

Tuesday, 20 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
 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
 Afrihealth Optonet Association (AHOA) - CSOs Network
 AFVMC Assistance to Families and Migrants
 Akira Education & Charitable Trust
 ALLIANCE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE AU MALI/GCAP-MALI
 Alternatives Durables pour le développement (ADD)
 Amnesty International
 Angels on the Field
 APALAC COALITION
 APNEK (Association pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan)
 Arab Center for Cyberspace Research - ACCR
 ACRD-Congo
 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)
 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)
 ASSHO (Afghanistan Solidarity for Social & Humanity Organization)
 Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)
 Association des Dynamiques des Jeunes Marocains
 Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale AFEM
 Association du Développement et de la promotion de Droit de l'Homme
 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
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)
Captive Eye Organization
Care for the Elderly Intellectuals Public
Union
Caribbean Futures Forum
CENTER OF ARAB WOMEN FOR
TRAINIG AND RESEARCH
Centre for Citizens Conserving
Environment & Management (CECIC)
Centre for Health Science and Law
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]
climate-solution.org
CNCD-11.11.11
Coalición Colombiana por el Derecho a la
Educación
Coalition for the United Nations We Need
Colectivo Diversa CODIVER

Community Action on Sustainable
Development Initiative (CASDev) Nigeria
Community Legal Education Center
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, CNOBGD
Cooperation Canada
Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas
CONGCOOP
CSEM for UHC2030
CSYM HUDUMA* network
Danish Family Planning Association
Danish Red Cross Youth
DECA, EQUIPO PUEBLO
Democracy International e.V.
Democracy Without Borders
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
Fundación Etica Visionaria (FEV)
Fundación Existimos A.C
FUNDACIÓN MUNDO MEJOR
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación 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
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)
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
Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
HDS natural systems design science
Hellenic Platform for Sustainable Development
HIRED Consult
Homo Exploratoris
Human Rights Watch
Human Righths And Forest Braine Africa (Hurifba)
HumanizaCom (Humanitarian Journalism and Media Interventions), research group
HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement
IDAY Liberia Coalition Inc.
IDPAD coalition UK
IFBPW
Impact Driven Young Leaders Initiative
Indigenous Peoples Global Forum for Sustainable Development, IPGFforSD
INPADE
Institute for Economic Research on Innovation
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
Instituto Cidades Sistentaveis
Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos - IDDH
InterAgency Institute
International Alliance of Women
International Center for Research on Women
International Federation for Housing and Planning
international federation of women in legal careers
International Movement ATD Fourth World

International Movement for Advancement
of education Culture Social & Economic
Development (IMAECSED)
International Network for the Prevention of
Elder Abuse
International Service for Human Rights
International Society for Poverty
Elimination / Economic Alliance Group
International Treatment Preparedness
Coalition - Global (ITPC)
International Women's Development
Agency (IWDA)
ISIZIBA Community Based Organizations
of South Africa
Journalists for Human Rights
JUMUIYA WOMEN FUND
Justice House
JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France
(JMBF)
Juta Mewangi Enterprise (M) Sdn Bhd
KCOC Policy Center
KEIYO WOMEN TRUST
Khmer National Liberation Front
Kingdom Embassy Center International
USA
Kiribati Association of Non-Government
Organization (KANGO)
Krisoker Sor (Farmers' Voice)
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 Social Service
MenEngage Global Alliance
MY World Mexico
Nash Vek Public Foundation
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 Plus de Sida dans les Familles
ONG-ASHAD
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)
People in Need
People's Participation
PFI/ Pagan Federation International
Foundation
Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD
Poly Assistance Tunis
Presentation Sisters in Ireland & England
Progr{S}
PROMAD Foundation
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
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
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
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
The Hindu Institute of International Affairs
The Millennium Project
The People's Matrix Association
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 Developpement (UNASCAD)
UNITAS
United Nations Association - UK (UNA-
UK)
United Nations University - UNU FLORES
Universal Episcopal Synods
Universal Esperanto Association
Universal Institute of Professional
Management
UNYA Denmark
Usu Inteligente ASV AC
Vikas Adhyayan Kendra
Village Farmers Initiative (VFI)

Vision GRAM-International
Volunteer Groups Alliance
VWA FANM AYISYÈN (VFA)
WACI Health
WaterAid
We Are TB
WeQ Institute
Women Deliver
Women Engage for a Common Future
(WECF)
Women for Water Partnership
Women in Democracy and Governance
(WIDAG)
Women's Major Group
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 Africa
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