

2023 UNGA High Level Week

18- 22 September 2023 | UN Headquarters, New York City | [Official Website](#)

Context

S-G spells out global challenges to multilateralism

"The climate crisis is spiraling out of control. A global cost-of-living crisis is raging. **Poverty, hunger, and inequalities are growing against the objectives of the Agenda 2030** for Sustainable Development. **New technologies are raising red flags, without a global architecture** to deal with them...

We are moving towards a multipolar world, and that is a positive thing. But multipolarity in itself is not enough to guarantee a peaceful or just global community. To be a factor of peace, equity, and justice in international relations, **multipolarity must be supported by strong and effective multilateral institutions**...we desperately need – and I have been vigorously advocating for – a **strengthened and reformed multilateral architecture based on the UN Charter and international law**.

Today's global governance structures reflect yesterday's world...This is particularly true of the **Security Council of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions**. For multilateral institutions to remain truly universal, they must **reform to reflect today's power and economic realities**...**We cannot afford a world with a divided global economy and financial system; with**

What is it?

Many years since its founding, Heads of State and Government attend and open the new session of the UN General Assembly, and debate and tackle global challenges in high-level formal, informal and closed door meetings.

The theme for the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 78) is **"Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all,"** as stated in the President- elect, Dennis Francis' (Trinidad and Tobago) [letter](#).

In his welcoming [speech](#), S-G Antonio Guterres highlighted the enormous challenges ahead for the UNGA and the President-elect "...our **road map to a better future agenda 2030 is in danger and the sustainable development goals are slipping out of reach**. Across all these issues, the world looks to this assembly to unite member states around common solutions...Coming from Trinidad and Tobago, he brings a critical perspective to this assembly. So many of the issues we address here hit small island developing states the hardest. And this includes **disastrous impacts of climate change and the effects of a deeply unjust global financial system that truthfully denies developing countries the debt relief and restructuring as well as financing** they need to invest in their people."

diverging strategies on technology including artificial intelligence; and with conflicting security frameworks. The IMF estimates that such a **fracture could cost 7 percent of global GDP** – a cost that would be disproportionately born by low-income countries, mainly in Africa...

We must **urgently restore trust and reinvigorate multilateralism for the 21st century.** This requires the courage to compromise in the reforms that are necessary for the common good.

It requires full respect for the UN Charter, international law, universal values, and all human rights – social, cultural, economic, civil, and political.

And it **requires much greater solidarity...Redesigning today's outdated, dysfunctional, and unfair global financial architecture is necessary,**

The **Sustainable Development Goals' Stimulus I** have proposed, an effective debt workout mechanism, and other steps necessary to multiply the resources available for developing countries are vital for sustainable development in Africa and to give options to African governments to support the development of their peoples.

I have put forward a **Climate Solidarity Pact** in which developed countries provide financial and technical support to help emerging economies – in Africa and beyond – to promote an equitable and just transition to renewable energy.

Developed countries must also finally keep their promises to developing countries: by **meeting the \$100 billion goal, doubling adaptation finance, replenishing the Green Climate Fund, and operationalizing the loss and damage fund** this year."

A Snapshot of Civil Society Activities and Events

SDG Action Weekend (16-17 September 2023)

SDG Mobilization Day (Saturday, 16 September 10:00 – 17:30): Opportunity for stakeholders from all sectors to convene at UN Headquarters and mobilize towards an ambitious SDG Summit and UNGA High-Level Week.

SDG Acceleration Day (Sunday, 17 September 09:00 – 17:00): Profile actions, investments and support to accelerate implementation at the country level between now and 2030.

Global Week to Act for SDGs (15-25 September 2023): SDG Lens will support a range of advocacy initiatives advocating for the SDGs. These could be People's Assemblies, roundtables, multi-stakeholder plenary discussions, public debates or other formats.

Global Goals Week (September 15-24 2023): Become a partner, host an event, take action in your community on the issues you care about. Global Goals Week is a shared commitment between 150+ partners across civil society, business, academia, and the UN system to accelerate action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially during the UNGA 78.

Global People's Assembly (GPA) (September 17-18 2023)

Culmination of community and national People's Assemblies in 35+ countries, where representatives of marginalized and excluded groups and civil society monitored and discussed the SDG implementation. CS FfD Mechanism will be leading a session on "**Which Financial Architecture for Economic Justice?**". The Women's Major Group will lead a session on the "**Feminist Economy**".

CS FfD Mechanism prepares for High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development

4 CSO presentations: i. Fostering debt sustainability and strengthening the global financial safety net; ii. Promoting inclusive and effective international tax cooperation and mobilizing domestic resources; iii. Innovative approaches and partnerships to boost private finance for the SDGs; iv. Scaling up affordable and accessible international public financing for sustainable development and ensuring efficiency.

Aims & Outcomes of Official Meetings

The UNGA 78 will include many high-level sessions at ministerial and above levels. Some sessions aim to adopt HSoG Declarations, others aim to determine the scope and agenda of future summits or lock in ambitious commitments.

SDG Summit: A negotiated [political declaration](#) that is concise, action-oriented, forward-looking. It will be a recommitment to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The declaration has been under intense negotiations and is slated to be adopted by 19 September 2023.

Climate Ambition: Outcomes of the Summit will be delivered on three [acceleration tracks](#) – ambition, credibility and implementation.

Second High-level Meeting on Financing for Development: Provide political leadership on implementation of Addis Ababa Action Agenda...main outcome will be new commitments to accelerate progress on 2030 Agenda.

High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response: Strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness & response, and implement equity, global governance, leadership & accountability, overarching health related issues, financing & investments. See [Zero Draft here](#)

Ministerial Meeting to prepare for the Summit of the Future: An action-oriented Pact for the Future is the proposed Summit outcome. The S-G has submitted a number of related Policy Briefs.

High-level Meeting on the fight against Tuberculosis: Comprehensive review of progress of targets set in the 2018 political declaration, and SDGs.

High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage: Concise, action oriented declaration based on a comprehensive review of the implementation of the 2019 declaration to accelerate universal health coverage by 2030.

High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: "Urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction."

Programme

Opening- 78th session of General Assembly	5 September
SDG Summit	18-19 September
General Debate	19-25 September
Climate Ambition	20 September
High-level Meeting on Financing for Development	20 September
High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response	20 September
High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage	21 September
Ministerial Meeting to prepare for Summit of the Future	21 September
High-level Meeting on the fight against Tuberculosis	22 September
High-level Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	26 September

Related Events

[High-level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#)

[SDG Summit 2019](#)

[Financing for Development Forum](#) (High-Level Dialogue 2023; FfD Forum scheduled for 2025)

[Conference of Parties \(COP\) 28](#)

[UN Summits & Conferences 2023](#)

[Universal Health Coverage 2030](#)

[2023 Climate Week](#)

[Systems Change Summit](#)

[Other Event](#)

Documents

SDG Summit

1. [SDG Summit Political Declaration and letters from the President of the General Assembly](#)
2. [The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development](#)
3. [2023 SDG Progress & Global Sustainable Development Report](#)
4. "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: [Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet](#)"
5. [UN S-G's SDG Stimulus Plan](#)
6. [Analysis and inputs from the UN system, think tanks and others](#)
7. [More background documents here](#)

Climate Ambition

1. [S-Gs remarks on Climate Action](#)
2. [The Acceleration Agenda: Roadmap for a livable planet](#)
3. [Five ways to accelerate the shift to renewable energy](#)
4. [The UN-backed credibility standard for net-zero pledges](#)
5. [Loss and damage: A moral imperative to act](#)

High-Level Meeting on Financing for Development

1. [International financial system and development: Report of S-G](#)
2. [International coordination and cooperation to combat illicit financial flows: Report of S-G](#)
3. [Overview of the 2023 Financing for Development HLD](#)
4. [More background documents here](#)

High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness

1. [Letter from the President of the General Assembly – Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response HLM Co-facs Letter – Zero Draft of the Political Declaration](#)
2. [More technical briefs here](#)

High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

1. [Universal health coverage: Report of S-G](#)
2. [More technical briefs here](#)

Ministerial Meeting to prepare for the Summit of the Future

1. [Letters from the President of the General Assembly](#)
2. [Policy Briefs from the UN Secretary-General](#)
3. [Summit of the Future](#)

4. [Our Common Agenda](#)
5. [The future of the UN](#)

High-level Meeting on the fight against Tuberculosis

1. [Scope, modalities, format and organization of the High-Level Meeting on the Fight Against Tuberculosis](#)
2. [The second UN High-level meeting on the fight to end tuberculosis](#)
3. [More technical briefs here](#)

High-level Meeting for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

1. [S-G's remarks to the High-Level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#)
2. [Statement by H.E. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly](#)
3. [More background documents here](#)