

Concept Note and draft programme

Unpacking the Pact for the Future and its Implications for Africa

Friday, 27 September 2024 | 10: 00 am – 12:00 pm NY Time | AU Permanent Observer Mission

Introduction

The current international order is under strain to deliver a wide range of public goods to an increasing world population. The erosion of international cooperation in addressing major global shocks has been more apparent against the backdrop of a worldwide pandemic, the repercussions of the industrial-scale warfare between Russia and Ukraine, and the triple crises of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. This predicament has brought into sharp focus the need for bold measures for course correction through a recommitment to multilateralism, which has been consistently emphasized in [Our Common Agenda](#), [the New Agenda for Peace](#), and the various draft versions of the [Pact for the Future](#).

The UN Summit of the Future has emerged as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to enhance global governance by forging a new international consensus on the global challenges confronting the current and succeeding generations. Throughout 2024, UN Member States have been negotiating the Pact for the Future, the Summit's outcome document. The Pact for the Future addresses wide-ranging issues from peace and security to sustainable development and financing for development, youth, and future generations, global digital compact, and global governance, all with profound implications for the African continent. The Pact is expected to be adopted at the Summit, slated to take place from 22-23 September 2024.

The Summit will be convened at a critical juncture for Africa, as the continent is currently confronted with profound development and security challenges rooted in governance deficits, conflicts, and socio-economic problems significantly impacting its peace and security landscape. These challenges are further exacerbated by a challenging economic environment marked by limited access to predictable flows of concessional finance, widening fiscal deficits, and rising debt levels. As Africa continues to grapple with these challenges, a deeper reflection on the strategic implications of the Pact is vital for African leaders and policymakers to effectively leverage the outcomes to address the continent's peace, security, and development challenges and advance the implementation of key commitments.

Objective of the Seminar

The seminar aims to delve into the critical outcomes of the Pact, exploring their implications for the continent's peace and security, governance, and socio-economic development, as well as its standing in the global arena. The seminar will also explore how Africa can leverage the Pact's outcomes and decisions to address its challenges. The main objectives of the event are:

- Unpacking the key outcomes of the Pact for the Future under its five chapters and their relevance to Africa, looking at how they align with Africa's peace and development goals.

- Identifying Africa's priorities in the Pact for the Future with a focus on selected aspects of International Peace and Security (Chapter Two) and Transforming Global Governance (Chapter Five). Within these chapters, specific attention will be given to proposed actions on debates on the Future of Peace and Security, UNSC Reform and Reform of the Financial Institutions.
- Exploring avenues for moving the critical decisions forward, including aligning the outcomes with key African priorities in addressing its peace and security challenges and advancing the implementation of its key commitments, such as Agenda 2063, Silencing the Guns, etc.
- Fostering dialogue by creating a platform for relevant stakeholders to discuss, debate, and share insights on the potential implications of the Pact for Africa and proffer actionable recommendations on how to proceed with the Pact's decisions/outcomes.

Expected outcome:

- Enhanced understanding of the outcomes of the Pact of the Future and its potential implications for Africa.
- Practical insights and actionable recommendations into how African Member States leverage the outcomes of the Pact for advancing African priorities and agenda.
- A report summarizing the key insights, discussions, and recommendations from the side event.

Participation and Format

The event brings together selected actors and relevant policymakers, including AU Member States, AU Policy Organs, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, UN agencies, and selected experts from Academia, Think Tanks, and Civil Society Organizations.

Co-organizers

The UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Institute for Security Studies co-organized the event.

Contact

For further information regarding the event, please contact Ms. Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (Wasswa-mugambwa@un.org), and Ms. Elizabeth Sirengo, Researcher and Programme Coordinator, Institute for Security Studies (esirengo@issafrica.org)

Draft Agenda

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:10	<p>Welcoming Remarks and Introduction of Speakers</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Policy Monitoring and Advocacy, UN-OSAA</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Cristina Duarte, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa ▪ Dr Paul-Simon Handy, Regional Director for East Africa and Representative to the AU, Institute for Security Studies.
10:10 – 10:20	<p>Synergies between Agenda 2063 and the Pact for the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN-OSAA
10:20 – 11:00	<p>Session 1: Reflections on Decisions and Takeaways from the Summit</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Neville Gertze, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and co-facilitator for the Summit for the Future (TBC) <p>Question and Answer</p>
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Session 2: Taking Forward Key Decisions and Action Points on Chapters II and V of the Pact</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Mr. Michael Imran Kanu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN (TBC): Taking Forward Reform of the UN Security Council ▪ H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union Commission (TBC): Redefining Africa’s Leadership in Peacebuilding: Strategic Priorities for the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review ▪ Professor Cedric de Coning, Research Professor, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs: Reimagining African PSOs and the Future of UN Peace Operations ▪ Ms. Elizabeth Mary Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA): The Pact for the Future: Pathways for Building and Sustaining Peace in Africa. <p>Moderator: Dr Andrews Atta-Asamoah, Head, African Peace and Security Governance Programme, Institute for Security Studies</p>
12:00 – 12:05	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Paul-Simon Handy, Regional Director for East Africa and Representative to the AU, Institute for Security Studies

Light Lunch will be served