

# Outcome of the Summit of the Future

## Transforming global governance to build peace, promote human rights and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

On 22–23 September 2024, world leaders, including Parliament's President Roberta Metsola, convened at the United Nations for a 'Summit of the Future'. The UN Secretary-General presented the summit as a 'once-in-a-generation' opportunity to revive multilateral cooperation to address current and future global challenges. The European Parliament's ad-hoc delegation welcomed the 'Pact for the Future' endorsed at the summit. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) is due to report back to Members in a plenary statement on the outcome of the summit.

### Summit of the Future

In 2021, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, [tasked](#) by UN member states, released his report – [Our Common Agenda](#) – with recommendations on achieving the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and making multilateral cooperation more effective, fair and inclusive, to better address proliferating global threats and unprecedented technological change. The [Summit of the Future](#) he proposed took place in September 2024 during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). With [different interests](#) in play, the intergovernmental negotiations were lengthy and [went down to the wire](#). The outcome document, the non-binding [Pact for the Future](#), was adopted on 22 September, after a last-minute [blocking amendment](#) was rejected. [Several states](#) had also objected to wording on human rights, gender equality, nuclear disarmament, participation of civil society in UN activities and reform of the UN Security Council. The Pact pledges 56 actions to accelerate and finance sustainable development, ensure that technology benefits people and planet, invest in young people, support human rights and gender equality, and transform global governance. It has two annexes – a global compact on digital cooperation, including international regulation of artificial intelligence and a declaration on the needs and interests of [future generations](#).

### EU input to the summit

As stated in the June 2024 [Council conclusions](#) setting out the EU position for the 79th session of the UNGA, the EU supports the reform agenda initiated by the UN Secretary-General, and backed the Summit of the Future. The EU [engaged in the negotiations](#) on the Pact for the Future, [advocating priorities](#) for each chapter. With regard to specific action points, it expressed [support](#) for reforms to make the UN Security Council and the international financial architecture more representative and accountable. The EU also provided funding for the [UN Civil Society Conference](#) convened to give stakeholders a voice during the negotiations. EU Member States gave [statements](#) during the summit, welcoming the Pact for the Future. On 22 September, EU representatives, including the HR/VP [met](#) the UN Secretary-General to discuss the follow-up to the summit. [Analysts](#) see a role for the EU in ensuring that the follow-up is substantive, if it fleshes out policies to reform global financing and builds partnerships with the Global South.

### European Parliament position

The President of the European Parliament and a parliamentary delegation representing five committees [attended](#) the Summit of the Future and the [UN Action Days](#) that preceded it, also co-hosting several side-events and discussions on how to move forward. The delegation [welcomed](#) the adoption of the pact as a major achievement for rules-based multilateralism, something that Parliament has [long supported](#). Parliament is due to hold a debate on the [outcome](#) of the summit during the October I plenary session.

---

### EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Author: Rosamund Shreeves, Members' Research Service  
PE 762.415 – October 2024



This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2024

[epres@ep.europa.eu](mailto:epres@ep.europa.eu) (contact) <http://www.epres.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://eptthinktank.eu> (blog)