



## Unpacking the Pact for the Future: Analyses and Takeaways from Rev.1 & Rev.2 UN, Development and Human Rights

### Explainer:

The Summit of the Future will take place on 22-23 September 2024 at UNHQ in New York and has been envisaged as a pivotal moment to reinvigorate the multilateral system and redress the inequities within global governance at large. The Summit's outcome document, the [Pact for the Future](#), contains a myriad of proposals aimed at addressing issues that present and future generations face, organized across five key tracks:

- Chapter 1. Sustainable development and financing for development;
- Chapter 2. International peace and security;
- Chapter 3. Science technology and innovation;
- Chapter 4. Youth and future generations; and
- Chapter 5. Global governance

The Pact for the Future has undergone a series of iterations as Member States continue to hold negotiations, since the release of the Pact's Zero Draft on 26 January 2024. [Rev.1](#) of the Pact was released on 14 May and [Rev.2](#) was most recently published on 17 July. Rev. 3 is anticipated to be released by the end of August.

Throughout the negotiation process, Member States expressed that their goal is to produce an ambitious and outcome-oriented Pact, however several changes made between Rev.1 and Rev.2. resulted in an iteration of the Pact that is weakened, diluted, and risks maintaining the unjust status quo.

The "Unpacking the Pact for the Future" series analyses the changes in language made between Rev.1 and Rev.2 to assess the state of the Pact as it is now and what should be done in Rev. 3 to raise the ambition of the Pact, thus working to ensure that Member States capitalize on this once in a generation moment at the Summit of the Future.

This explainer focuses on funding of the UN, development and human rights, and looks at specific actions in Chapter 5 (Global Governance). A side by side comparison of the text from Rev.1 and Rev.2 reveals the specific changes in language made and the "key takeaways" section provides insights as to why these changes matter.

**Side by Side Comparison : Funding the UN, Development & Human Rights | Rev.1 Actions 41 & 42 & Rev.2 Actions 46 & 47**

Rev.1	Rev.2
Action 41. We <b>will reform</b> and strengthen the United Nations.	Action 46. We <b>will strengthen</b> the United Nations system
51. We underline the importance of the United Nations remaining effective, efficient and impactful. We agree to:	70. We underline the importance of the United Nations system remaining effective, efficient and impactful. We decide to:
51. (c) <b>Strengthen and sustainably fund</b> the United Nations development system, including the Resident Coordinator system, to more effectively support countries to meet their sustainable development ambitions and ensure it can address new and emerging challenges.	70. (b) <b>Strengthen</b> the United Nations development system, including the Resident Coordinator system, to make it more strategic, responsive, collaborative and integrated in supporting developing countries achieve the 2030 Agenda and address new and emerging challenges, <b>in line with nationally-owned plans, through sustainable and predictable funding.</b>
Action 42. We will strengthen the United Nations' <b>human rights pillar</b> to ensure the effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and respond to new and emerging challenges.	Action 47. We will strengthen the United Nations' <b>human rights pillar</b> to ensure the effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and respond to new and emerging challenges.
<p>52. Following the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, we <b>are committed</b> to actively promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, <b>including the right to development.</b> We commit to fulfill our respective obligations to respect, protect and uphold human rights and to implement all relevant international human rights instruments. All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and the Sustainable Development Goals seek to achieve all human rights.</p> <p><b>Human Rights Defenders</b> must be <b>protected and supported as important partners in achieving our collective commitments.</b></p>	<p>71. Following the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, <b>we remain committed</b> to actively promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. <b>This includes the right to development.</b> We recommit to realize our respective obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights and to implement all relevant international human rights instruments. All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and the Sustainable Development Goals both depend on the protection of and seek to achieve all human rights.</p> <p><b>Human rights defenders</b> must be <b>protected from any form of intimidation and reprisals, both online and offline.</b></p>

<p><b>Our ability to uphold human rights</b> in the future will require us to strengthen our capabilities to respond to the negative impact of new technologies, poverty and inequality, climate change and environmental degradation, and threats to international peace and security in new and emerging domains on human rights. We agree to:</p>	<p><b>We must continue to uphold human rights</b> in the future by strengthening our capabilities to respond to new and emerging domains in human rights. We decide to:</p>
<p>(b) Request the Secretary-General to provide proposals for adequate, sustainable and predictable financing of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with the aim of <b>steadily and significantly increasing</b> the Office’s regular budget resources <b>over the next five years.</b></p>	<p>(b) Request the Secretary-General to provide proposals for adequate, sustainable and predictable financing of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations’ human rights mechanisms, with the aim of <b>steadily and significantly</b> increasing the resources, including from the regular budget, <b>for the efficient and effective execution of their mandates.</b></p>

**Key Takeaways:**

- The shift from **“We will reform”** → **“We will strengthen”** in regards to the United Nations indicates a weakening of language by maintaining the institution as is despite its problems.
- The **quality and quantity of funding the UN system** plays a direct role in the institution's overall effectiveness, and is a critical component that needs to be sufficiently addressed when discussing UN reform. Language on funding the UN has been weakened in Rev.2 in that funding of the UN Development System (UNDS) and the Resident Coordinator (RC) system, the cornerstone of the UNDS, is framed in terms of funding aligned with “nationally-owned plans” rather than as a reflection of Member State commitments to the multilateral system.
- Upholding the **right to development** is now a standalone sentence in Rev.2, signifying its increased importance.
- Language on increasing funding for the **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** has been kept, however, the timeline for increasing regular budget resources **over the next five years** has been dropped and replaced with vague language. Weakening the language in this regard indicates reservations by Member States to provide financial commitments to funding the human rights pillar of the UN, which already suffers from chronic underfunding.
- The role and importance of **human rights defenders** has been slightly diluted, with Rev.1 highlighting the importance of their protection and critical role in achieving collective Member State commitments to Rev.2 focused solely on protection; another slight shift from “our ability to uphold human rights” to “we will continue to uphold human rights” implies a shift towards maintaining business as usual rather than assessing/charting a new approach to mainstreaming human rights.