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79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)

10-30 September 2024

Summit of the Future

22-23 September 2024, New York, United States of America

Shaping the Future: UNGA's 79th Session and the Pivotal Summit for Global Reforms

The **UN Summit of the Future**, which is a part of 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), represents a pivotal moment for reimagining the international system and addressing the urgent global challenges of the 21st century. The summit aims to strengthen multilateralism by reforming and updating global governance to better address contemporary issues such as climate change, peace, security, and social inequalities. A key objective is ensuring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are met by 2030, particularly in areas that are currently lagging behind due to global crises like the pandemic and geopolitical conflicts.

Central to the summit's agenda is the **Pact for the Future**, a proposed global agreement to reinvigorate collective action on critical fronts such as digital cooperation, climate resilience, conflict prevention, and global economic recovery. The Pact aims to enhance the UN's role in managing global commons and building a more equitable international order

Topics of focus include the reform of international financial institutions to better support developing nations, and the need for a just transition to sustainable energy and economic systems.

Moreover, the event seeks to address the threats posed by emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, and their regulation on a global scale. The summit also highlights the importance of youth and civil society engagement, pushing for inclusive decision-making processes that reflect diverse voices across the globe.

By bringing together heads of state, civil society leaders, and youth activists, the summit will set the stage for a global renewal of cooperation, aiming to create a fairer and more resilient world order for future generations.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>The 79th Session of the UN General Assembly Kicks off in New York: What to Expect</p> <p>Wilson Center Sept 10, 2024</p>	<p>The 79th UN General Assembly session in New York will focus on future global priorities through the "Summit for the Future." This includes reviewing progress toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing key issues such as peace, security, digital advancements, youth, and global governance. Leaders will discuss solutions, policy shifts, and securing financial support for the SDGs while spotlighting major concerns like the Russia-Ukraine war.</p>
<p>Summit of the Future aims to make the UN more effective</p> <p>United Nations Sept 11, 2024</p>	<p>The UN's "Summit of the Future" aims to enhance global cooperation and address key challenges like sustainable development, peace, and digital governance. With over 130 world leaders expected to attend, the summit will focus on reforming institutions like the UN Security Council. It will also adopt a "Pact for the Future," along with initiatives like the Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations to ensure technology and decisions benefit humanity equitably.</p>
<p>Summit of the Future Explainer: A new global peace plan for ‘uniquely dangerous’ times</p> <p><i>Conor Lennon</i> UN News Sept 16, 2024</p>	<p>A new global peace plan has been proposed to tackle escalating global threats such as conflicts, climate change, and emerging technologies. The plan emphasises diplomacy, disarmament, and conflict prevention, aiming to address root causes like poverty and inequality. It also highlights the dangers posed by digital technology misuse and climate-driven instability. The proposal calls for inclusive governance and reforms to international institutions, ensuring broad societal participation in peacebuilding efforts.</p>
<p>UN Future Summit seeks to unite a fractured world</p> <p><i>Colum Lynch</i> Devex Sept 18, 2024</p>	<p>World leaders will gather at the United Nations Summit of the Future in New York to address urgent global challenges, including climate change, displacement, war, poverty, pandemics, and concerns over AI-driven technology risks. The summit aims to revive global cooperation amid growing pessimism about tackling these existential threats. Taking place during a period of immense strain on the global financial and security frameworks established after World War II, the summit highlights deep divides among major powers.</p>

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<p>The Good—and Bad—News About the UN’s Summit of the Future</p> <p><i>Stewart Patrick and Minh-Thu Pham</i></p> <p>Carnegie</p> <p>Sept 19, 2024</p>	<p>The upcoming UN "Summit of the Future" is aimed at reforming global governance to address 21st-century challenges. Key issues include multilateral cooperation, bridging North-South divides, and institutional reform, particularly within global financial systems. The summit’s outcome document, the "Pact for the Future," seeks to advance sustainable development, peace, and digital innovation, while ongoing negotiations highlight deep geopolitical divisions.</p>
<p>Youth lead the way ahead of UN Summit of the Future</p> <p>UN News</p> <p>Sept 20, 2024</p>	<p>Youth leaders at the UN stressed the need for meaningful action on global challenges, urging reforms in governance, climate, peace, and security. They emphasized authentic engagement rather than token gestures in decision-making, ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future. Their input will shape the anticipated "Pact for the Future," aimed at addressing issues like digital transformation and sustainable development.</p>
<p>UN Summit of the Future: AI opportunity for everyone</p> <p><i>Sundar Pichai</i></p> <p>Google Blog</p> <p>Sep 21, 2024</p>	<p>Sundar Pichai’s keynote address at the 2024 UN General Assembly, emphasised technology's role in addressing global challenges like climate change, public health, and economic opportunity. Pichai urged collaboration between governments and businesses to harness AI responsibly, ensuring that it benefits everyone. He also highlighted that responsible AI development and partnerships between public and private sectors are crucial for tackling global challenges.</p>
<p>NATO participates in the United Nations “Summit of the Future”</p> <p>NATO Newsroom</p> <p>Sept 22, 2024</p>	<p>At the UN "Summit of the Future," NATO participated in discussions emphasising multilateralism's critical role in international peace and security. NATO reaffirmed its commitment to the UN and global governance through collaboration and dialogue. Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg is set to meet global leaders at the UN General Assembly's high-level debate</p>
<p>"Reform is key to relevance": PM Modi calls for reforms in global institutions at UN Summit of Future</p> <p>ANI</p> <p>Sept 23, 2024</p>	<p>At the UN Summit of the Future, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need for reforms in global institutions to ensure their relevance in addressing contemporary challenges. He highlighted the importance of inclusivity, fairness, and a multipolar world order, calling for reforms to better represent developing countries and emerging economies.</p>

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<p>What's the UN's new 'Pact for the Future', and why did Russia oppose it?</p> <p><i>Maziar Motamedi</i></p> <p>Aljazeera</p> <p>Sept 24, 2024</p>	<p>The UN's proposed "Pact for the Future" aims to reform global governance, addressing critical issues like climate change, digital regulation, and conflict prevention. Russia opposed the initiative, citing concerns over sovereignty and international law. The pact is seen as a framework for strengthening multilateral cooperation and enhancing the UN's role in addressing global crises.</p>