

Global Focus' input to the Pact for the Future

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The input is consolidated by Global Focus, a platform for Danish development-, environment-, and humanitarian- organizations and associations. It is based on a consultation with members of Global Focus and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2nd of February 2024.

Overarching priorities

For the Pact for the Future, three overarching priorities is identified:

1. Ensure access and inclusivity both in the process for the Pact for the Future and the outcome specifically for civil society well as the diverse representation of actors - especially from the grassroots and those who feel unseen and unheard worldwide.
2. Focus on strengthening existing UN mechanisms based on accountability, transparency and human rights.
3. Safeguard the rights and needs of those left furthest behind and ensure that initiatives of the Pact for the Future are fit for that purpose through a people centered perspective.

CHAPEAU

- Stress the importance of a cross-cutting human rights-based approach, including mainstreaming gender equality and climate change and the environment, in all chapters, and underline that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated in all chapters.
- Invest in building a strong foundation for human rights and civic space in the present in order to build the future: to strengthen democratic institutions, build a safe environment/civic space, and address inequities to build a pathway for the future
- Clearly recognize the full involvement of civil society in all areas for the effective implementation of the Pact for the Future
- Include a reference for a localized approach towards international cooperation – one that emphasizes power-sharing, equity and justice



Chapter 1: Sustainable Development and Financing

To keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave No One Behind is mentioned but there is a need of a clear recognition of people with disabilities, indigenous peoples etc.• Positive language on the role of women and girls – need to add the gendered impact of poverty, climate change etc. as well as clear commitments to realize gender equality• Positive language on education in order to leave no one behind but could be strengthened in terms of financing for education (para 24)
To strengthen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important to emphasize the need to reach those furthest behind (as recognized in the 2030 agenda)• Strengthen the language on the most vulnerable groups who suffer from the climate and nature crisis• Strengthen language on health and SDG3 (incl. reference to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights)• Expand the binary references to Gender Based Violence to Sexual and Gender Based Violence• Recognise that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is not limited to SDG 5 but is a critical precondition to achieving the 2030 agenda in its entirety• Underline how the climate crisis affects global challenges (security, migration, food insecurity etc.) and ensure that international pledges on development financing and climate adaptation are met
To add	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognize the role of indigenous peoples as actors and rights holders• Add clear commitments on climate financing e.g. by incorporating the financing goals from COPs to the Pact• Add reference to marginalized groups and minorities who are particularly vulnerable, as well as the need to address multiple and intersecting identities and forms of discrimination - including in this is also the worrying trend of shrinking civic space that increase marginalization and prevents civil society from organizing and contributing towards the SDGs• Add reference to partnerships to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, including public-private partnerships as well as recognize civil society as vital partners in implementing the 2030 agenda

Chapter 2: International Peace and Security

To keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive proposal to strengthen existing institutions. Need to mainstream existing methods and conventions, e.g. Responsibility to Protect, the human rights conventions etc.• Positive focus on Women, Peace and Security – needs to be mainstreamed throughout the chapter• There is an important reference to the role of (dis)information – however, it is important to recognize media and journalists as the custodians of public interest and public service information (para 87)
To strengthen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emphasize the protection and inclusion of different and diverse groups with reference to the Women, Peace, and Security-agenda, social movements etc.• Strengthen the importance of education in conflict prevention and peace building• Strengthen conflict prevention efforts and foster collaboration across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen language on the violation of human rights and civic space, in State efforts to address and combat terrorism (part 2.3)
To add	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight the important role of civil society, including women’s organizations and local communities and actors, in peace processes and conflict prevention Commit to upholding children’s rights in conflicts Stress the need for the protection of children and youth in conflict zones, including measures to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and child recruitment into armed groups Include the need for a legally binding global regulatory framework for new technologies, including those that disproportionately impact marginalised groups Accountability mechanisms must incorporate mechanisms for meaningful reparation and redress

Chapter 3: Science, Innovation and Technology, and Digital Cooperation

To keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive mentioning of the digital divide
To strengthen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of publicly funded science, innovation and technology for public goods, including for public health and for access to medical countermeasures in an epidemic or pandemic, should be ensured (para 94) Ensure focus on online Sexual and Gender Based Violence (para 95)
To add	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility needs to be central in the chapter e.g. ensuring the access to a free and open internet Underline the importance of human-rights based frameworks for digital cooperation and the governance of Artificial Intelligence Underline the inclusion of civil society in formulating frameworks for digital cooperation through the Pact and the Global Digital Compact Stress the need for education systems that incorporate digital literacy and skills at all levels, equipping all young people with the skills and knowledge required to navigate digital technologies safely and confidently

Chapter 4: Youth and Future Generations

To keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive recognition of youth as active agents – need to underline it is a necessity and not just welcomed (para 103) Positive mentioning of intersecting forms of discrimination - needs to be mainstreamed across the text (para 106)
To strengthen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicitly recognize children and mainstream the centrality of children’s rights Stronger focus on education and educational reforms to support children and youth as change agents is needed Strengthen the importance of diverse youth engagement in concrete initiatives Highlight the need for educational reforms that are responsive to future job market demands and environmental challenges
To add	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important to recognize youth, adolescents and children as separate categories with separate needs



Chapter 5: Global Governance

To keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important to keep existing mechanisms and strengthen their cooperation – e.g. the UN Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission• Applaud the reform of the Commission on the Status of Women• Positive proposed strengthening of the UN Human Rights pillar – however, the text needs to underline the concern of reprisals and intimidation for actors engaging with the UN with a specific reference to indigenous peoples
To strengthen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Much stronger focus on concrete implementation in order for the Pact for the Future to be realized• Important to highlight the accessibility of the UN system, especially for children and youth and to urge the meaningful inclusion of youth voices in the reform processes of global governance institutions, including institutionalizing of youth participation in UN processes• Need to emphasize transparency and accountability as vital values of the UN
To add	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add language on civil society and their inclusive and meaningful participation as an integral part of the UN incl. proposing language on the establishment of a UN Civil Society Special Envoy (as endorsed by 52 member states through the #UNmute recommendations)• Add language on the importance of network multilateralism and partnerships to ensure an inclusive UN fit for purpose• Emphasize the need of democratic global governance with reference to the human rights obligations of businesses• Commit to ensuring that the UN remains a safe and secure space for all who contribute to its work, fostering an environment where the diverse voices of civil society and peoples of the world are protected and respected