Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. However, change will be difficult, as for a transformation of the Security Council's structure, a formal amendment to the UN Charter would be needed, and all P5 nations would have to vote in favour of that. The veto in particular would be almost impossible to remove, but discussions can be had on limiting its scope and use. The Pact also pledges to review and enhance the working methods of the SC, and to improve cooperation with the GA and other bodies of the UN. In particular, it will strengthen the role of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for sustainable development, and increase the participation of NGOs in it. It will also explore options to revitalize the Commission on the Status of Women to promote the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on women's rights, and take into account during the next nomination process for Secretary General the fact that it has never been a woman. It will strengthen the Peacebuilding Commission, particularly to support member states in their peacebuilding efforts, and to support countries before and after transition of a peace operation. More generally, the Pact hopes to strengthen the response of the UNSC, revitalise work of the UNGA and strengthen the overall UN system by



enhancing the work of the GA for international peace and security..

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

### UN and International involvement:

- The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, published a report entitled Our Common Agenda in 2021 on the need for a rethinking of the international order.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 25 September 2015 (**A/RES/70/1**)- this laid out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets to fulfil them
- The Paris Agreement, 12th December 2015, set out long-term goals for UN member nations to reduce carbon emissions
- The Pact for the Future, of course, is a UN document, and was signed by the vast majority of UN member nations

**Bretton Woods institutions:** These are the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They were founded in 1944, making their structure somewhat unequal in relation to the voices of developing nations. They have shown progress- the World Bank has tripled its guarantee capacity, and the IMF has created a twenty-fifth chair on the International Monetary Fund Executive Board for sub-Saharan Africa and implemented recent changes to quotas and voting power. However, more change is needed to ensure fairness for all.

**Namibia:** One of the co-facilitators of the Pact for the Future.

**Germany:** The other co-facilitator of the Pact.

**The P5-** The permanent members of the UN Security Council- the USA, Russia, China, the UK and France. The UK and France, and the USA more recently, have welcomed some SC reform through expanding the number of permanent seats, but Russia and China oppose that.

**The G4-** Brazil, India, Germany and Japan, a group of countries who want new permanent seats on the SC.

**The African Union-** represents many developing nations. It wants at least two permanent seats for Africa on SC and five non-permanent seats. Although it hasn't chosen two members to represent it, South Africa and Nigeria are likely contenders. Sierra Leone is the chair of AU's Committee of 10 (C10) is particularly influential in calls for reform as a current member of the SC.

**The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme):** The UN agency tasked with achieving sustainable development.

**The United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development:** A subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that provides a forum for United Nations discussions on science and technology.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
July 22nd, 1944	The Bretton Woods institutions created.
October 24th, 1945	The UN Security Council founded.
September 25th, 2015	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development signed.
September 21st, 2020	UN Resolution A/75/L.1 celebrating the 75th anniversary of the UN and committing to the strengthening of the United Nations system.
September 2021	UN Secretary-General publishes report entitled Our Common Agenda on the future of the international system.
September 22nd, 2024	Summit for the Future held in New York, where the Pact for the Future was signed by the vast majority of UN member nations.
January 28th, 2025	THIMUN begins!
June 30th, 2025	The 4 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development
November 2025	The Second World Summit on Social Development, Qatar
September 5, 2028	The 83rd session of the UNGA, where the implementation of the Pact will be reviewed.
2030	The target year for the Sustainable Development Goals to be implemented.

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Elect The Council, an initiative on SC reform by the Institute for Security Studies has developed plans in consultation with states, civil society groups and think tanks. It proposes the inclusion of coalitions of countries with greater voting powers while keeping elected members and a reduced number of global

powers permanently, based on proportional representation. It also wants to end veto powers. However, it has had minimal success or UN engagement so far. In terms of UN work on the issue, ongoing intergovernmental negotiations have been taking place on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council since 2008. It contributed to the wording of the Pact, but has made no actual change.

BRICS, a coalition made up initially of Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa, and later joined by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and Iran, has made proposals for a reformed global order. It is critical of the current governance of many multilateral institutions, and a joint statement of June 2024 outlines their worldview. They want a multilateral order where fairly governed institutions are central in international decision-making. They have been influential in setting up the New Development Bank and highlighting the shift in the global order, however reforms of the global institutions as they desire remain elusive.

The Bridgetown Initiative, spearheaded by Barbados, is an initiative working towards the reform of international financial architecture, laying out the issues and need for reform. It has been influential in the creation of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP28, and in the creation of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust by the IMF.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been influential in setting its 17 goals and targets to achieve sustainable development. However, progress to achieve these goals by 2030 will be difficult in many areas. Issues hindering their fulfilment include that they are not legally binding, and that there is a lack of funding to implement them.

## Possible Solutions

- In some cases, the Pact for the Future provides clear solutions towards its goals, particularly in relation to Youth & Future Generations, and these have been outlined in the Background Information section. For most of its goals, though, effective solutions are not mentioned. This research report will discuss solutions to some of the most important aspects of the Pact- sustainable development, peacebuilding, increasing access to science and technology, and reform of the UN Security Council. Delegates should focus on implementing specific areas rather than every aim of the Pact to prioritise effectiveness, however, diplomatic methods to further the work of the pact as a whole should be considered.

### Sustainable development

In order for the solutions mentioned in the Pact to be implemented, funding must be present for sustainable development. It is vital that member nations and financial institutions adequately supply funding to those nations in need of it to carry out these solutions, however this report will focus on non-funding-related solutions. There are many organisations working towards the SDGs already- the UN and its various bodies, member nations themselves, NGOs and civil society organisations. Work must be done to coordinate the work of these organisations, to avoid duplication of efforts and maximise efficiency of resources to achieve these goals. Greater work could be done by the UNDP to link these bodies together and to create plans, in conjunction with member nations and other organisations involved, for coherent and coordinated action on the sustainable development goals. Furthermore, best practice on sustainable development must be shared between these actors.

In addition, inequalities is a core aspect that must be tackled, as an SDG itself and to facilitate progress of other SDGs. The UN must work to increase access to labour markets, particularly for women and minorities such as some indigenous communities, for economic growth and empowerment of communities. More investment is needed in training programmes to support entrepreneurs, and financing is needed for entrepreneurs to get their businesses off the ground. Financial institutions that provide accessible, small-scale lending should be encouraged and developed. Finally, participation of local authorities and civil society organisations is key to ensuring the effective implementation of policies towards sustainable development, particularly as it allows greater consultation with the people these policies are for. The UN should work with national governments to build the capacities of these authorities and organisations to implement sustainable development policies; however, cooperation of member nations will be needed as often the powers of local authorities are minimal.

## Peacebuilding

To address conflict, it is vital that the UN works more proactively towards ensuring just and lasting peace, and resolving tensions before they break out into conflict. It is vital that conflict resolutions are made more effective. The role of the Senior Mediation Officer, in the Office of the Director-General, should be expanded, perhaps through the form of a UN body on mediation. This would aim to create dialogue between nations in conflict on a systemic level, often with the support of an appropriate neutral nation, as currently often occurs. Attempts should also be made to identify areas of tension and to promote dialogue to diffuse tension and work towards solutions before conflict breaks out. A revitalisation of the UN Security Council is also important to protect peace. Solutions on a community level are also important- facilitation of cross-community dialogue where necessary, and local peace processes generally, as well as improvement of social problems that drive unrest. Finally, countries should be encouraged to balance high military

expenditure with expenditure on peacebuilding and peacekeeping also.

### Increasing access to science and technology

On an individual level, digital literacy education should be delivered to everyone, through schools and educational campaigns aimed at older generations, to facilitate them to take advantage of opportunities presented by digital technologies. Of course, digital infrastructure must be expanded for this to be useful. In addition, sufficient investment is needed in developing research centres, particularly in developing countries, and in educating people in areas of science and technology. The support of both international and national scientific organisations across the world, in terms of resources and expertise, is vital in building a flourishing scientific environment on a global scale. Institutions must be built and enhanced towards this purpose, and to facilitate an inviting environment for investment in innovation and creativity- it is also important to have rewarding, well-funded scientific industries in order for countries to retain talent. Finally, it is important that scientific discoveries and innovations are made available to support communities in sustainable development.

### United Nations Security Council reform

For current negotiations to be effective, they must work off a single rolling text, used throughout negotiation sessions, in order to clarify and resolve opposing demands. Countries must show flexibility, through adjusting demands for new permanent seats to hold veto power (and there must be clarity on who seats will go to in relation to demands for more representation). One solution could be new semi-permanent seats that are elected on a longer-term basis, and that could eventually be extended into permanent seats. For the council to remain effective, there must be a change in the number of permanent seats with better regional representation, and a move away from the use of the veto- methods to limit its scope and use could be investigated, although its removal is likely impossible. The most effective way towards reform is probably reinterpretation of the UN Charter, rather than its amendment, which would require the assent of all P5 nations. This has previously led to the GA having a greater role in discussions on peace and conflict, and furthering this role could be effective particularly when the veto paralyses the council. For example, automatic consequences could be specified when a country breaches the UN Charter with illegal use of force, such as removal of UN membership, gradually if necessary, from that country. Finally, as has been seen with the example of Russia, considerations could be taken to facilitate the collective, informal implementation of sanctions by nations where necessary.

### Ongoing diplomacy

Sustained diplomatic efforts are vital to ensuring the work of the Pact is continued, and for it to make effective change. Potential treaties or future conferences on various issues are referred to throughout the Pact, and efforts on these must be accelerated. It is also vital that opportunities are seized to take strong action rather than vague promises. Education on relevant issues globally is important for increased pressure and desire for action from the public, although the effectiveness of this is limited, especially in non-democratic states. The UN should support member nations to train skilled diplomats, from a variety of fields and backgrounds, and technology should be embraced to make diplomatic negotiations more efficient. Finally, frameworks should be put in place for ongoing meeting and communication to sustain efforts to implement the Pact.

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