

Making the most of the 2024 Summit of the Future
22 septembre 2022

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

The Summit of the Future to be held in 2024 has to be a milestone for our Organization.

When we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Secretary-General was requested to reflect on ways to better answer the calls of the peoples we serve.

All our work, for the last 77 years now, has been grounded in the opening of our Charter, the most admirable political achievement of our history: “We the peoples”

For some time now, our peoples have been looking at the United Nations with hope and expectations. And sometimes with frustration and disappointment.

Many in the world today rightfully fear to see it sink into infinite crises and we cannot let that happen.

The United Nations must be fit for purpose.

In his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”, the Secretary General António Guterres made several recommendations to meet this challenge.

We are grateful for his leadership and for his ideas to adapt the United Nations, not only to today’s challenges but also to the reality of tomorrow.

Multilateralism and solidarity are key. We must mobilize all our political will and unite in favor of a more efficient UN and a better, more equal and more resilient world.

This commitment to change the course of the Organisation was taken before the illegal, unprovoked and unjustified aggression of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, directly violating the Charter and international law, including international humanitarian law.

It was also taken before the COVID-19 pandemic and its global consequences. The human toll and the pressures on healthcare systems, economies and employment have been unprecedented and we must build back better and prevent future pandemics.

Just two weeks ago, the General Assembly officially decided to hold the Summit of the Future in 2 years (day to day).

This Summit cannot just be another meeting where the world Leaders meet to point at challenges and take vague promises. Now is time for action. We must radically reinvent our world and give ourselves the means to overcome today’s challenges and address those of the future.

We have two years to work hard to find common solutions to global challenges.

This work already started and intergovernmental substantive discussions on the SG proposals are under way.

For instance, I was pleased to learn that the UN Youth Office was established by the General Assembly this month. It is an extremely positive sign to the young girls and boys, adolescents and young adults of the world. Never before had the young population been bigger, more active, more influential and more determined to play a role in its future.

We cannot fail them.

In his report, the Secretary-General identified many sectors that need to receive a strong impetus culminating in the Summit of the Future in 2024, including peace and security, digital technology, and sustainable and peaceful use of outer space.

Among the other identified elements, the governance of global public goods is, as you all know, close to my heart.

The environmental crisis, I believe, is the mother of many dangers, but also of many solutions.

The environmental crisis is certainly less visible than wars, pandemics, diseases and famine. It does not receive the same media coverage. And yet, the temperature's variations and the loss of ecosystems will have dire consequences, even if they are often unseen to the naked eye.

Our decisions must be firmly based on science.

We have to reconcile humanity with the Planet and the Nature.

Failing to do so will only bring hardships and suffering when we face the wrath of extreme weather events, floods, droughts, giant wildfires, sea level rise.

If we are unable to reconcile humanity with the Planet and Nature, we will see destructions, humanitarian crises, wars and conflicts for water or other resources, and mass exodus increase.

If we fail to act on climate change, we will pay the price and the world we will leave to our children will be irreversibly damaged compared to the one we received from our parents.

As you know, my country is engaged, with the strongest determination, in the ongoing international negotiations.

-On climate change, we need to implement and live up to the expectations of the Paris Agreement, in order to mitigate the rise of temperatures while we still can and adapt to the effects of climate change.

-On biodiversity, we must agree on a framework to better protect biodiversity, including by banning certain substances and limiting certain trades.

-On the High Seas, a global Agreement is finally in sight, inter alia for the establishment of a network of marine protected areas.

Lastly, emergency response to future global shocks, such as future pandemics or economic shocks, is another important element to consider. We draw the same conclusions year and year, crisis after crisis: when the world needs a concerted, rapid, global response, we often fail to collectively act with one voice, with one goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

For all these reasons, the Summit of the Future must be a change of paradigm and realign the United Nations with its fundamental purpose:

- serve all the peoples of the world
- meet the expectations of the youth
- anticipate the needs of future generations
- address the challenges of a complex world
- preserve our Planet, its ecosystems and its biodiversity, which form our common goods
- and reinforce the multilateralism that we so vitally need.