



## **Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event**

### ***The Critical Role of Human Rights in Realizing the Pact for the Future***

21 September 2024, 1:00 – 2:15 pm, Conference Room 2, UNHQ

Organized by: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Costa Rica, South Africa, European Union, Action for Sustainable Development and CIVICUS

#### **Background on the event**

The Pact for the Future sets out an ambitious vision to address the challenges of today and tomorrow. However, there is a widening gap between this vision and the commitments elaborated in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda, and people's day-to-day reality. Human rights provide the blueprint for a just, peaceful and sustainable future – offering solutions based on agreed standards, principles, and universal values. It focused on how the United Nations, Member States, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders, could collaborate to implement the Pact, with human rights at its centre, producing tangible, positive change in the lives of people everywhere.

#### **Key issues discussed**

- The importance of a strong human rights system that works impartially and transparently across all human rights for an inclusive and effective multilateral system that is better able to respond and deliver for the people and planet.
- The critical role of human rights in achieving peace and security and sustainable development, recognizing that the three United Nations pillars are interlinked, mutually reinforcing, and of equal value and importance.
- How to strengthen buy-in, explore innovative solutions and forge collaborative partnerships for effective implementation of the Pact.

- Ways in which the High Commissioner’s Vision Statement, “[Human Rights: A Path for Solutions](#)”, provides the framework to link universal human rights to the actions and commitments elaborated in the Pact.

### **Key recommendations for action**

- The Panel discussion highlighted the crucial role of human rights in addressing ongoing conflicts, inequality, widening gaps in sustainable development, digital technology, climate change, disinformation, hate speech, and violations of international law. They emphasized the link between the three United Nations pillars and recommended implementing the Pact with a human rights-based approach.
- The Panel discussion underscored the interdependence and indivisibility of human rights and rejected the false dichotomy and debate of the primacy of one set of rights over another. Some stressed that fulfilling the right to development required the advancement of all rights.
- The Panel discussion recommended strengthening the United Nations human rights architecture. Specific recommendations included enhancing political leadership, increasing investment in the human rights pillar- putting it on par with the two other pillars, securing funding for civil society participation in United Nations activities and protection against reprisals, and strengthening accountability and investigative mechanisms, among others.
- The Panel discussion called for a human rights economy, a concept championed by the High Commissioner, which emphasizes economic policymaking aimed at achieving human rights, as well as social and environmental goals, rather than focusing solely on economic growth. They referred to the need for comprehensive measures of economic progress beyond Gross Domestic Product and tools to link the economy and the environment, with human rights at the centre – such as the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.
- The Panel discussion emphasized the importance of inclusive policymaking, particularly by supporting and protecting marginalised populations, human rights defenders, women, youth and civil society as agents of change.
- The Panel discussion highlighted the key role of human rights in prevention and sustaining peace, particularly in early warning and addressing the root causes of conflict, stressing on implementing national preventive strategies.
- The Panel discussion called for stronger political leadership and accountability and the prioritization of human rights as the foundation for effective governance and international cooperation. The Summit of the Future was an opportunity to enhance global cooperation and strengthen multilateralism towards peace, human rights and sustainable development.

Webpage to find more information: [The critical role of human rights in realizing the Pact for the Future | OHCHR](#)