



Amnesty International

www.amnesty.org

Renzo Pomi

Amnesty International Representative at the United Nations

Renzo.pomi@amnesty.org

Chapeau

Any pact of the future must include a firm renewed commitment from all UN member states to effectively respect, protect and fulfill all human rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments and standards.

This renewed commitment to human rights must include:

- Recognizing and protecting Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) as key players for peace and security and sustainable development. There are no human rights developments without them. Since 1998 their role has been internationally recognized in the UN Declaration of HRDs, adopted by consensus.
- Dramatically increasing safe and regular routes for human mobility, including forced displacement, economic and climate-driven migration. Routes should be open to everybody without discrimination and ensure the human rights of those in need of protection.
- A world where everyone can enjoy the full range of human rights through ensuring gender justice for women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people. States must promote freedom from discrimination, prioritizing the needs of those facing multiple and intersecting oppressions, realize sexual and reproductive rights for all, and end gender-based violence.
- Recognizing older people as full stakeholders in discussions, commitments and recommendations and ensure the full participation of civil society representatives of older people in the UN Summit of the Future.
- Advancing progressive legal frameworks, including a global treaty on the rights of older people, in close consultation with the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing.
- A radically new approach to protecting nature and biodiversity based on a full and equal partnership with Indigenous Peoples and other land-dependent communities and fully respecting their rights.
- Addressing the legacies of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism on contemporary human rights violations and abuses, including structural and systemic racial discrimination and inequality. States must work toward repairing these historic wrongs and toward dismantling contemporary structures of racial injustice, inequality and discrimination, which have their roots in slavery and

colonialism. States must take ambitious and far-reaching steps to effectively address structural inequalities and discrimination against racialized people, Indigenous Peoples and communities discriminated based on Work and Descent and to prioritize promotion of dignity and agency of these groups.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

The prolonged consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the growing number of wars and armed conflicts around the world, the increasing economic and social inequalities, and the climate crisis have devastated the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and resulted in increasing global hunger and poverty and reversed progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. These crises have also dealt a body blow to the financial health of many states, increasing debt distress, and shrinking fiscal space. Around 60% of low-income countries are in debt distress or at a high risk of debt distress.

Over half of the world's population are not protected by any social protection measure other than healthcare, rising to over 80% in Africa. This lack of coverage is particularly important for people living in poverty who often face mutually reinforcing deprivations such as precarious and unsafe work, inadequate housing and sanitation, lack of access to healthcare, and lack of adequate and nutritious food. This situation is made worse by the continuing climate crisis which has increased intensity and frequency of weather events, such as extreme heat, wildfires, and extreme rainfall from tropical storms, resulting in loss of agricultural produce, depletion of water resources and distress migration.

Together, these multiple crises have profound human rights implications and call for renewed efforts towards financing for sustainable development.

It is essential that states commit to:

- Urgently invest in social protection measures that guarantee the right to social security, and progressively achieve universal social protection.
- Mobilize the maximum available resources to fulfil their human rights obligations including through progressive taxation such as wealth taxation, curbing illicit financial flows, debt relief, international assistance, and climate finance for climate-change related adaptation and loss and damage to provide comprehensive social protection coverage.
- Ensure timely debt relief for all countries in and at risk of debt distress and considering all options for such relief including debt restructuring and/or cancellation, with relief terms considering states' human rights obligations.
- Support the establishment of a global fund for social protection.
- Support progressive tax reform at both national and international level including the current UN tax treaty process to contribute to the resources needed to meet their human rights obligations.
- Ensure that the necessary funds are made available to meet humanitarian needs.
- Ensure that all financing for sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, and social protection measures recognize and address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
- Reaffirm the commitment to leave no one behind, including people in older age.

Chapter II. International peace and security

As part of any pact of the future, members of the Security Council or states aspiring to serve in the Security Council must pledge to:

- Ensure “timely and decisive action by the Security Council aimed at preventing or ending the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes” and pledge in particular “not to vote against a credible draft resolution before the Security Council on timely and decisive action” to end the commission or prevent such crimes by joining *the* the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group’s *Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes*.

States must also commit to:

- Adopt a new legally binding instrument to set clear prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapon systems, including banning systems that do not allow for meaningful human control; prohibiting all systems that use sensors to target humans; and establishing a positive obligation to maintain meaningful human control over the use of force.
- Adopt a legally binding global instrument prohibiting the production of and trade in inherently abusive law enforcement equipment and controlling the trade in law enforcement equipment that could be used for torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- Recognize that children, women and older people are disproportionately impacted by conflict and crisis and ensure that humanitarian responses are inclusive and address the unique vulnerabilities certain groups of people face.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

UN member states must commit to:

- Ban highly invasive surveillance spyware that by default takes the maximum amount of data possible (in violation of the requirement of proportionality) and attempts to delete traces of its use, making it difficult to detect (undermining the right to remedy) and can never be used in a rights-respecting way.
- Regarding spyware that can be limited in its functionality and whose use is capable of being independently verified and audited, impose a global moratorium on the sale, use, export and transfer of surveillance technologies until a human rights-compliant system is in place.
- Agree on human rights-compliant safeguards and regulations at both national and supranational levels, that would include access to justice for victims of unlawful targeted surveillance through spyware and stronger export controls for surveillance technologies, including by denying export authorizations where there is a substantial risk that the export in question could be used to violate human rights.
- Require companies to conduct human rights due diligence in their global operations, supply chains and in relation to the use of their products and services.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

In any pact of the future UN member states must commit to:

- Ensure child and young HRDs are actively protected from any harm in the context of public assemblies, without unnecessary restriction of their rights.
- End criminal proceedings against child and young HRDs charged for their participation in peaceful assemblies or for the exercise of their right to freedom of expression and freedom to assembly and association.
- Ensure that child and young HRDs and their child and youth-led organizations and networks can work in a safe and empowering environment and are allowed to comprehensively report on human rights violations. They should be able to access necessary support and resources, including funding for their activities.
- Ensure a consistent national approach in protecting, respecting, and fulfilling children's interlinked rights contributing to their abilities to participate in peaceful assemblies in line with international human rights law.
- Ensure that law enforcement and other relevant officials are trained on children's rights and on the rights of child and young HRDs in peaceful assemblies.
- Provide effective and age-appropriate remedies to the child and young HRDs who were victims of unlawful use of force or harassment, intimidation, and surveillance by law enforcement authorities, or other violations which restrain them to exercise their rights as defenders.
- Improve security for child and young HRDs in the digital environment, without discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, or other diverse characteristics.
- Amend or repeal problematic provisions of laws used to target peaceful child and young HRDs and ensure laws contain safeguards against potential abuses that can affect children's right to peaceful assembly and be in line with international human rights law.
- Ensure child soldiers are seen primarily as victims of conflicts; immediately end all forms of recruitment of children under 18, whether voluntary or compulsory, by governments or armed groups, in peacetime or in armed conflict situations; release all children within their ranks; and support the rehabilitation and reintegration of demobilized children into the community.
- Better protect children against sexual and gender-based crimes in conflict, including forced pregnancy, forced marriage and sexual violence crimes against boys.
- Recognize older people as key stakeholders in their communities alongside youth and ensure their full engagement and inclusion as intergenerational partners. Address issues that have a particular impact on older people's ability to participate in society, including access to adequate and affordable long-term care and support.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

- Advance Security Council reform initiatives that would allow it to carry out effectively its primary responsibility to preserve international peace and security and support and promote initiatives at the Security Council aimed at preventing or ending the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, in particular the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group's *Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes*.
- Commit to taking clear steps to raise the profile of the human rights pillar within the UN system and increase the support for the work of UN human rights bodies based in Geneva and New York as well as in the work of the UN Secretariat at headquarters and in the field.

- Substantially increase budget allocations related to the human rights pillar of the UN in a clear and quantifiable manner in order to bring it on par with the financing of other UN pillars.
- Cooperate fully with UN human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, special procedures and other investigative mechanisms and faithfully implement the decisions and recommendations they issue.
- Adopt measurable steps to increase the space for the participation of civil society and peoples' movements in the work of the UN, including in Geneva and New York.
- Substantially reform the ECOSOC Committee on non-governmental organizations (NGO) in order to fairly and transparently assess and decide on all NGO applications for consultative status with the UN.
- Review existing restrictions to civil society access and participation at the UN and implement recommendations made in this regard by NGOs and states alike, including as part of the UNmute campaign.
- Commit to ratifying the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and other International Crimes.
- Commit to the adoption of a Convention on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity.
- Not undermine the future of the ICC and Rome Statute system by pursuing or allowing a selective approach to investigations and international justice more broadly, particularly where the decisions may be perceived as politically motivated.
- Ensure the voices and experiences of historically marginalized groups, including women, children, LGBTQI+ people, Indigenous and Black people and older people, among others, are recognized and included in existing frameworks, discussions and policies with clear representation in all bodies and processes.