



Volunteer Groups Alliance

Statement on the Summit of the Future 2024

After 18 months of negotiations, the Pact of the Future was adopted by Member States last week during the United Nations General Assembly along with its annexes, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations. Despite a last minute proposal for an amendment by some countries, including Russia, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Syria, the Pact was adopted by consensus.

Through 56 Actions, the Pact's five broad focus areas focus on the important areas of 1) sustainable development, 2) international peace and security, 3) science and technology, 4) youth and future generations, and 5) transforming global governance. Of the 56 Actions, 15 of them focus on International Peace and Security, and across the document, there are 13 mentions of civil society.

While the Volunteers Stakeholder Group commends the efforts of the negotiators, there are some clear flaws in the adopted document:

- Despite engagement of Civil Society Organizations with Member States in the lead up to the Pact, there is no mention of addressing civic space restrictions.
- The follow-up processes for the 56 Actions are not considered and are unclear.
- There is concern about increasing rhetoric of nuclear race increasing.
- Although the Pact mentions the role of the International Court of Justice, no mentions of accountability and justice through the International Criminal Court are addressed.
- The Pact reflects high tensions among Member States in the current context.

With only 5 years left to accomplish the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is more critical than ever for Member States to fulfill their commitments of a decade ago to save the planet and ensure peace for its citizens. More than one billion volunteers annually stand ready to build hope and resilience, improve lives, and strengthen sustainable development in communities around the globe every day.