

Road to the Summit Discussion Series
Meeting 10 Summary | 26 July

A Tale of Two Summits

Relationship between the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future

- The two summits must be seen as complementary. Their objectives are reinforcing, and the strong linkages between them should be emphasized and leveraged.
- The SDG Summit will focus primarily on the “what,”—defining objectives, taking stock, and identifying challenges. The Summit of the Future (SOTF) should focus on strengthening capacities for action and implementation—the “how.” These must both be embedded in a compelling vision of the future that we aspire to achieve—the “why”.
- The SOTF is a chance to follow up on calls for action at the SDG Summit, including by building an enabling multilateral environment and working to resolve continuous issues.
- A World Social Summit has been proposed for 2025, as well. The process set in motion by all these summits should, 1. Establish clear objectives, accountability, and monitoring, 2. Ensure the participation and buy-in of all relevant actors, 3. Establish a brisk and steady pace of action, and 4. Lay foundations for a “new global deal”.
- The Summits need to result in global arrangements that provide for the wellbeing of all nations—and move away from systems grounded in political realities from 75 years ago.

Current state of play

- Member States called for the SOTF process to not overburden or duplicate efforts. The schedule of meetings was subsequently scaled back, though planning continues.
- After the SDG Summit, attention will shift to the Summit of the Future.
- Negotiations around the political declaration of the SDG Summit are ongoing. Their outcome will influence the Pact for the Future.
 - Four chapters and one cross-cutting issue are expected for the Pact for the Future. The SOTF ministerial this September will be an opportunity to clarify the message.
- Member States are discussing the Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact, to see how they fit with other elements of the SOTF.
- The process for civil society engagement with the SOTF, through the MGoS system, requires further consultation and clarity.
- There is growing support for a UN Civil Society conference to be held in May of next year (2024). The conference was last held in 2019.
- A summit on current development challenges and the role of science, technology, and innovation is being held this September, to coordinate the position of the global South.
- *Our Common Agenda* proposals can be grouped by the actions needed to accomplish them, eg.: Things the Secretary-General has a mandate to do on his own, either through the UN Charter or Member State decisions; Processes that are already ongoing, which the Summits

can reaffirm or reinvigorate; Areas where the Secretary General or the UN don't have a clear mandate or need a new one, such as in cutting edge challenges like biorisks or cyber threats.

Suggestions for the Summit of the Future

- The SOTF needs to catalyze a new global consensus around the multilateral system and begin a process of reforming global governance systems. It needs to reinforce multilateralism.
 - It should strengthen global response to threats to international peace and security, increase global digital cooperation, and contribute to the reform of the global financial architecture.
 - It should increase coherence between the development, human rights, and peace and security pillars of the UN.
 - It should address the provision of means of implementation for developing countries, including financing, technology transfer, and capacity development.
- The SOTF will be a good opportunity to synergize global agendas such as Agenda 2030, the Sendai Framework, the Paris climate agreement, the financing for development process, etc.
- The SOTF elements resolution should be concise and actionable, but maintain flexibility.
- The Pact for the Future should focus on putting in place new processes at the international level to deliver on the SDGs. It should not just be a wishlist of objectives for Member States.
- There is a clear business case to be made for achieving the SDGs, and constructive members of the business community should be welcomed as partners, appropriately situated.
- Reducing risk and building resilience should be central to the SOTF. Sendai is key.
- It is important that the SOTF not duplicate the SDG climate and environmental tracks, yet still be grounded in the Paris climate agreement.
- In crafting declarations and outcomes, it's important to distinguish between areas in which agreements have already been made, and areas where new commitments are being made.
- The SOTF should give attention to specific populations, such as children and youth, women, and Afro-descendants. Meaningful inclusion requires participation in preparatory processes and on Member State delegations, not just speaking on panels.
- The SOTF will need to identify not just what actions are needed, but how those actions will be financed. Where needed money will come from should be a topic of ongoing discussion.
- Process can be as important as content and should be prioritized accordingly. Clarity of purpose is key. We need to know what exactly we want out of the sequence of Summits, for example, action, accountability mechanisms, delivery capacity, etc.
- There is a need for change in mindset and in process. How we think about our problems and how we calculate the actions needed to address them needs to shift.
- It will be important to sustain political momentum from this September until the World Social Summit in 2025, without exhausting the political capital of the multilateral system.
- Working to build trust will be vital in the Summits, as different actors have different priorities. Diplomacy is the art of processing dissent and difference in a respectful way, based on trust.
 - The SOTF provides one of the greatest opportunities for advancing dialogue, diplomacy, and trust-building.
- Partnerships will be key to the SOTF and advancing the work of the SDGs. Attention should remain focused on strengthening SDG 17.
- There is significant conceptual consensus around the need to reform governance structures, the international financial architecture, etc. That consensus needs to be translated into institutional action.