

**UNITE**

Parliamentarians Network  
for Global Health 



# Join Your Delegation

at the 79<sup>th</sup> **Session**  
**of the UN General**  
**Assembly**

| **Summit of the Future**  
**Briefing**

UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health

## Context

UNITE strongly supports the inclusion of **Members of Parliament** in the national delegations to **global health multilateral fora**, since we aim to raise awareness of the importance of **parliamentarians' participation** in **high-level meetings**. Members of Parliament are uniquely positioned, through their core roles of **law-making, budgeting** and **oversight**, to transform societies, enabling everyone to have access to the health services they need. In a new edition of the **“Join Your Delegation” Campaign**, this time around the **79th United Nations General Assembly**, we call our members to engage with the discussions around the upcoming adoption of the **“Pact for the Future”**.

**Effective global cooperation** is increasingly critical to our survival but difficult to achieve in an atmosphere of mistrust, using **outdated structures** that no longer reflect today's **political** and **economic realities**. The UN Secretary General's the **‘Our Common Agenda report’** report called for a renewal of **trust** and **solidarity** at all levels – between peoples, countries and generations. It made the case for a fundamental rethink of our **political, economic** and **social systems** so that they deliver more **fairly** and **effectively** for **everyone**.

The Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024, is a defining moment to agree on the most critical improvements necessary to **strengthen** and **accelerate multilateral agreements** – particularly the **2030 Agenda**.

## The Pact for the Future: Accelerating Commitments

**On 22 and 23 September 2024**, world leaders will convene at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the **‘Pact for the Future’**, which will include a **‘Global Digital Compact’** and a **‘Declaration on Future Generations’** as annexes.

The Pact calls for commitments to eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, and tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and mobilizing significant resources and investment for sustainable development.

The document underscores the interconnectedness of international peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights. It calls for strengthened efforts to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, with a focus on upholding human rights, promoting rule of law, and addressing the root causes of conflict.

The Pact further makes the case for making global governance more effective, representative, inclusive, interconnected, and financially stable. The plan also addresses the reform of the international financial architecture to better meet the sustainable development challenges and ensure equitable access to resources.

## Key health policy targets

The **‘Pact for the Future’** touches upon key health policy targets, essential to ensure the **wellbeing** of **future generations**. The document underscores the critical importance of achieving **universal health coverage** (UHC) to ensure everyone has access to quality health services without financial hardship. It

emphasizes **increasing investment in health**, particularly for **women and girls**, and ensuring that all people, including **migrants**, enjoy the highest standard of **physical and mental health**. The document also stresses the need for universal access to **social protection, quality education**, and **clean water and sanitation**. It highlights the importance of integrating a **human rights-based approach** in health initiatives and increasing support for **health services in humanitarian crises**, aiming to make health a cornerstone of **socio-economic development and gender equality**.

## Key Asks for our members

However, key issues remain un-, or under-addressed by the document. It is crucial that health and human rights commitments are strongly emphasized throughout. **Therefore, we call on our members, policymakers, parliamentarians and legislators to highlight the following key asks:**

### 1. Enshrine the right to health as a cross-cutting issue in the Pact.

Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the **highest attainable standard** of **physical, mental and sexual and reproductive health**. Without equitable access to **health for all**, we cannot achieve the full enjoyment of human rights.

### 2. Ensure we leave no one behind.

Universal health coverage and targeted interventions for **vulnerable populations**, comprehensive **anti-discrimination laws**, and **inclusive social policies** that address determinants of health like **poverty** and **education** are crucial to progress towards the Goals.

### 3. Address the interconnectedness of issues.

Recognize and promote the interconnectedness of **human, animal, and environmental health** through concepts like **One Health**. This includes reducing **pollution**, de-risking **food systems**, and promoting **global biosecurity**.

### 4. Emphasize policy coherence at all levels.

National policies and international commitments must reinforce **joint progress**, rather than undermine it. Foster a **whole-of-government** and **whole-of-UN** approach, enhance coordination between various **levels of government (local, national, and international)** and various agencies to ensure coherent **policy implementation** and avoid duplication of efforts.

### 5. Ensure transparency in policy-making processes, allowing for public participation and scrutiny.

This can enhance trust and ensure that **policies** are **inclusive** and **effective**. There is a need to develop robust mechanisms to **monitor** and **evaluate** health and human rights **policy implementation**. This includes **regular reporting**,

**public accountability**, and the use of appropriate **indicators** to measure **progress**.

**6. Support efforts to create more networked and inclusive multilateral systems.**

This includes advocating for regular engagement and active dialogue between the **UN**, **regional organizations**, **international financial institutions**, and other stakeholders, including **parliamentarians** and **civil society**. Such collaboration is essential for addressing **global challenges** effectively and ensuring that policies reflect diverse **regional** and **local needs**.

**7. Promote transparency in government processes by ensuring that policymaking is open and accessible to the public.**

Establish mechanisms where **communities** and **civil society** can provide **input** on the **effectiveness of policies**; and implement new approaches to proactively support the participation of traditionally **marginalized groups**, including **minority** and **indigenous groups**, in **public affairs**.

The Pact is an ambitious document, outlining the **urgent need** to address the **challenges hindering** the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) by **2030**.

**Parliamentarians** are key to supporting countries in reaching their SDG goals and UNITE is committed to supporting Parliamentarians in this objective, campaigning for their inclusion in their national delegations, to make them active participants in the discussions around the Pact of the Future.

