



CIVICUS inputs on the Pact for the Future: Rev.1

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CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organisations and activists dedicated to strengthening civil society and citizen action around the world. We work with our members and partners in over 175 countries around the world.

1. Sustainable development and financing for development

We welcome the acknowledgment of the poor state of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Revision 1 of the Pact for the Future. We urge recognition of the lack of open civic space and attacks on civil society organisations and activists as major impediments to progress on the SDGs. Just two per cent of people live in countries with open civic space, according to the [CIVICUS Monitor](#), a research collaboration that measures civic space conditions around the world.

We appreciate efforts to address the SDGs financing gap, including the proposed SDGs stimulus. However, we urge inclusion of commitments to protect civic space and civil society participation to ensure public funds are utilised for intended purposes. Without such commitments, SDGs stimulus funds could be misused to bolster repressive state apparatuses and patronage networks, impeding progress for excluded groups. We further urge a commitment to resource civil society as equal partners in sustainable development.

We acknowledge recognition of the urgent need to address climate change and call on states to ensure protection of climate activists from [intimidation, physical attacks and false prosecutions](#). Specifically, we urge respect for the civic freedoms of climate activists and their organisations. We welcome plans to advance the SDGs beyond 2030 at the Summit in 2027. We urge that the proposed Summit encompasses commitments to safeguard human rights defenders (HRDs) and

civic space. This entails ensuring a full reference to the [Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights](#) and adherence to and implementation of the [UN Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space](#).

2. International peace and security

We support the recognition of the interdependence of international peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights. We welcome the reference to protecting civic space, upholding human rights and redoubling efforts to achieve gender equality in Revision 1.

We urge recognition of the role of civil society in supporting social cohesion and peace-making efforts. Further, peace and security initiatives should be geared towards ensuring respect for the rights of civil society, including commitments to protect freedoms of association, expression, and peaceful assembly, in line with international human rights and humanitarian law norms. Commitments made in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security should be upheld.

We welcome the reference to adopting a balanced and comprehensive approach to countering terrorism. We urge respect for international human rights norms in security legislation and practices. We remain concerned about the misuse of anti-terrorism laws against civil society.

3. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

We welcome agreement to bridge the science, technology, and innovation gap between global north and global south countries. We call for the inclusion of commitments to bridge digital divides between urban and rural populations that inhibit full participation of people and civil society organisations. We recognise the commitment to enhancing gender equality through technology. We urge the adoption of a gender justice approach to science, technology, and innovation.

We welcome efforts to strengthen the UN's role in leveraging science, technology, and innovation. We urge the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to enable meaningful participation by civil society in UN processes. We support opportunities to prioritise meaningful civil society engagement, including by amending UN processes and procedures.

4. Youth and future generations

We welcome efforts to strengthen meaningful youth participation at the national and international level. We also urge the integration of youth-led civil society groups in the UN's

work. Specifically, we emphasise the importance of supporting youth movements and upholding their right to participate in peaceful protests and acts of civil disobedience.

5. Transforming global governance

We welcome the commitment to transform global governance and revitalise the multilateral system based on the UN Charter and international law. Additionally, we support the establishment of continuous and open communication channels between UN bodies and civil society. It's crucial that efforts to transform global governance begin with the principles outlined in the UN Charter, particularly its affirmation of 'We the Peoples'. We call for the appointment of a UN Civil Society Envoy to facilitate robust participation of diverse civil society voices and to enhance the UN's outreach to civil society globally. We believe the appointment of such an Envoy can help promote best practices on civil society engagement across the UN system. Further, we urge that the Pact for the Future move beyond state-centric approaches by including pathways for enhanced people's participation in the UN's work, such as a UN Citizen's Initiative and a UN Parliamentary Assembly.

We welcome the commitment to protect HRDs and urge all protection measures to consider the multiple and intersecting identities of HRDs in all their diversity.

We acknowledge the importance of reforming the international financial architecture and emphasise that any proposals aimed at restructuring this, as well as deliberations on aid and development cooperation, must overtly prioritise the protection of civic space. Failure to do so risks further diminishing civic freedoms and denying the voices of excluded people. Proposals lacking commitment to protect civic space may perpetuate the flow of resources to oppressive state machinery, undermining progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

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