



Summit of the Future: Afternoon Plenary

Monday, 23 September 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta, Hon. Dr. Ian Borg

President,

Excellencies,

I will begin with four over-arching ideas:

- **First** - Global Challenges require Global Solutions. We gather at this Summit for a common purpose – to make the world a better place for present and future generations. Together there is nothing we cannot achieve.
- **Second** - to create a better future, we must accelerate action, right here, right now. Achieving the SDGs by 2030 or net zero by 2050 requires immediate action.
- **Third** - this Summit is not a final destination, but a stepping stone – a journey. We celebrate the positive elements in the Pact for the Future, and we encourage Member States to be even bolder in their vision and use this occasion as a springboard towards even more ambitious action.
- **And Fourth** - we must recognize the interconnectedness and harness the synergies across the three pillars of the United Nations – Sustainable Development, Peace and Security, and Human Rights – the UN stands tall when these three pillars are strong.



On **international peace and security**, a comprehensive approach encompassing these three pillars is essential in a world where conflict and crises are becoming increasingly complex and interconnected. We support the Secretary-General's call, now reflected in the Pact, for a greater focus on conflict prevention. The participation of women and youth in peace processes is crucial to prevent and resolve conflict, build and sustain peace. And we must address the adverse impacts of climate change on international peace and security.

On **sustainable development**, holistic action across its economic, social and environmental dimensions yields the best results. It is unacceptable that extreme poverty and hunger continue to persist in today's world. In this Pact, we recommit to eradicating them. We must turn climate and environmental challenges into opportunities for a cleaner, greener world, by scaling up renewable energy, transitioning away from fossil fuels, and achieving net zero. We must also work to ensure our ocean's health, resilience and sustainability, and take action to address sea-level rise which disproportionately impacts small island developing States.

Let us harness the benefits of **science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation**, to improve every aspect of our lives, while keeping a watchful eye on potential threats. In an era of globalization and rapid change, governments should act as catalysts and facilitators, creating enabling environments for collaboration and dynamism, while embracing the power of multi-stakeholder action.



We highlight the importance of investing in **young persons**, providing them with ample opportunities and quality education to reach their full potential, empowering them, and ensuring their engagement and participation. They are the innovators, entrepreneurs, dreamers and creators who shape this world.

Through this Pact we also acknowledge that **children** are very much our present, we are committed to their protection from armed conflict and violence, to work towards the eradication of poverty and hunger, and to put more children in schools and invest in their education.

We must respect, protect and fulfil the **human rights and fundamental freedoms** of every person on this planet regardless of their nationality, race, skin colour, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation. We reiterate the need to reduce inequality and leave no one, anywhere in the world, behind.

Gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, and their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making processes are essential prerequisites to sustainable development.

Together we are stronger. We join hands at this Summit of the Future to support efforts towards **transforming global governance, and a strengthened multilateral system** with the UN at its heart, embracing structural and systematic reform, towards a system that is more effective, nimble, responsive, efficient, accountable, representative and results-oriented, underpinned by international law.



We, the peoples of the United Nations must seize this opportunity to chart a better course forward for humanity. Malta is committed to do its part. We owe this to ourselves, to our children as well as to future generations to implement this Pact for the Future, and we are ready to start today.

Thank you.