Statement delivered on Tuesday, 20 February 2024
(with updated list of signed up organizations from Friday, 1 March 2024)

To the attention of:

Her Excellency, Ms Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, Co-Facilitator of the Summit of the Future

His Excellency, Mr Neville M. Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations, Co-Facilitator of the Summit of the Future

His Excellency, Mr Dennis Francis, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, President of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly

His Excellency, Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations

Excellencies,

We, the undersigned civil society organizations engaged with UN processes on negotiated outcomes are writing with regard to the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future. Our joint endeavour, building on the 2020 document “Recommendations to ensure meaningful civil society participation at the United Nations” is to ensure that the process ahead is inclusive and participative.

We would like to thank the co-facilitators for presenting the zero draft of the Pact for the Future in an open live format via UN Web TV on Monday, 29 January 2024, and for inviting representatives of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) and civil society to a virtual consultation on 21 February 2024. We are eager to collaborate to make the Summit's process inclusive, trusting, and representative of civil society’s diverse voices, as advocated by the #UNmute campaign.

We are concerned about the limited space for civil society in this process. We regret that the letters dated 14 December 2023 and 26 January 2024 do not envisage meaningful engagement of civil society. This falls short of the UN's stated commitment to inclusivity as championed by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres in Our Common Agenda, and the actual mechanisms for civil society participation. This contrasts with earlier UN processes and the need for a summit focused on the future of people and the planet.

While Member States are provided direct avenues for input through in-person consultations and submissions, civil society's engagement is limited to virtual consultations and written inputs at relatively short notice. We are concerned that our feedback is being overlooked, raising questions about the efficacy of these mechanisms. Furthermore, these differential avenues for engagement restrict meaningful interaction between civil society and Member States and eliminate the possibility of genuine co-creation.

In addition, the closed nature of informal consultations with Member States, coupled with the lack of interpretation services, exacerbates barriers for non-English speakers and those outside New York. This process starkly contrasts with the need for a people-centric and open global governance approach, effectively sidelining the input of MGoS and other civil society actors.
Looking ahead to the Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, we emphasize the need for an inclusive conference that provides space for diverse, meaningful, broad, and safe participation - including from historically marginalized and underrepresented communities. We urge that sufficient resources are earmarked for meaningful participation of a diverse range of civil society stakeholders.

The future should be shaped by all stakeholders. There is a pressing need to reevaluate the engagement framework to ensure civil society's contributions are genuinely integrated into the Pact for the Future.

In response to these challenges and based on successful precedents, we propose the following concrete steps for immediate action to enhance civil society participation around the negotiations of the Summit of the Future:

1. **Establish Inclusive Platforms for Engagement and Open Consultations for All:**
   We advocate for the creation of dedicated mechanisms allowing diverse civil society groups - including historically marginalized and underrepresented communities and informal activists and social movements - to actively participate in UN processes. These platforms should facilitate **direct input into policy discussions, decision-making, and implementation oversight, including digital access** to ensure inclusive participation, enable real-time engagement and feedback. These platforms should embrace a hybrid participation model, combining digital access with in-person engagement to ensure broad, inclusive, and direct civil society involvement. Additionally, broadcasting meetings on WebTV would allow civil society worldwide to remain informed and actively contribute their expertise. This step is crucial to counter the prevailing global north bias, democratizing representation and ensuring all voices and perspectives are equally represented in international dialogues.

2. **Representative Participation:** We advocate for designated seats for MGoS and civil society representatives throughout the preparatory phases, Pact for the Future negotiations and at the Summit itself. This model of representative participation ensures that civil society voices are not only heard but are integral to the decision-making process.

3. **Incorporate a Comprehensive Review of Civil Society’s Meaningful Engagement in UN Processes into the Pact for the Future.** Such a review could be conducted based on a list of recommendations and benchmarks for civil society engagement to be established through a manual co-designed by Member States and civil society, which may include but not be limited to:
   - The incorporation of civil society in working and advisory working groups.
   - The integration of civil society in UN governance, such as the appointment of a Special Envoy for Civil Society dedicated to enhancing and facilitating civil society participation across the UN, ensuring that a diverse range of civil society voices are represented in global dialogues.
   - Continuous and open channels of communication between UN bodies and civil society, allowing for ongoing dialogue, exchange of information, and collaboration beyond formal meetings and sessions. This could include regular briefings, consultations, and interactive dialogues.
   - Programs for civil society representatives to enhance their understanding of UN processes, improve advocacy skills, and ensure effective participation.
   - Sufficient resources for meaningful participation of a diverse range of civil society stakeholders at in-person Summits and Conferences.
- Support for civil society-led side events and forums alongside UN meetings and processes. These events provide valuable opportunities for highlighting specific issues, sharing best practices, and fostering partnerships.
- Mechanisms to ensure transparency in decision-making processes and accountability for the implementation of agreed-upon actions and policies.
- Mechanisms to protect, support, and safeguard civil society engagement with the United Nations. This includes strengthening responses to prevent and address reprisal cases and ensure appropriate systems are in place to identify, document and report on incidents, including through clear zero-tolerance messages and by awareness-raising among staff, Member States, and civil society interlocutors.
- An Annual Civil Society Action Day that fosters accountability, review, and dialogue regarding the role and impact of civil society within the UN system.

We look forward to collaborating closely to ensure that the Summit of the Future process is truly inclusive, builds rather than erodes trust and incorporates the diverse voices of civil society, as advocated by the #UNmute campaign.

We look forward to a positive response and fruitful collaboration.

Signed,

AbibiNsroma Foundation/GCAP
Ghana

ACCIÓN Asociación Chilena de ONGs

Accountability Lab

ACRD-Congo

ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together

Action for Sustainable Development

Adéquations

African Children and Youth Development Network (ACYDN)

Afrihealth Optonet Association (AHOA) - CSOs global Network and Think-tank on Health and Sustainable Development

Afrihealth Optonet Association (AHOA) - CSOs Network

AfroLeadership

AFVMC Assistance to Families and Migrants

Ágora Ciudadanos Cambiando México

Akira Education & Charitable Trust

ALLIANCE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE AU MALI/GCAP-MALI

Alternatives Durables pour le développement (ADD)

Amnesty International

Angels on the Field

Animal People, Inc.

APALAC COALITION

APNEK (Association pour la Protection de la Nature et de l’Environnement de Kairouan)

Arab Center for Cyberspace Research -ACCR

Asabe Shehu Yar’Adua Foundation (ASYARFS)

Asia Dalit Rights Forum

Asia Development Alliance

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

Asia Pacific Women’s Watch (APWW)

Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Asociación Chilena de Voluntarios

ASOCIACIÓN CIUDADANA POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS

Asociacion de Organismos no Gubernamentales ASONOG.
CHIRAPAQ Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú
Citizens’ Climate Lobby Colombia
Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS)
CIVICUS
Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding [CSPPS]
Civil Society SDGs Campaign GCAP Zambia
climatesolution.org
CNCD-11.11.11
Coalición Colombiana por el Derecho a la Educación
Coalition 2030
Coalition for the United Nations We Need
Colectivo Diversa CODIVER
Colombia social impact corporation
Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat)
Community Action on Sustainable Development Initiative (CASDev) Nigeria
Community Development Initiative (CDI)
Community Legal Education Center
Confederación Colombiana de ONG - CCONG
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Congregation of the Mission
Conseil de Concertation des ONG de Développement (CCOD)
Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de base (CCOAI)
Conseil de Facilitation et gestion Locale (CFGL)
Conseil inter Ong en Centrafrique (CIONGCA)
Conseil National des ONG de Développement, CNONGD
Consolation East Africa
Cooperation Canada
Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas CONGOOP
Coordination SUD
CSEM for UHC2030
CSYM HUDUMA CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL YOUTH MINISTRY YLO TANZANIA tz
CSYM HUDUMA* network
DanChurchAid
Danish Family Planning Association
Danish Red Cross Youth
DECA, EQUIPO PUEBLO
Democracy International e.V.
Democracy Without Borders
DFRD -Dignity Foundation for Relief &Development
Dignity Initiative
DISABILITY PEOPLES FORUM UGANDA
Dóchas
Dr Uzo Adirieje Foundation (DUZAFOUND)
Društvo Bodi svetloba
Echoes of Women in Africa Initiatives
Elizabeth Lee
Emonyo Yefwe International
Empower India
Encuentro de Activistas LGBTI
Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA)
European Emergency Circle
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
Fingo - Finnish Development NGOs
FN-forbundet / Danish United Nations Association
FOCSIV Italian Federation Christian NGOs
Fondation Eboko
Fondazione Proclade Internazionale-onlus
Forum das Organizações Não Governamentais Angolanas
Forus
Foundation for Global Governance and Sustainability (FOGGS)
Foundation for Innovative Social Development
Free Trade Union Development Center
Freedom Files Foundation
Friends for future
Fundación Arcoiris
Fundación Etica Visionaria (FEV)
Fundación Existimos A.C
Fundacion Multitudes
FUNDACIÓN MUNDO MEJOR
Fundacion para Estudio e Investigacion de la Mujer
Fundación para la Democracia Internacional
Fundación Prosperiti Guatecivica
Fundación Victimas Vulnerables Mujeres Afro Independientes (FUNVIMUFROIN)
Fundeps - Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables
Gatef organization
GCAP-Senegal
Gender and Economy Research Center NPGE
Gender Links Kenya
Gender-Centru
Gente Buena Dejando Huella A.C.
Gestos
GESTOS – HIV+, Communication and Gender
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)
GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION (GCE)
Global Civil Society Consortium on Climate Change and the Conferences of Parties (GCSCCC)
Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors - GCSPF
Global Distribution Advocates, Inc.
Global Focus
Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD)
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Global Participe
Global Social Justice
Greenpeace
Greycells. Association of Former International Civil Servants for Development
Groupe de Réflexion et d'Initiative pour l'Avancement de la Grand'Anse (GRIAG)
Halley Movement for Social and Community Development
Hape development and welfare association
HaritaDhara Research Development and Education Foundation
Hawa Trust Foundation
Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
HDS natural systems design science
Hellenic Platform for Sustainable Development
HIRED Consult
Homo Exploratoris
Human Rights Watch
Human Rights And Forest Braine
Africa (Hurifba)
Humanitaire Plus
HumanizaCom (Humanitarian
Journalism and Media Interventions),
research group
HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic
Engagement
IDAY Liberia Coalition Inc.
IDPAD coalition UK
IFBPW
Impact Driven Young Leaders Initiative
Indigenous Peoples Global Forum for
Sustainable Development, IPPGforSD
INPADE
INSTANCE NATIONALE DE
PROTECTION DES BIENS PUBLICS
ET DE LA TRANSPARENCE AU
MAROC “ INPBPTM “
Institute for Economic Research on
Innovation
Institute for Research and Advocacy
civil society (LEGITIMID)
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary -
Loreto Generalate
Instituto Cidades Sistentaveis
Instituto de Desenvolvimento e
Direitos Humanos - IDDH
InterAgency Institute
International Alliance of Women
International Center for Research on
Women
International Federation for Housing
and Planning
international federation of women in
legal careers
International Movement ATD Fourth
World
International Movement for
Advancement of education Culture
Social & Economic Development
(IMAECESED)
International Network for the
Prevention of Elder Abuse
International Service for Human Rights
International Society for Poverty
Elimination / Economic Alliance Group
International Treatment Preparedness
Coalition - Global (ITPC)
International Women's Development
Agency (IWDA)
ISIZIBA Community Based
Organizations of South Africa
ISTF Global
Journalists for Human Rights
Jóvenes por una salud integral A. C.
JUMUIYA WOMEN FUND
Justice House
Justice, Development & Peace
Commission (JDPC), IJEBU-ODE
JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France
(JMBF)
Juta Mewangi Enterprise (M) Sdn Bhd
KCOC Policy Center
KEIYO WOMEN TRUST
Khmer National Liberation Front
Kijiji Yeetu
Kikandwa Environmental Association
Kingdom Embassy Center
International USA
kiriabati association of non-government
organization (kango)ation
Kosmos Associates
Krisoker Sor (Farmers' Voice)
Kuwait Environment Protection Society
La Coordinadora de Organizaciones
para el Desarrollo-Espana
La Verità Onlus - International Diplomacy
Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization
Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization
Let There Be Light International
Life House Bible Institute
Lithuanian NGDO platform
LUNACOP/GCAP-RDC
Make Mothers Matter (MMM)
Mauritius Council of Social Service
MenEngage Global Alliance
Movimiento Raiz, A.C.
Muungano wa wanavijiji
MY World Mexico
Nash Vek Public Foundation
Natural Resources Justice Network
Nepal Anusanandhan Tatha Bikash Pratistan
Net Impact-The Gambia
NGO CSW LAC
NGO Federation of Nepal
NGO JEUNES VERTS
NGO Major Group
Niger Citizen Lab
Nigeria Network of NGOs
Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment
Oil Refinery Residents Association
OJEDD INTERNATIONAL
Okogun Odigie Safewomb International Foundation
ONG PADJENA (Participation Active des Dirigeants Jeunes Elites Niant l’Aboulie)
ONG Plus de Sida dans les Familles
ONG-ASHAD
Open Data Charter
OPEN DRC
Organisation d’appui aux Jeunes Opérateurs Économiques pour la Gouvernance Locale
Organisation des Femmes Autochtones pour la Lutte contre la Violence (OFALV).
OVJNU GLOBAL
Oxfam International
Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)
Pakistan Development Alliance
PAMPA2030
Parliament of the World’s Religions
Pathways for Women’s Empowerment and Development/Integrated Agricultural Training Center (PaWED-IATC)
Peace ambassadors
People in Need
People’s Participation
PFI/ Pagan Federation International Foundation
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
Plan International
Plataforma Mulheres em Acção
Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD
Poly Assistance Tunis
PRESENCE CHRETIENNE SENEGAL
Presentation Sisters in Ireland & England
Progr(S)
PROMAD Foundation
Public organization "Ibtido"
RACI
RAWSA (Regional Advocacy for Women's Sustainable Advancement)
Alliance for African & Arab States
Reacción Climática
Red Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir América Latina y del Caribe
Red Dot Foundation
Red Mundial de Jóvenes Políticos México
REPAOC
REPONGAC
Republica dominicana
Réseau des organisations du secteur éducatif du Niger
Réseau Nigérien Anti-Corruption
Rural Area Development Programme (RADP)
Savannah Centre for Diplomacy Democracy and Development
Save the Children
SDG Student Hub de la UAEMéx.
SEDRA (Servicio Extension Desarrollo Rural en Agricultura)
Semillas para la Democracia
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Hubs (SRHR Hubs)
Sightsavers (Equal World campaign)
SKOP
Social Entrepreneurs Denmark
SOCIETE SOMMAC
SOCIETY FOR CIVILIZED AND EDUCATIONAL MULTIPLE SERVICES NGO
Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria (SOCSEEN)
Soroptimist International
Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland
SOS Children's Villages International
Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future
Stichting Mission Lanka
Students for Global Democracy Uganda
Success Capital Organisation
Südwind
Sukaar Welfare Organization
Sustainable Common Security
Swedwatch
Tasha Research Institute Africa (TASHA)
The Hindu Institute of International Affairs
The Millennium Project
The NGO of “To Healthy Life"
The People's Matrix Association
The Royal Golden Cocoon of Java: Cricula Trifexesrata
#SDGAction53224
The Society For Children Orphaned By AIDS Inc. (SOCOBA)
Together 2030
Tolocan 33 A.C.
Transparency Reliance to Unify Equal Life or TRUE-LIFE
Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network
Tripla Difesa Onlus Guardie Sicurezza Sociale ed Eco Zoofila
Uganda Peace Foundation
Ulalo (formerly Centre for Youth and Development)
UNA Language Group
Unidosc, Mexico
Union de l'action féministe
Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement (UNASCAD)
UNITAS
United Nations Association - UK
(UNA-UK)
United Nations University - UNU
FLORES
Universal Episcopal Synods
Universal Esperanto Association
Universal Institute of Professional Management
Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo
UNYA Denmark
Uso Inteligente ASV AC
VIE ET ENVIRONNEMENT RWANDA
Vikas Adhyayan Kendra
Village Farmers Initiative (VFI)
Vision GRAM-International
Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE)
Volunteer Groups Alliance
VWA FANM AYISYÈN (VFA)
WACI Health
WARBE Development Foundation
WATER AND BIODIVERSITY COMMISION OF THE SENATE OF COLOMBIA
WaterAid
We Are TB
WeQ Institute (recognized as non-profit orga.)
WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform
women and Modern World Socila charitable Center -CWMW
Women Deliver
Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)
Women for Water Partnership
Women in Democracy and Governance (WIDAG)K
Women's Major Group
Women's Power Organisation
World Future Council
World Organization for Early Childhood Education - OMEP
World Peace Alliance
World Vision International
Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS)
Wote Youth Development Projects CBO
YOTA - Youth Opportunity & Transformation in Afric
Youth and Women For Opportunities Uganda-YWOU
Youth For Peace and Dialogue
Youth Forum for Social Justice
Youth Help Sierra Leone
Youths Enterprise Development & Innovation Society
ZAMBIA DIASPORA AND MIGRATION FOUNDATION