



Climate Governance Commission (CGC),

<https://globalgovernanceforum.org/climate-governance-commission/>

Maja Groff, Esq., Convenor of the CGC,

m.groff@climategc.org

Your Excellencies,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the UN Summit of the Future 2024 on behalf of the Climate Governance Commission (CGC). The Climate Governance Commission aims to fill a crucial gap in confronting the global climate emergency by developing, proposing, and building partnerships that promote feasible, high impact global governance solutions for urgent and effective climate and broader Earth system action, to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C or less. A premise of the Commission is that new perspectives on global governance — deploying new levels of collective wisdom and political courage — are required to tackle current catastrophic planetary risks. Solutions recommended by the Commission aim to move the planet toward a global just transition, leap-frogging beyond carbon-based energy to renewable technologies, jobs, and holistic economic and social well-being, with a special focus on those most vulnerable to climate change.

The CGC wishes to submit the following recommendations for the UN Summit of the Future 2024, both within the Pact for the Future and the Declaration for Future Generations. These recommendations can be found in further detail in our November 2023 report [Governing our Planetary Emergency](#).

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

1. We call for serious, renewed efforts to bridge the “great finance divide” between high income and low-and middle-income countries for sustainable development, including the need to dramatically increase funding for climate mitigation and adaptation. To bridge this divide, we recommend the establishment of a new [Global Public Investment](#) institutional architecture umbrella paradigm, recognizing that more public money needs to be raised for the global common good than is possible within the existing institutional architecture of Official Development Assistance (ODA). This new architecture should be accompanied by appropriate, future-looking reforms to the Bretton Woods institutions and multilateral

development banks to account for the new planetary climate, and ecological imperatives, which now must underpin *all economic development*.

2. Reforms to the global financial architecture should include the design of and facilitation of progressive and fairly-designed taxes – at all levels of governance, including the international – as well as debt relief for low-and middle-income countries to support sustainable development including climate mitigation and adaptation. Other robust steps should be taken to create the requisite fiscal space across diverse nations, such as through the establishment of an [International Anti-Corruption Court \(IACC\)](#) and the removal of fossil fuel subsidies.
3. Further efforts must be made to reduce barriers to genuinely sustainable development and the green transition, [across key sectors](#). This should include a revisiting of global trade and investment rules (and their interpretation) to align with planetary priorities and sustainable development, and a reduction of IP and licensing restrictions in the green technology sector to increase access to technologies critical to sustainable development in low-and middle-income countries, including through the consideration of establishing a green technology licensing facility.

Chapter II. International peace and security

4. We recognize the need for a fundamental transformation of global security paradigms to take account of the intersection between the triple planetary crisis and very fundamental conditions of global security. The international community [has reached a perilous and pivotal moment](#) in its collective history.
5. We recommend the integration of climate concerns into the work of the UN Security Council, including the formal recognition of climate change as a threat to global peace and security.
6. Further, we support approaches to international peace and security which embrace a [human security for all](#) approach. As noted in [UNGA Resolution 66/290](#), “human security is an approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people.” It advocates for “people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people.” We call on the UN Summit of the Future 2024 to implement this Resolution and embrace a more people-centric approach to global security.
7. We further call on the UN Summit of the Future 2024 to support a transition of the UN Security Council to become [a rationalized Executive Council](#) operating on the basis of

contemporary standards of governance fairness and legitimacy, in accordance with the international rule of law.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

8. We call on the UN Summit of the Future 2024 to recognize the need for enhanced international scientific monitoring and advisory capacity for effective [Earth system governance](#), including the need to ensure that [Planetary Boundaries](#), critical to human flourishing and survival, are restored, maintained, and not further compromised.
9. We recommend the establishment of a [science policy action network \(SPAN\)](#), in line with the proposal by the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism ([HLAB](#)). SPAN could suggest science-driven policies on how best to ensure that Planetary Boundaries are restored, maintained and not further compromised. It could work with the proposed rapporteur group with mandates to investigate compliance with obligations under multilateral environmental agreements, and it should also support a global hub to preserve and transfer Indigenous knowledge critical to sustainable development and effective planetary governance.
10. We call on the UN Summit of the Future 2024 to harness [business as a force for good](#) through multistakeholder commitments. This should include a call for businesses to transition away from extractivist models to a holistic stakeholder-centric approach to business and innovation, working rapidly and diligently on co-creating solutions equal to the planetary emergency.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

11. We support efforts to better include today's youth and future generations in global governance architecture, as part of a commitment to [Earth System Justice \(ESJ\)](#), which is needed to identify and live within Earth system boundaries.
12. To pursue this aim, we support the efforts of the [“We the Peoples” Campaign](#) for inclusive global governance calling for, among others, the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) that would give elected citizens' representatives a role in the agenda-setting and decision-making of the UN. The assembly would act as a complementary representative body and watchdog, more closely connecting citizens around the world with the UN and reflecting a broad diversity of global viewpoints, informing, among others, urgent global planetary, climate, and environmental governance issues.
13. To increase the capacity of youth and future generations to enjoy a sustainable future, we recommend the strengthening of the implementation of the right to a clean, healthy, and

sustainable environment including through the [HLAB's proposal for special rapporteur group](#) that would be empowered to both investigate and report publicly on environmental violations, and to uphold the newly recognized right to a healthy, clean, sustainable environment. The mandate of such a group should encompass climate and social justice issues, including the protection and inclusion of women, Indigenous peoples, future generations, and other minorities in the climate response.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

14. We call on the UN Summit of the Future 2024 to facilitate the UN General Assembly in declaring a [planetary emergency](#), recognizing that the triple planetary crisis poses a grave risk to global stability and security, among others, to be reinforced in similar statements by bodies and agencies of the UN system, regional bodies, and national and local governments. Such a declaration could recognize the latest authoritative science and the momentous coordinated efforts needed on an urgent basis to stabilize the Earth system (within the frame of ESJ and a global just transition). It could further urge Member States, sub-national levels of government, and international organizations to adopt suitable emergency plans.
15. We recommend the establishment of a Planetary [Emergency Platform](#), as first proposed by the UN Secretary General. The Platform could bring together relevant national authorities, the UNFCCC and IPCC, other environmental convention secretariats, relevant international organizations, as well as the World Bank, Green Climate Fund (GCF), and other financing bodies (to ensure speed and scale in funding and project deployment), members of the private sector, and other appropriate stakeholders, involving already established action-focused forums. The Platform would leverage existing mechanisms in its efforts to coordinate responses, serving as an apex coordination platform to harmonize and accelerate action across the international system.
16. Given the need to transform global governance to address the triple planetary crisis, as well as the insufficiency of current governance mechanisms to respond to it, we call for the establishment of a [Global Environment Agency \(GEA\)](#) to serve as the central node for climate, and for general global environmental/Earth system governance. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former French President Nicolas Sarkozy endorsed such a proposal in a [2009 open letter](#) to the UN Secretary-General, emphasizing the need to overhaul existing environmental governance mechanisms. Built upon the UNEP, the GEA could have five key functions: (1) a knowledge function that generates climate and related information through monitoring and research; (2) a deliberative and legislative function with respect to global environmental standards and objectives; (3) an enabling and implementing function; (4) a trust and justice-building function that deals with mediation and dispute settlement (e.g., linked to a judicial function, such as that described below); and (5) a learning and reflexivity function designed to reflect upon and reconfigure the GEA's operations to improve performance.

17. We call on the UN Summit of the Future 2024 to support efforts to adapt international law to the Anthropocene and facilitate next-generation transformations in global governance. This should include efforts to establish an [International Court of the Environment \(ICE\)](#). The new court could operate under an international convention on the right to a healthy environment, with broad coverage, direct access by NGOs and private parties as well as States, supported by a scientific body to assess technical issues, a mechanism to avoid forum shopping, and specialist panels related to mining, aviation, and other such fields.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us should you need clarification or further detail on any matter. We wish you the very best in the important efforts you are engaged in, in relation to the Summit of the Future.

Please accept, Your Excellencies, the renewed assurances of our highest consideration,

Maja Groff
Convenor, Climate Governance Commission