



Summit of the Future 2024: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow

The world is not on track to meet the goals we have already set for ourselves. Nor are we effectively rising to new challenges or opportunities. The speed and complexity of developments have outpaced our systems for cooperating and coping. The benefits and opportunities of progress are spread unevenly, with the majority of people left behind. The risks and threats are also unevenly felt, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable. Extreme poverty and hunger are on the march. Global emissions are at their highest levels in human history, as are levels of human displacement. Threats such as climate, conflict, food security, weapons of mass destruction, pandemics and health crises, and the risks associated with new technologies, are growing. Multilateral governance, designed in simpler, slower times, is not adequate to today's complex, interconnected, rapidly changing world. The Summit is an opportunity to put ourselves on a better path. The UN Summit of the Future is a high-level event, bringing world leaders together to forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future. This once-in-a-generation opportunity serves as a moment to mend eroded trust and demonstrate that international cooperation can effectively tackle current challenges as well as those that have emerged in recent years or may yet be over the horizon. World leaders adopted a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations. Leaders set out a clear vision of an international system that can deliver on its promises, is more representative of today's world and draws on the energy and expertise of governments, civil society and other key partners. Viet Nam will actively contribute to the Summit and to our collective efforts to strengthen peace, cooperation and international solidarity with a view to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

1. PACT FOR THE FUTURE

This Pact is the culmination of an inclusive, yearslong process to adapt international cooperation to the realities of today and the challenges of tomorrow. The most wide-ranging international agreement in many years, covering entirely new areas as well as issues on which agreement has not been possible in decades, the Pact aims above all to ensure that international institutions can deliver in the face of a world that has changed dramatically since they were created. The agreement of the Pact is a strong statement of countries' commitment to the United Nations, the international system and international law. World leaders discuss on an ambitious, transformational, urgent, accelerated, action-oriented "Pact of the Future" revolving around five themes with 56 Actions: 1) *Sustainable development and financing*; 2) *International peace and security*; 3) *Science, Technology, and Innovation (SIT) and digital cooperation*; 4) *Youth and future generations*; and 5) *Transforming global governance*. The Pact for the Future opens the door to new opportunities and untapped possibilities.



▲ General Secretary and President To Lam emphasized that peace and stability are the foundation for building a prosperous future for nations

Sustainable Development and Financing

The entire Pact is designed to turbocharge implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The most detailed agreement ever at the United Nations on the need for reform of the international financial architecture so that it better represents and serves developing countries. Member States recommitted to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration through urgent and scaled-up action, policies and investments with the goal to end poverty and hunger and leave no one behind. The Pact also acknowledges the need for Member States to begin to consider how to advance sustainable development beyond 2030. Global leaders agreed on a step-change in financing for the SDGs and closing the SDG financing gap, including through an SDG Stimulus, reaching official development assistance targets, private sector investment, mobilization of domestic resources, inclusive and effective international tax cooperation, and consideration of a global minimum level of taxation on high-net-worth individuals. On climate change, the Pact confirmed the need to keep global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, to transition away from fossil fuels in



▲ *Party General Secretary and President To Lam speaks at the General Debate of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly*

energy systems to achieve net-zero emissions in 2050 and promote disaster risk-informed approaches to sustainable development. It also calls for accelerated efforts on the environment, including the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, the conclusion of a legally-binding agreement on plastic pollution, reversing biodiversity loss and protecting ecosystems.

International peace and security

Global leaders vowed to intensify diplomacy to settle conflicts and disputes peacefully, supported by the UN and the UN Secretary-General's good offices. The Pact promotes the need for national whole-of-society sustaining peace efforts through the development and implementation of voluntary national prevention strategies. Strengthened resilience through implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the importance of ensuring that military spending does not compromise sustainable development investments. Stronger alignment of international financial institutions' funding with countries' efforts to address root causes of instability. The Pact commits to protecting civilians in armed conflict by complying with the laws of war. It also includes a pledge to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and to strengthen accountability for serious crimes and gross violations, such as gender-based violence and starvation as a weapon of war. Leaders also agreed to accelerate the implementation of commitments on Women and Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security. The Pact asks for a review of United Nations peace operations to recommend how they can adapt to new and emerging challenges and promotes counter-terrorism efforts that address all drivers and enablers of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including in the digital sphere. The Pact also advanced steps to avoid the weaponization of emerging domains and technologies.

Science, technology and innovation (STI) and digital cooperation

The Pact introduces measures to reduce global disparities in science, technology and innovation, including through scaling-up means of implementation. It addresses barriers to the access, participation and leadership of women and girls in these areas and agrees on the importance of human rights and ethical principles in the development and use of new technologies. Leaders also committed to the increased use of science in policy-making to address complex challenges, and to more funding for SDG-related research and innovation. They decided to strengthen capacities at the UN to leverage STI in the work of the organization, including to support developing countries in achieving the SDGs. The Global Digital Compact, annexed to the Pact, is the first comprehensive global framework for digital cooperation and AI governance. At the heart of the Compact is a commitment to design, use and govern technology for the benefit of all. This includes commitments by world leaders to connect all people, schools and hospitals to the Internet; Anchor digital cooperation in human rights and international law; Make the online space safe for all, especially children, through actions by governments, tech companies and social media; Govern Artificial Intelligence, with a roadmap that includes an International Scientific Panel and a Global Policy Dialogue on AI; Make data more open and accessible, with agreements on open-source data, models, and standards. This is also the first global commitment to data governance, placing it on the UN agenda and requiring countries to take concrete actions by 2030.



▲ A wide view of the General Assembly Hall during the opening of the Summit of the Future

Youth and future generations

The first ever Declaration on Future Generations, with concrete steps to take account of future generations in our decision-making, including a possible envoy for future generations. The Pact aims to expand and strengthen youth participation in global decision-making, including in UN intergovernmental bodies and processes. It agrees to the participation of youth from developing countries, facilitated through the UN Youth Fund and development of core principles for meaningful youth engagement. It will strengthen youth participation at the national level, including through the establishment of consultation mechanisms and creating environments that enable young people to fulfill their rights and potential through education, jobs, physical and mental health, resources for youth-led organizations, and flexible funding, including through a global youth investment platform. A strengthening of our work on human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Transforming global governance

The Pact resolved to make the multilateral system more effective, fit for the future, just and representative, inclusive and networked, and financially stable. Recommitting to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, leaders agreed to take steps towards the revitalization of the Commission on the Status of Women. They also underscored their aspiration for a female Secretary-General. On human rights the Pact is clear on the need to ensure the enjoyment by all of all human rights, including through UN human rights mechanisms that are effective and have adequate means to respond to a range of human rights challenges. It also makes a clear appeal to protect human rights defenders. The Pact also agreed steps to deepen partnerships between the UN and other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, regional organizations, national parliaments and local and regional authorities. It calls for a UN that uses innovation, data, digital tools, foresight and (behavioural) science

effectively. The Pact presents the most detailed agreement ever at the United Nations on the need to reform the international financial architecture, so that it works for everyone and reflects the economic needs and realities of today. Leaders decided on concrete next steps to develop measures of progress on sustainable development beyond GDP, capturing human and planetary wellbeing and sustainability. The Pact also calls for an improved international response to complex global shocks and proposes the consideration of approaches to strengthen the UN system's response, within existing authorities and in consultation with Member States.

2. GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT

Annexed to the Pact, the Global Digital Compact is the first comprehensive global framework for digital cooperation. It explicitly includes human rights and concrete commitments to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and puts emphasis on the role of non-state stakeholders. It makes the first global commitment to digital public goods and digital public infrastructure; to open-source data, models and standards; and to data governance. In the Compact, leaders also agreed on ambitious steps to make the digital space safer for all through greater accountability of tech companies and social media platforms and actions to tackle disinformation and online harms. The Compact includes an agreement on a roadmap for global AI governance, through the establishment of an AI Scientific Panel, global policy dialogue on AI and exploration of the establishment of a Global Fund for AI capacity building.



Leaders recognize their shared responsibility to harness the benefits of technology for all. Equally, the misuse and missed use of digital technologies harms all of us and we are committed to anticipate and mitigate risks. The goal is an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital future for all. Leaders can only achieve this through international cooperation and governance that closes digital divides and advances an equitable and inclusive digital world. This Global Digital Compact sets out the objectives, commitments, and actions undertaken to achieve this goal. It is only by working in collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and the technical and academic communities, that we can achieve our goal.

To achieve this goal, leaders will pursue the following objectives: (1) *Close the digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals*; (2) *Expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy*; (3) *Foster an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space*; (4) *Advance equitable international data governance*; (5) *Govern emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for humanity*. Leaders commit to pursue meaningful and measurable actions to achieve objectives.

Objective 1: Closing the digital divides and accelerating progress across the Sustainable Development Goals: Connectivity, Digital literacy, skills and capacities and Digital public goods and infrastructure.

Objective 2. Expanding inclusion in the digital economy: Access to digital technologies. Leaders commit by 2030 to support international, regional and national efforts to develop enabling environments for digital transformation, including legal and regulatory frameworks (SDGs 10 & 16); Call on regional and multilateral organizations as well as governments to support national digital readiness assessments and, where requested and as appropriate, provide technical assistance to national authorities (All SDGs); Promote knowledge-sharing and technology transfer initiatives (SDG 17); Encourage South-South and triangular digital cooperation to accelerate knowledge development and expand access to research capacity (SDG 17); Pool knowledge and best practices on digital enterprise to support innovation programmes and local technological solutions in developing countries (SDG 9); Foster innovation and entrepreneurship, including among women and youth entrepreneurs with the goal of increasing the number of digital start-ups and small and medium enterprises in developing countries (SDGs 8 & 9); Mainstream cybersecurity infrastructure and skilling in national digital transformation strategies (SDG 9).

Objective 3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space: Human rights; Internet governance; Digital trust and safety; Information integrity.

Objective 4. Advancing equitable international data governance: Data privacy and security; Data exchanges and standards; Data for development; Cross-border data flows.

Objective 5. Governing emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for humanity: Leaders request the President of the General Assembly to appoint at the 79th

session of the General Assembly co-facilitators to draft, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, terms of reference and modalities for the establishment and functioning of the International Scientific Panel on AI for the adoption by the General Assembly; identify, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, modalities for the annual global dialogue on AI governance for the adoption by the General Assembly; Request the Secretary-General to establish under his authority a Global Fund for AI and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development to catalyze the development of representative and quality standard data sets to inform the public use of AI at scale; support the development of compute capacity that can apply existing AI models to localized data sets; build and deliver skills-based training in collaboration with technology companies and technical and academic communities; promote and align AI-based solutions for the SDGs.

3. DECLARATION ON FUTURE GENERATIONS

Leaders agreed the first ever Declaration on Future Generations, recognizing our obligations and putting in place steps to systematically take future impact into account, consciously avoiding foreseeable harms to and safeguarding the interests of future generations. The Declaration puts forward concrete proposals and processes to help Member States better consider future generations and inspire long-term anticipatory governance at the international level.

Leaders hereby pledge to promote peaceful, inclusive and just societies while taking into account inequalities within and between nations and the special needs of developing countries, as well as those of systemically marginalized communities and groups in vulnerable situations; Implement policies to eliminate gender discrimination in all its forms and promote women's empowerment by providing equitable economic and leadership opportunities for all women and girls, as appropriate, in all spheres of society; Eliminate all forms of persistent historical and structural inequalities, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and all other forms of discrimination; Honor and promote cultural diversity, foster intercultural dialogue to ensure tolerance, preserve ecosystems and communities, protect territorial rights, languages, knowledge systems and traditions, while safeguarding spiritual and ancestral



beliefs of Indigenous Peoples and ensuring their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making processes; Undertake comprehensive and targeted strategies to achieve sustainable development, global resilience and to eradicate poverty, including extreme poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, to meet the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs; Guarantee climate justice by prioritizing urgent action on climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, water scarcity, and other environmental challenges to safeguard vulnerable communities and ensure a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment; Harness the benefits of new and emerging technologies and mitigate the associated risks in a constructive and safe manner through effective and equitable governance at the global and regional levels, including through building capacity and promoting the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms to eliminate the digital and innovation divide, as outlined in the Pact for the Future and the annexed Global Digital Compact; Strengthen cooperation among states in their response to demographic trends and realities, including on safe, orderly and regular migration between countries of origin, transit and destination, to ensure that the interests of both present and future generations across all regions will be fully safeguarded; Invest in inclusive, equitable and quality education for current generations, as well as opportunities for lifelong learning, allowing for the intergenerational acquisition and transfer of knowledge and skills to advance the prospects of future generations; Guarantee the rights of future generations to the highest standard of health, through universal healthcare, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all throughout the life course.

Leaders will implement, institutionalize and monitor the above commitments in national, regional and global policy-making by Leveraging science, data and strategic foresight to ensure long-term thinking and planning, develop and implement sustainable practices and the institutional reforms necessary to futureproof decision-making while making governance more anticipatory, adaptive and responsive to future risks and challenges; Ensuring that knowledge and data are widely shared and build transparent, inclusive, effective and practical accessibility to information, while promoting critical thinking and life-skills to create generations of citizens that are agents of positive change and transformation. Transforming our systems of national and global accounting by promoting the use of future impact assessments, developing stronger anticipatory risk analysis and elaborating a multidimensional approach to take account of indices beyond GDP; Investing in capacity to better prepare for and respond to future global shocks by avoiding and mitigating risks by using forecasting and foresight, while ensuring that the most vulnerable groups and countries do not bear disproportionate costs and burdens of mitigation, restoration and resilience building; Undertaking a cross-sectoral approach that involves the coordination of government Ministries and agencies, including at the local government levels, in the development, assessment

and implementation of policies that safeguard the interests of future generations; Developing partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia, the scientific and technological community and the private sector, as well as intergenerational partnerships, to share best practices and develop innovative, long-term and forward-thinking ideas in order to respect, protect and fulfill the needs, interests and rights of future generations; Equipping the multilateral system, including the United Nations, to support Member States in their efforts to embed future generations and long-term thinking in policy-making processes by fostering and facilitating greater use of foresight, science and data, and raising awareness of and advising on the likely intergenerational or future impacts of policies and programmes; Adopting a more future-oriented organizational culture and ways of working across the United Nations system to facilitate science-based sustainable decision-making by developing diverse capabilities, including foresight and futures literacy, and systematically promoting long-term and intergenerational thinking at all levels; Recognizing the important advisory and advocacy role of the United Nations with respect to future generations.

4. VIETNAM COMMITS TO ACTIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMON EFFORTS

According to General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam Central Committee and President of Vietnam To Lam: In the face of rapid development of science and technology, the goal of sustainable development of the world and interests of humans must be placed at the center and remain our highest objective. Scientific and technological achievements must serve social progress, focus on humanity, liberate and develop humanity in a comprehensive manner, constantly improve life, for the benefits and happiness of humanity and for future generations.

Scientific and technological achievements should be to promote cooperation, instead of being tools against nations, going against the aspirations for peace, development, equality and justice of nations. Human intelligence achievements must focus on economic development, building a fair and civilized society, improving life quality and alleviating poverty. Accordingly, we suggest more investments in medical research, education and training, digital transformation, green transition and solutions to serve the masses while minimizing investments in developing and manufacturing



weapons of mass destruction, for peace, stability, sustainable development, and equality among countries and nations around the world.

In this turning point, we need to strengthen solidarity, cooperation and mutual respect, compliance with international law and the United Nations Charter and settle divergences and disputes through peaceful means. Major powers need to act responsibly and share common achievements in scientific and technological research for mutual development. The United Nations and regional organizations, including ASEAN must take the lead in coping with global challenges and harness opportunities from scientific and technological advances.

Viet Nam welcomes the documents adopted at this summit and hopes that these documents would be implemented seriously and effectively. We hope that the United Nations, with its central and coordinating role, and international organizations would continue making more effective and stronger contributions to the goal of preventing dangers to rapid and sustainable development of the world right from today. Viet Nam commits to actively and effectively contributing to the common efforts in building the world of peace and equal development for a prosperous and happy life of humanity.

Attending and speaking at the General Debate of the Seventy-ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly (September 24, 2024, New York, United States), Party General Secretary and President To Lam said: The world is undergoing transformative changes of historic significance. Although peace, cooperation and development remain the dominant trends, they are facing new and more serious challenges. Strategic competition among major powers is becoming broader, fiercer and more confrontational. Political disputes, conflicts and security environment intensify. Survival and development space narrows. Risks of conflict, new hot spots, arm race, tension, confrontation and direct clashes increase.

These unprecedented challenges to peace, cooperation, sustainable development and human dignity affect this generation and the next. They compel us to unite, act and work together, upholding the role of international institutions, foremost among them the United Nations, regional organizations, including ASEAN, to achieve the ultimate goal of ending war, abolishing all forms of oppression, exploitation, building peace and creating a better world to bring happiness to all humankind. Party General Secretary and President To Lam would like to share Vietnam's vision for a more peaceful, stable, cooperative, prosperous and sustainable future for everyone:

Firstly, as peace and stability are the foundation of a prosperous future, we must promote the observance of international law and the UN Charter by all states, particularly the major powers. Each state must act responsibly, fulfill its commitments, and abide by international law and the UN Charter, including fundamental principles such as the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-use of force, sovereign equality, territorial integrity and respect for the political systems chosen by the people of each nation. States should also contribute to the common work of the international community in line with their capabilities. We must tirelessly strengthen solidarity, sincerity and trust among nations,

uphold dialogue, eliminate confrontation and firmly oppose unilateral embargoes and sanctions that contravene international law and the UN Charter.

Secondly, we must ensure equitable development for every state, community, and individual, recognizing the diverse economic, social, and cultural conditions they may have. Every resource must be effectively unleashed, marshaled, and utilized for development according to each country's needs. We must prioritize resources where they are most needed for implementing the SDGs, with particular attention to assisting developing and less-developed countries, especially through preferential loans, transfer of advanced technologies, investment and trade facilitation, and debt relief for poor countries.

Thirdly, we should urgently create smart global governance frameworks with long term vision for science and technology, particularly emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). This will ensure we make progress and enjoy the benefits of these technologies, while actively preventing and repelling threats to peace, sustainable development and humanity. In this regard, I welcome the documents adopted at the Summit for the Future, especially the Global Digital Compact. This will serve as a crucial basis for advancing global governance and international cooperation in these areas.

Fourthly, we should adopt innovative thinking to build a transformative future across all sectors, focusing on digital transformation, green transition, and global governance transformation. Green transition and digital transformation are essential tools for countries, especially developing ones, to build resilience and self-reliance, enabling a timely and active prevention of and response to shocks, crises and potential disasters. We must also prioritize reforming multilateral mechanisms, especially the UN system and international financial and monetary institutions, to ensure better representation, equity and transparency. Enhancing their capability, effectiveness, and future-readiness is essential for remaining relevant in our changing world.

Fifthly, we must place the human person at the centre in delivering on our visions. People should be the centre, goal and driver of all policies and actions at all levels. Investment should focus on the holistic development of the youth, enriching their knowledge and culture, grounded in shared values and a sense of responsibility and contribution ■

NHÂM HIỀN

(Source: United Nations)