



1 December, 2024

Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Felipe Paullier

United Nations Youth Office

RE: A Collective Evaluation: Youth Engagement at the UN Summit of the Future and Action Days, September 2024

Dear ASG Paullier,

Six years into the implementation of the first United Nations system-wide youth strategy, Youth 2030, we welcome the significant improvements towards working with and for young people under the age of 30 reported across the UN system, both in terms of the diversity of young people involved and the various processes and platforms where they are engaged. Only a few years ago, young people were practically absent altogether from multilateral spaces. The Youth2030 Progress Report 2024, together with the mere establishment of the UN Youth Office, are a great testament to the commitment of Member States and UN entities in implementing the strategy and we are encouraged by the progress and momentum the report highlights towards reducing the barriers that remain to young people's engagement.

We are grateful for the opportunity some of us had to meet with you on October 22 to engage in a productive exchange of reflections from the Summit of the Future. As a follow-on to this engagement, a collective of 57 representatives from 26 different countries have come together to provide suggestions for your consideration that surfaced in our subsequent consultations. We are eager to continue to be a resource for strengthening youth engagement in the multilateral system. With this intention, we are pleased to share this letter and its attachment, a *Collective Evaluation*, endorsed by a majority of the people from the Global South, containing our insights from the Summit processes and our recommendations for how we can continue to advance meaningful youth engagement moving forward.

Among those of us who had the privilege of attending the Summit and its Action Days, there was a common feeling that the arrangements supporting the engagement of young people did not deliver on the ambitions and core guiding principles of the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 3: Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policy Making and Decision-making Processes.

The international community has long recognized that engaging young people holds immense potential and is an essential driver of vibrant societies, innovation and progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, within the youth bracket, there is now an abundance of substantive subject matter specialists who are eager to provide substantive and formative policy input.



Despite so frequently being recognised as those who will inherit the future, young people still wielded very little influence over the decision-making processes and outcomes of the Summit, including the Pact for the Future.

As allies with immense respect for your Office and efforts to implement the Youth2030 strategy, we are acutely aware of the challenges you face in this system. We recognise that translating the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 3 into reality is no trivial task. We recognised the Summit as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance international cooperation and rebuild trust, particularly of young people, in multilateralism. As such, we are pleased to share below and in the Attachment, our insights and recommendations for ensuring that future fora and events are able to better meet the ambitions and principles of Policy Brief 3.

Building on the Summit: Insights and Opportunities for further progress

Notwithstanding the significant efforts invested by your Office to provide young people with opportunities to engage in the Summit processes, we saw additional opportunities to further align with the vision of the policy brief in **four key areas**:

1. Minimising the **gap between inputs** gathered from young people **and their impact** on decision-making and outcomes.
2. Ensuring **systematic and structured resourcing** to support the inclusive, diverse, and affordable participation of a sufficient quorum of young people.
3. Providing additional **guidance and training** opportunities to equip young people for success and meaningful collaboration.
4. Ensuring **equal partnership** between young people and key decision-makers.

These opportunities align with the principles of Policy Brief 3 and resonate with the existing mandate of the UN Youth Office. We understand the long application window required for change in this space and hope that by being proactive and sharing our recommendations that we can support your Office in fulfilling its mandate. We have confidence that this letter will be received with the constructive tone with which it is intended, and trust that it will receive thoughtful consideration. We are eager to discuss the recommendations in the Attachment further and look forward to working with you.

In us, you have a global community of champions who remain committed to being your strongest allies and a valuable resource in realising the ambitions of the Secretary-General's policy brief and the Pact for the Future. Please direct your response to this letter to Clare Beaton-Wells (clare@foundationsfortomorrow.org).

Yours faithfully,

Young Leaders of the Summit of the Future



The authors of this letter consist of are a collective of 57 individuals under the age of 30 from 26 different countries. A majority of the authors are people from the Global South, and all authors were active participants in the Summit of the Future processes, either through formal online fora or in-person events. Some have chosen to sign on behalf of the organisations they represented, while others have signed in their capacity as activists or advocates who contributed to the Summit processes.

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