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|  | **Revision 1 to**  **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/9-E** |
| **30 September 2024** |
| **English only** |
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| Report by the secretariat | |
| ITU’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE | |
| Purpose  The objective of this document is to provide information on the ITU’s contribution to and engagement with the Summit of the Future, including its outcome documents: the Pact for the Future and its Annex: the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations.  Action required  The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs is invited to **note** this document.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *UNGA Resolutions* [*A/RES/76/307*](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/307)*,* [*A/77/L.109*](https://undocs.org/en/A/77/L.109) *(Decision 77/568),* [*A/77/L.63*](https://undocs.org/en/A/77/L.63)*,* [*A/78/L.77*](https://undocs.org/en/A/78/L.77) *(Decision 78/555),* [*A/79/L.2*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F79%2FL.2&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False) *and* [*A/79/L.3*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F79%2FL.3&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*, Documents* [*C19/INF/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0008/en)*,* [*C20/INF/3*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-INF-0003/en)*;* [*C21/INF/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-INF-0002/en)*;* [*C22/INF/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-INF-0002/en)*;* [*C23/INF/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0008/en)*;* [*C23/INF/9*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0009/en)*;* [*C24/55*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0055/en)*; and* [*C24/INF/9*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-INF-0009/en) | |

# 1 Summit of the Future

1.1 The Summit of the Future, proposed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his [“Our Common Agenda” report](https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/) in 2021, aimed to address global peace and security issues through investment in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and reduction of strategic risks, while promoting sustainable use of outer space, and is described as a crucial chance to enhance global action and multilateral frameworks.

1.2 According to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on Modalities for the Summit of the Future ([A/RES/76/307](https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/307)), the Summit of the Future (SotF), which took place on 22‑23 September 2024, in New York, focused on reinforcing the UN Charter, boosting multilateralism, and finding practical solutions to global issues. The event, themed “Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow,” included plenary sessions and interactive dialogues and was preceded by the Summit’s Action Days. [A preparatory Ministerial Meeting](https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/ministerial-meeting) took place on 21 September 2023. The Summit concluded with the adoption of an outcome document called “A Pact for the Future”.

# 2 Outcome documents of the Summit of the Future

2.1 **Adoption**:On 22 September, Member States adopted the Summit’s outcome document, the Pact for the Future, along with its annexes which includes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration of Future Generations ([A/79/L.2](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F79%2FL.2&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False); [A/RES/79/1](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/272/22/pdf/n2427222.pdf)). The Summit opened with uncertainty following a series of broken silence procedures on the negotiated outcome documents, which were submitted by three sets of co-facilitators to the President of the UN General Assembly. Additionally, a last-minute amendment proposal ([A/79/L.3](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F79%2FL.3&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)), citing transparency issues and violations of UN principles, was submitted. This amendment faced opposition from a coalition of Member States emphasizing the need for global solidarity. The President of the General Assembly opened the vote on no action motion on the amendment, which resulted in 143 against, 7 in favor, and 15 abstentions, allowing Member States to adopt the Pact for the Future.[[1]](#footnote-2)

2.2 **Pact for the Future**: According to the UNGA Resolution on the Scope of the Summit of the Future ([A/77/L.109, Decision 77/568](https://undocs.org/en/A/77/L.109)), the Summit of the Future covered five key areas in its outcome document - the Pact for the Future: i) Sustainable development and financing for development; ii) International peace and security; iii) Science, technology, and innovation and digital cooperation; iv) Youth and future generations; and v) Transforming global governance. The co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Namibia to the UN in New York, were tasked with facilitating intergovernmental consultations to determine the Summit’s scope, topic, interactive dialogues, and the negotiation process for the Pact for the Future, with adequate time for the negotiating sessions.

In [the adopted Pact](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-pact_for_the_future_adopted.pdf), a list of 56 specific actions was introduced in response to the five areas, including 6 actions on science, technology and innovation (STI) and digital cooperation: i) seizing opportunities in STI for people and planet, ii) scaling up support for developing nations’ STI capabilities, iii) ensuring STI promote full human rights, iv) improving gender equality through STI, v) protecting and integrating indigenous and traditional knowledge, and vi) supporting the UN’s role in global STI cooperation. As part of the preparatory process, additional intergovernmental consultations were held on a ‘Declaration on future generations’ and a ‘Global Digital Compact (GDC)’, which were annexed to the Pact for the Future as agreed upon.

2.3 **Declaration on Future Generations**: The Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands and Jamaica to the UN in New York were tasked with facilitating intergovernmental consultations to develop a Declaration on Future Generations. Starting with the Preamble, [the adopted Declaration](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-pact_for_the_future_adopted.pdf) includes 10 Guiding Principles, 11 Commitments and 9 Actions aimed at safeguarding the needs and interests of future generations through responsible action, intergenerational solidarity, and the establishment of a resilient multilateral system rooted in international law.

Related to digital technologies, the Declaration emphasizes the need to promote the responsible and ethical use of science and technology, and innovation (in paragraph 6), advocates for effective governance to harness the benefits of emerging technologies (in paragraph 19) and commits to accessible and equitable quality education for all (in paragraph 22), in alignment with the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact.

2.4 **Global Digital Compact**: The Permanent Representatives of Sweden and Zambia to the UN in New York were tasked with facilitating intergovernmental consultations to develop a Global Digital Compact (GDC).[[2]](#footnote-3) [The adopted Global Digital Compact](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-pact_for_the_future_adopted.pdf) outlines 5 main objectives - listed below, and 13 principles aimed at achieving an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital future.

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| **Objectives[[3]](#footnote-4)**  [7.] To achieve our goal, we will pursue the following objectives:  1. close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals;  2. expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all;  3. foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promote human rights;  4. advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches;  5. enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity*.* |

The GDC includes Member States’ commitments and actions in response to each key objective. For example, **Objective 1** on closing the digital divide outlines specific commitments for connectivity, digital literacy, skills and capacities, digital public goods, and digital public infrastructure. This is followed by commitments under **Objective 2** on expanding inclusion in the digital economy, and commitments under **Objective 3** on creating an inclusive, secure, and rights-respecting digital space, which covers human rights, internet governance, digital trust and safety, and information integrity. The commitments call on digital technology companies and developers to respect human rights throughout the technology lifecycle, ensure accountability, and provide remedies for online human rights abuses (in paragraph 25), as well as engage diverse users in technology development, develop transparent accountability frameworks, provide online safety training and resources, and establish accessible reporting mechanisms for users (in paragraph 32). Additionally, the commitments also call for enhancing transparency in systems and user consent, providing researchers access to data for accountability, and developing AI safeguards against harmful content (in paragraph 36).

**Objective 4** on advancing fair and interoperable data governance outlines commitments for data privacy and security, data exchange and standards, data for Sustainable Development Goals and development, cross-border data flows, and interoperable data governance. This is followed by commitments under **Objective 5** on enhancing AI governance, which include the establishment of new UN mechanisms, such as an International Scientific Panel on AI, a Global Dialogue on AI Governance, and a Global Fund/voluntary funding options for AI (in paragraphs 56 and 63).

For **follow-up and review**, it requests the UN Secretary-General to create a Compact implementation map for tracking progress and to include it in the his report on the World Summit on the Information Society ahead of the WSIS+20 review (in paragraph 71), while also proposing a new UN office that builds on the existing Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology to enhance UN coordination for digital cooperation during the 79th session of the General Assembly (in paragraph 72). In addition, it includes a high-level review of the Global Digital Compact during the 82nd session of the General Assembly, based on a progress report by the UN Secretary-General, with inputs and meaningful participation from all stakeholders (in paragraph 74).

2.5 **ITU contribution to the outcome documents**: Responding to Member States’ strong recommendations during the Council Working Group on the Strategic and Financial Plans (CWG-SFP) and the Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society and Sustainable Development Goals (CWG-WSIS&SDGs), ITU collaborates with the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General and other UN agencies on digital cooperation within its mandate, including in the context of Our Common Agenda (OCA). Among the proposals contained in OCA, ITU followed up on the ones which particularly relate to universal connectivity and digital transformation, including those on a Global Digital Compact (GDC), Outer space, Transforming Education, as well as the discussions at the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism and overall preparations for the Summit of the Future.

In particular, ITU contributed at every opportunity in the process to develop the Global Digital Compact (GDC), including in the thematic deep-dive consultations organized by the co-facilitators and providing keynote remarks and expert statements. ITU also contributed to the GDC online consultation process led by the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (OSET) and hosted roundtables in Geneva during the WSIS Forum 2023 for the co-facilitators to interact with civil society, technical community and private sector stakeholders and provided several opportunities during the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 to collect inputs from multistakeholders. Recognizing that the process is an intergovernmental one, ITU met with Permanent Missions and other agencies to advance discussions on the GDC in Geneva and New York. This includes hosting consultations at the ITU between the Co‑facilitators of the GDC and representatives of Permanent Missions in Geneva, and another one with the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS). As the UNGIS co-chair in 2023 and rotational vice-chair in 2024, and the UNGIS Permanent Secretariat, ITU has coordinated in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNESCAP and UNECLAC four [UNGIS inputs](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/) to the informal consultations on GDC. ITU's engagement spans various levels of the development process, including delivering speeches aligned with UNGIS in nonstate stakeholder consultations on the GDC.

ITU places great emphasis on the critical role of ICTs for sustainable development while minimizing potential risks. Our messages to the GDC processes have been based on discussions held during key ITU events, e.g., the consultations during the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) and the Ministerial Roundtable in Bucharest, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) in Kigali, WSIS Forum 2023 and the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 in Geneva, as well as the outcomes of the last World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) and relevant PP Resolutions. ITU’s inputs for future digital technology development are, for example but not limited to, promoting connectivity for all people and all schools worldwide to the Internet, based on future-oriented policies and collaborative regulatory frameworks ensuring availability and inclusiveness. The ITU Secretary-General also made a statement to the Ministerial for the Summit of the Future on 21 September 2023 at UN Headquarters in New York during the UNGA High-Level Week.

# 3 Programmes of the Summit of the Future

3.1 In the lead-up to the Summit of the Future, the President of the 78th session of the UNGA had circulated [the provisional program for the Summit](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/240710_summit_of_the_future_provisional_programme_final.pdf), which was held on 22-23 September 2024 at UN Headquarters in New York, under the theme “Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow.” In his [letter to Member States on 12 July](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/pga_letter-_sotf_2024-07-12-18-54-44.pdf), he had outlined the four revised topics for the interactive dialogues, which took place in parallel with the Plenary. On 22 September, discussions focused on i) transforming global governance and ii) enhancing multilateralism for international peace and security; on 23 September, the dialogues addressed iii) bridging the digital divide through inclusive innovation, and iv) strengthening the global system for current and future generations.

3.2 Ahead of the Summit, the UN Secretary-General convened [the Summit of the Future Action Days](https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/action-days) on 20 and 21 September 2024 to foster broad engagement and inclusion across various stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, the private sector, academia, and youth. The Action Days featured a youth-led afternoon on 20 September, highlighting the crucial role of youth in global cooperation under the theme “#YouthLead for the Future: We Believe in the Promise of a Better World for All.” On 21 September, the agenda addressed three priority themes: i) [A Digital Future for All](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1y/k1ykxnvcbr); ii) [A Peaceful Future for All](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k18/k18x7brtj8); and iii) [A Sustainable Future for All](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k12/k125ukbem1), with a focus on future generations. Concurrently, a number of high-level side events organized by UN entities and stakeholders were held.

3.3 **ITU’s engagement with the Summit Programme**: ITU had closely monitored and engaged with the preparatory process for the Summit, guided by the co-facilitators under the auspices of the 77th, 78th and 79th sessions of the UNGA, and supported and contributed to it in line with our mandate. In the lead-up to the Summit and the Summit’s Action Days, ITU had collaborated with the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General (EOSG), the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (OSET), UNDP and other United Nations agencies, and [members of the SDG Digital Advisory Group](https://www.itu.int/initiatives/sdgdigital/supporters/) to plan and design a series of events on digital cooperation, aligned with the themes of the Summit. Throughout the Summit, ITU engaged with multiple speeches at the highest level, including [the Secretary-General’s plenary statement](https://www.itu.int/en/osg/Pages/all-speeches.aspx) and her [scene-setting remarks](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1y/k1ykxnvcbr) in the Interactive Dialogue on Digital, as indicated below. ITU also engaged substantially with the Action Days. ITU together with its partners UNYO, UNDP, ITU, WIPO, UNFPA, MGCY, and ICMYO organized the session **#YouthLead: Shaping an Inclusive Digital Future for All** which was held on 20 September. The session emphasized the importance of youth inclusion in policymaking to address digital divides and build a sustainable digital future.

3.3.1 **A Digital Future for All**: Together with UNDP and OSET, ITU was a co-convener of the digital track titled ‘[A Digital Future for All](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1y/k1ykxnvcbr)’ among the three themes of the Summit Action Days. Held in parallel with ‘[A Peaceful Future for All](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k18/k18x7brtj8)’ and ‘[A Sustainable Future for All](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k12/k125ukbem1)’ tracks, the digital track took place from 0900 to 1800 on 21 September. Under the three sub-Acts: Welcome to 2030, The Hope of Digital, and Laying the Foundations of a Digital Future for All, it focused on harnessing innovation and technology to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and secure digital future through three Acts featuring diverse stakeholder commitments and discussions. At the event, ITU and UNDP announced global digital infrastructure initiatives, including Brazil’s plan to connect 138 000 schools, while Google launched a $120 million AI fund to expand global education and training on AI.

3.3.2 **SDG Digital GameChangers Award**: The 2nd edition of the SDG Digital GameChangers Award recognized organizations that are advancing the Global Goals through digital means. The award received over 1 100 submissions from 126 countries, 40 per cent of which were from youth. The award ceremony took place on 20 September as part of the SDG Digital program, and honoured winners and runners-up’s achievements in five categories: i) People (Empowering Lives and Communities); ii) Planet (Innovation for Climate and Environment); iii) Prosperity (Promoting Economic Growth); iv) Peace (Building Peaceful and Inclusive Societies), and v) Special Category Pioneers (Unlocking Ideas from Youth). The winners presented game changing solutions to turbocharge the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3.3.3 **Broadband Commission**: The ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development convened its Fall Meeting 2024 on 20 September, in New York, on the theme “Towards a Resilient, Safe, and Inclusive Digital Future”. Aligned with the Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact, the meeting explored collaborative opportunities to support its implementation by envisioning the future of connectivity and the development of resilient, safe, and inclusive digital strategies. Commissioners also focused on exploring opportunities, challenges, and innovative approaches for enhancing digital resilience against disruptions and crises as well as envision what the future holds for digital. With over 50 Commissioners, representatives and Special Guests attending, the Commission urged governments, industry, academia and civil society to collaborate to support the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, emphasizing that enhanced global digital cooperation is needed to ensure a resilient, safe and inclusive digital future for all. The meeting of the Commission also welcomed the ongoing work of the Commission's Working Group on Data Governance in the Digital Age, which is developing a Data Governance Toolkit: A Roadmap for the Digital Age.

3.3.4 **WSIS/UNGIS side event titled WSIS in Action**: The side event titled ‘’WSIS in Action: Shaping the Future of Digital Cooperation’’ was co-organized by WSIS/UNGIS, co-sponsored by Malaysia, Romania, South Africa and the United Kingdom on 20 September, in New York, during the Summit of the Future Action Days. The discussion highlighted the strong commitment of all stakeholders towards the process, in light of the WSIS+20 and beyond. The side event included contributions from UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, ECLAC, FAO, WHO, civil society representatives, the technical community, and other relevant stakeholders. Details of the side event are available [here](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/535).

3.3.5 **Other ITU events during the Summit:** ITU also co-hosted other side events at UN Headquarters in New York and nearby in New York City for the Summit of the Future and during the UN General Assembly opening period. These include a side event on ITU's Partner2Connect initiative, a side event on AI and Early Warnings for All with UN Global Pulse, a side event with WIPO and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation on the occasion on the International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South, and a side event with UNICC, WEF, Accenture, and Quantum Delta NL, sponsored by Namibia and the Netherlands, on Quantum for Good, as well as an event on the Digital Infrastructure Investment Initiative.

# 4 Follow-up of the Summit of the Future

4.1 Within the mandates given by Member States, the ITU will continue to be dedicated to leading comprehensive global efforts to bridge digital divides and enhance access to both current and emerging technologies across nations and within communities. This commitment includes improving digital infrastructure, advancing digital literacy, and protecting vulnerable and marginalized groups to ensure they can effectively utilize digital tools. The ITU will work to strengthen the tech sector's role in sustainable development by supporting gender equality initiatives and promoting global standards for interconnection and interoperability, which are crucial for the successful implementation of Global Digital Compact. Additionally, the ITU will advance the Green Digital Action to enhance the digital industry’s commitment to combating climate change and ensuring sustainability. Efforts will also focus on expanding digital capacity development to reach and support currently underserved regions.

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1. [World leaders adopt pivotal UN Pact for the Future | UN News](https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154581); [Daily report for 22 September 2024 (iisd.org)](https://enb.iisd.org/summit-future-daily-report-22sep2024?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ENB%20Update%20-%2023%20September%202024&utm_content=ENB%20Update%20-%2023%20September%202024+CID_93499e5343f6c49ec54b46b216cf26c6&utm_source=cm&utm_term=Read%20the%20daily%20report); [Press Release | United Nations adopts ground-breaking Pact for the Future to transform global governance - United Nations Sustainable Development](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2024/09/press-release-sotf-2024/). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Initially, it was the Permanent Representative of Rwanda who facilitated the preparatory process with Sweden before becoming the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa in October 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-pact_for_the_future_adopted.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)