United Nations Association of Finland

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Chapeau

The Pact for the Future is a unique opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the visions outlined in Our Common Agenda as well as the 11 policy papers supporting the preparation.

It is indeed high time to reinvigorate multilateralism and ensure that a strong UN is a central arena for international relations in all the realms of the Pact for the Future.

We call upon reinforcing the linkages between human rights and Sustainable Development Goals.

We demand meaningful engagement of all Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in the spirit of Leave No One Behind, and therefore highlight the need to ensure the inclusion of civil society organizations, youth, women in all their diversity, indigenous people, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups at all stages of the decision-making processes related to the Pact for the Future as well as in all UN forums of decision-making.

The rights of women and girls in all their diversity and gender equality must be a cross-cutting priority in all the five Chapters. Intersectional approach and paying attention to multiple sources of discrimination enables us to assess the gaps and find lasting solutions to challenges tackled under all Chapters.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Enhancing sustainable development and financing for development is a complex task that requires coordinated efforts from governments, international organizations, private sector entities, and civil society. We emphasize investing in:

- Continued efforts to negotiate an international tax system under a UN convention.
- Joint structure on financial integrity and tackling illicit financial flows
- Promote the growth of social impact investment, attracting capital to projects with both financial and social or environmental returns
- Call for increased and more effective ODA from developed countries, with a focus on poverty reduction, education, health, and sustainable infrastructure.
- New and additional climate financing for developing countries 100 billion USD per year until 2025 under the Paris Agreement and ensuring the continuation of climate financing for post-2025 period, as well as commitment to contribute sufficiently to the Loss and Damages Fund for which the estimated need is already 2,8 trillion USD per year and escalates the slower we are in mitigation and adaptation measures.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Promoting international peace and security requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. By addressing strategic risks, investing in prevention and peacebuilding, and ensuring the inclusion of women, girls, and young people, the international community can work towards creating a more peaceful and secure world. We emphasize investing in:

- Diplomatic solutions and dialogue to reduce tensions among nuclear-armed states.
- Promotion of responsible use and development of artificial intelligence and enhanced cybersecurity measures and cooperation between states.
- Enhanced global dialogue on the ethical implications of autonomous weapons
- Increased funding for the Peacebuilding Fund to support post-conflict reconstruction and development.
- Strengthening the mandate and resources of the Peacebuilding Commission to enhance its effectiveness.
- Investing in early warning systems to identify and address potential conflicts.
- Supporting local and community-led conflict prevention initiatives.
- Promotion of inclusion of women and youth in conflict prevention efforts.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

We need to strike a balance between technological advancement and the protection of human rights, ethical conduct, and responsible behavior in both the digital and outer space domains. At the same time, we need to make sure that we don’t backtrack on existing human rights treaties and language when dealing with new technologies. A collaborative approach involving governments, tech companies, civil society, and international organizations is essential for meaningful progress. We emphasize investing in:

- Ensuring existing human rights treaties are applied online, and new technologies do not undermine established human rights principles.

- Working towards creating international frameworks for the ethical use of AI and promotion of responsible AI research and development.
- Establishing digital rights frameworks that encompass privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information.
- Demanding transparency and accountability from major technology companies regarding their data collection, usage, and algorithms.
- Introducing economic disincentives for companies involved in the development and deployment of AI systems that contribute to online hate speech, disinformation, and misinformation.
- Discussions and development of international norms and agreements related to responsible space governance and the peaceful use of outer space.
- Engaging civil society and other stakeholders through a multistakeholder dialogue on outer space.
- Ensuring the security and integrity of satellite communications and sustainable practices in outer space activities, including debris mitigation and responsible satellite deployment.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

By prioritizing youth engagement, environmental sustainability, and transformative global governance, the international community can work towards a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future. To ensure constant and effective youth engagement in decision-making we emphasize investing in:

- Ensuring constant, effective youth engagement in decision-making at all levels of governance and allocating sufficient resources to it.
- Safeguarding the living conditions for the future generations through implementing the Right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Appointment of UN Special Envoy for Future Generations

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

To strengthen international foresight and implement the Secretary-General's proposal on the Global Emergency Platform in alignment with the principles of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability, we emphasize investing in:

- Ensuring active and meaningful representation of vulnerable groups in foresight processes.
- Developing guidelines for emergency response that protect the rights, well-being and dignity of vulnerable populations.
- Establishing channels for ongoing community engagement and feedback during the implementation of emergency response measures.

- Fostering international collaboration and sharing of best practices and lessons learned to enhance collective preparedness and response capabilities.

Stronger UN 2.0. through active and meaningful civil society participation

UN should create an environment that actively welcomes and values the contributions of civil society. Incorporating civil society inclusion in the pool of experts supporting UN system in designing strategies and plans is a forward-thinking approach that can bring diverse perspectives, innovative ideas, and grassroots insights into the decision-making processes. We emphasize investing in:

- Fostering an environment that enables effective collaboration between civil society and UN entities at all levels internationally, regionally and nationally with One UN coordination structure.
- Ensuring that UN conferences and events are designed to be inclusive, allowing for meaningful participation from civil society organizations.
- Establishing mechanisms for regular consultations between civil society experts, UN leaders and representatives of member states.
- Establish advisory boards or working groups that include civil society experts to provide ongoing input on specific issues.
- Ensure that these bodies have a meaningful role in shaping policies and initiatives.
- Leverage digital technologies to facilitate remote participation for civil society organizations, allowing them to engage in UN activities without geographical constraints.
- Opening the UN training structures to enhance citizens' understanding of UN structures and possibilities for improving advocacy work and empowering individuals and civil society organizations to engage more effectively with the UN system.

Enhancing the legitimacy and trustworthiness of the UN is crucial for the organization's effectiveness and global impact. Improving external control functions and whistleblower protection is essential for promoting accountability, transparency, and the integrity of the UN system. It requires a commitment from the organization's leadership, member states, and the broader international community. We emphasize investing in:

- Strengthening external oversight mechanisms and establishing an independent office dedicated to handling whistleblower complaints within the UN system.
- Aligning whistleblower protection policies with international best practices and standards and strengthening legal protections for whistleblowers within the UN system.