

## Global Digital Compact (GDC) Zero Draft

5 April 2024 | Potential annex to the Summit of the Future (SOTF) outcome document ([Website](#))

The [Zero Draft](#) of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) was presented on Friday 5 April ([UN Web TV](#)).

- [A letter from Co-facilitators of the GDC](#) (Sweden & Zambia) indicates that periodic meetings will be held to update **stakeholders** throughout the negotiation process through September. The first meeting will be held on 24 April 2024, 3 PM ET.
- UN S-G's policy brief: [An Open, Free and Secure Digital Future for All](#) (May 2023)

*Reactions from Member States (MS) & Civil Society:*

- **Singapore on behalf of the Small States:** "We are encouraged to see that the Zero Draft has put forward a comprehensive roadmap to bring us back on track towards the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. As delegations work to refine and improve the Zero Draft, it is essential that we further increase the level of ambition and do not fall back to repeating UN documents."
- Many Member States (MS) highlighted the relevance of the [Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#) and the [World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\)](#) to the GDC process.
- Some Global North MS emphasized the need to avoid duplication and their preference for strengthening existing mechanisms rather than creating new ones.
- [IT for Change](#) has made an initial [Critique of GDC Zero Draft](#)

## Declaration on Future Generations Zero Draft

8 April 2024 | Potential annex to the SOTF outcome document ([Website](#))

The [Zero Draft](#) of the Declaration on Future Generations was released and Member States held a closed meeting on its presentation.

- See the updated roadmap for the process in the [letter from the Co-facilitators](#) (Netherlands & Jamaica).
- UN S-G's policy brief: [To Think and Act for Future Generations](#) (March 2023).

## Virtual Consultation for the Pact for the Future - 17 April 2024

- The Co-facilitators of the Summit of the Future (SOTF), Ambassadors of Germany and Namibia, will "exchange views with MGoS and civil society on the zero draft of the Pact and to provide an update on the intergovernmental negotiations".
- See their [letter of 8 April 2024](#) for more information on how to participate.

## UN Liquidity Crisis

26 February 2024 | [UN meeting coverage press release](#) | [Meeting webcast](#)

**Australia on behalf of CANZ:** "In 2023 51 Member States did not pay their regular budget assessment in full and 140 did not pay on time. What is the point of approving a budget we are not willing to collectively fund?"

The Secretary-General, in a [25 January 2024 letter](#) to Member States, addressed the root causes of the liquidity crisis and called for finding "a lasting solution to this recurring problem so that the Organization can deliver [its] critical work". The UN has suffered from a protracted and persisting liquidity crisis since July 2023.

The UN Secretariat was obliged to implement cost-cutting measures, including temporary hiring restrictions and slowing of scheduled payments, heavily inhibiting operational and programmatic execution.

See a study from IDOS & FES, "[Financing the United Nations: Status Quo, Challenges and Reform Options](#)" for more on the UN's funding challenges.

## Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) PrepCom

1-5 April 2024 | SIDS4 [Website](#)



**Ambassador Webson**, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, host of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

Building on the preparatory committee meeting held in January 2024, preparations for the conference and negotiations on the next Programme of Action (PoA) are in their final stage. The [Zero Draft of the outcome document](#) reaffirmed SIDS "as a special case for sustainable development given their unique vulnerabilities" and articulated their "sustainable development aspirations [and] the means of implementation required to achieve this vision".

SIDS4 will be held in **Antigua and Barbuda** on 27-30 May 2024 under the theme of "Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity", marking a pivotal moment for SIDS to reflect on the implementation of the [2014-2024 Samoa Pathway](#) and set the foundations for the next decade of SIDS development goals.

**Deadline to register for SIDS4** for representatives of accredited NGOs, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders is [26 April](#).

*Excerpts of MS Statements:*

**Samoa on behalf of AOSIS:** "The world in 2014 did not look the way it does in 2024 and we expect a vastly different world in another decade. Our immediate task today is to build a foundation for the most vulnerable among us, that will ensure that a different world will not mean a world where our countries sit on the cliff of another crisis, but instead to attain the sustainable development we clamour for."

**Uganda on behalf of the G77 and China:** "The Fourth International Conference is the perfect opportunity to collectively build on how developed countries will contribute to mitigating the impact of these special circumstances on SIDS. It is an opportunity to hear from the SIDS themselves on the areas in which they believe efforts should be focused, and remaining challenges of the Barbados Programme of Action and its Mauritius Strategy and Samoa Pathway."

**Denmark on behalf of the Nordic Countries:** "We recognize the need for action to tackle debt sustainability. We are involved in the ongoing discussions in multilateral fora on the reform of the International Financial Architecture, to increase liquidity and improve access to concessional financing. We must provide solutions to address the complexity of SIDS challenges to achieve resilient societies and economies."

