The Office for Outer Space Affairs

The Future of Global Space Governance: Proactive Multilateralism at the UN Level

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✓ On the 75th anniversary of the UN, Member States pledged to strengthen global governance for the sake of present and coming generations.

✓ The Secretary-General was requested to report back with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges.

✓ The result ‘Our Common Agenda’ was launched on 10 Sept 2021

✓ The report looks ahead to the next 25 years and represents the Secretary-General’s vision on the future of global cooperation and reinvigorating inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism.

✓ The Secretary-General presented his report to the General Assembly in September 2021 before the end of the 75th session of the General Assembly.
Our Common Agenda
Report of the Secretary-General

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND
PROTECT OUR PLANET
PROMOTE PEACE & PREVENT CONFLICTS
ABIDE BY INTERNATIONAL LAW & ENSURE JUSTICE
PLACE WOMEN & GIRLS AT THE CENTER
BUILD TRUST

IMPROVE DIGITAL COOPERATION
UPGRADE THE UNITED NATIONS
ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING
BOOST PARTNERSHIPS
LISTEN TO & WORK WITH YOUTH
BE PREPARED
Consultation process on the Common Agenda

In response to GA Resolution 75/1, in addition to involving the United Nations system as a whole, the SG embarked upon a process of reflection, consisting of four tracks engaging a broad array of stakeholders, including Member States, prominent thought leaders, young people and civil society.

✓ The consultation process built on the year-long anniversary global listening exercise, when over 1.5 million people from all 193 Member States took part in an online survey. Polling firms also conducted surveys in 70 countries.
✓ Engagement with Member States began with a letter to all permanent representatives and observers on 8 October 2020 laying out the process and inviting them to share their views. From December 2020 onwards several consultations, facilitate also by the UN Foundation, on the 12 themes began.
✓ Thought leaders, several high-level groups of experts as well as young thinkers and groups where invited to contribute ideas around the 12 themes
✓ Consultation with civil society, parliamentarians, think tanks, the private sector, subnational leaders and city networks, underrepresented groups and other non-government partners
✓ Every effort was made to ensure that the reflection process included a wide range of voices from all regions, including through an experimental digital consultation exercise overseen
KEY PROPOSALS ACROSS THE 12 COMMITMENTS

From the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. All proposed actions are in line with and designed to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1. Leave no one behind
   - Renewed social contract anchored in human rights
   - Stronger effort for universal social protection, including health care and basic income security, reaching the 4 billion people still unprotected
   - Better affordable housing, education and decent work
   - Digital inclusion
   - World Social Summit in 2025
   - Identify complementary measures to GDP

2. Protect our planet
   - Leaders meeting speed of the global stocktaking in 2023
   - Commit to the 1.5-degree Celsius goal and net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner
   - Declarations of climate emergency and right to a healthy environment
   - Package of support to developing countries
   - Account for the environment in economic models, carbon pricing mechanisms and credible commitments by financial actors
   - Post-2020 biodiversity framework
   - Transforming food systems for sustainability, nutrition and fairness
   - Action by the General Assembly on territorial threats of climate change and to prevent, protect and resolve situations of environmental displacement

3. Promote peace and prevent conflicts
   - New agenda for peace to:
     - Resolve the root causes of conflict
     - Facilitate women’s economic inclusion
     - Address violent extremism
     - Facilitate inclusive peace processes
   - Peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space, including through a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space

4. Abide by international law and ensure justice
   - Human rights as a problem-solving measure, including by comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and promoting participation
   - Application of human rights online and to frontier issues and new technologies
   - United access to the Internet as a human right
   - Human rights mechanisms on a more sustainable financial footing
   - Legal identity for all, and to strengthen protection of internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants
   - Global road map for the development and effective implementation of international law

5. Place women and girls at the centre
   - New agenda for gender equality
   - Global compact on climate change
   - Gender parity in the workplace

6. Build trust
   - Global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information
   - Improve people’s experiences with public institutions and basic services
   - Inclusive national listening and "envisioning the future" exercises
   - Actions to tackle corruption in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption
   - Reform international tax system
   - Joint structure on financial integrity and tackling illicit financial flows

7. Improve digital cooperation
   - Global Digital Compact:
     - Connect all people to the Internet, including all schools
     - Address fragmentation in the Internet
     - Apply human rights online
     - Introduce accessibility criteria for discrimination and misleading content
     - Protect personal data
   - Promote digital commons as a global public good

8. Upgrade the United Nations
   - High-level Advisory Board led by former Heads of State and Government on improved governance of global public goods
   - System-wide policy that puts people at the centre, taking into account age, gender and diversity
   - More listening, participation and consultation (including digitally), building on the seventy-fifth anniversary declaration and our common agenda
   - Gender parity within the United Nations system by 2028
   - Re-establish the Secretary-General’s Scientific Advisory Board

9. Ensure sustainable financing
   - Global partnership for financing the Sustainable Development Goals
   - More support for development
   - More transparent, more responsible, and more accountable international institutions
   - More effective international institutions
   - More effective multilateral trading system, including a reformed WTO

10. Boost partnerships
    - Annual meetings between the United Nations and all heads of regional organizations
    - More effective partnerships with non-governmental organizations and regional development banks
    - Multistakeholder engagement with governments and the private sector
    - Civil society focal points in all United Nations entities
    - United Nations Office for Partnerships to accelerate access to, inclusion, and accessibility online

11. Listen and work with youth
    - Youth participation in decision-making and policy-making
    - More active youth at the United Nations

12. Be prepared
    - Better early warning system
    - More effective disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
    - More robust financial and social safety nets
    - Faster and more resilient multilateral trading systems, including a reformed WTO
    - New business models
    - Improve the United Nations budget process

13. Transform the education system
    - Education for all
    - Lifelong learning for all
    - Invest in education for the future

14. Summit of the future
    - Family of United Nations Agencies
    - Global compact on climate change
    - Global partnership for financing the Sustainable Development Goals
    - More effective multilateral trading system, including a reformed WTO

15. World Social Summit
    - Leaders meeting speed of the global stocktaking in 2023
    - Commit to the 1.5-degree Celsius goal and net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner
    - Declarations of climate emergency and right to a healthy environment
    - Package of support to developing countries
    - Account for the environment in economic models, carbon pricing mechanisms and credible commitments by financial actors
    - Post-2020 biodiversity framework
    - Transforming food systems for sustainability, nutrition and fairness
    - Action by the General Assembly on territorial threats of climate change and to prevent, protect and resolve situations of environmental displacement

16. By 2025
    - Transforming the education system
    - Summit of the future
    - World Social Summit

17. By 2030
    - Transforming the education system
    - Summit of the future
    - World Social Summit

18. By 2050
    - Transforming the education system
    - Summit of the future
    - World Social Summit
PROJECTED DEGRADATION OF THE GLOBAL COMMONS

ATMOSPHERE

Trends in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration over 800,000 years

Mean carbon dioxide concentrations globally

![Graph showing atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration over time ranging from 0 to 1,500 ppm with a peak in 2020.]


Projections for global GHG emissions under different scenarios

Note: Projections do not take into account commitments announced in early 2021.

![Graph showing projected GHG emissions under different scenarios including 2°C, 1.8°C, and 1.5°C ranges.]


OUTER SPACE

As the density of objects in orbit increases, so does the likelihood of collisions, where each collision will create further debris in a chain reaction potentially rendering space unusable for generations.

![Graph showing cumulative number of catastrophic collisions with extrapolation and no further launches.]


ANTARCTICA

Antarctic ice sheet mass loss as sea level equivalent, change relative to 1980–2005

![Graph showing Antarctic ice sheet mass loss with two scenarios: +1.9°C and +4.3°C.]

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019.

HIGH SEAS

Projected pollution of the sea even with an extremely ambitious scenario (no further emissions in the ocean by 2020), the level of microplastics in the ocean could double by mid-century as already accumulated plastic waste slowly degrades into smaller pieces.

![Graph showing projected pollution of the sea with microplastics and degraded material emissions growth and emissions levels.]

Source: Lebrun and others, 2019.
GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS AND THE GLOBAL COMMONS

DELIVER AND PROTECT

IDENTIFY

GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS

GLOBAL HEALTH
GLOBAL INFORMATION
GLOBAL ECONOMY
HEALTHY PLANET
SCIENCE
PEACE
DIGITAL
AND MORE?

GLOBAL COMMONS

HIGH SEAS
ATMOSPHERE
ANTARCTICA
OUTER SPACE

PROTECT

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- Protect the global commons
- Identify and deliver global public goods
Peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space

90. Outer space has traditionally been acknowledged as a global common, beyond the jurisdiction of any one State. The potential for its peaceful, secure and sustainable use would benefit all humanity today and into the future. Governance arrangements for outer space, including the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, were established in an era of exclusively State-based activity and provide only general guidance on managing traffic in outer space, the permanent settlement of celestial bodies and responsibilities for resource management. We are in an era of renewed exploration and use of outer space, with active programmes to return humans to the Moon and beyond and the planned launch of megaconstellations of thousands of new satellites. Space assets have transformed the way we live and outer space systems are vital for understanding and solving global problems, such as implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action. Many of these developments are driven by actors in the private sector. They also pose new risks to security, safety and sustainability. Increasing congestion and competition in outer space could imperil access and use by succeeding
91. Recently agreed **Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities** have shown that progress in governance is possible, but many gaps remain. A combination of binding and non-binding norms is needed, building on existing frameworks and drawing in the full range of actors now involved in space exploration and use. Immediate actions could include the development of a global regime to coordinate space traffic and the elaboration of new instruments to prevent weaponization of outer space. To that end, consideration could be given to a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space as part of a Summit of the Future (see para. 103 below) bringing together Governments and other leading space actors. The dialogue could seek high-level political agreement on the peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space, move towards a global regime to coordinate space traffic and agree on principles for the future governance of outer space activities.
Main outcomes envisioned

1. A high-level political reference on the peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space in the outcome document of the Summit of the Future incl. potential references to: (1) negotiate an international instrument on the prevention of arms race in outer space; (2) elaborate principles and guidelines applicable to the active removal of space debris; (3) agree to common principles for the governance of outer space activities and to develop an international regime for space traffic coordination.
Key Constituents

I. UN Member State driven process

II. Space industry stakeholders including major private and State-owned entities in the areas of satellite operators, launch service providers, satellite manufacturers, private space situational awareness service providers and industry associations.

III. Major academic institutions, civil society and non-governmental organizations that produce research and analysis on space sustainability and security should also be engaged as key constituents.

IV. ODA and OOSA are the UN co-leads for this track. UNIDIR could be engaged as a collaborating entity. UN-Space, the annual inter-agency meeting lead by UNOOSA, could also be a platform for sharing information with the UN system entities and will be approached and consulted as appropriate.
Consultation processes and events envisioned

1. The **sustainability aspects** will be primarily addressed through the Vienna environment
   a. COPUOS
   b. UNOOSA is currently planning a sequence of events to facilitate preparation of the outcome of the Summit of the Future document incl. but not limited to the following:
      - an offer to co-host a conference focusing on Space Traffic Coordination and Global Governance in support of the “Summit of the Future” preparations in 2022;
      - Austria committed to co-host the World Space Forum 2022 with a dedicated focus to contribute to the Outer Space Dialogue under the Common Agenda. UNOOSA continues to consider the contribution of Space to other high-level tracks – SDGs and Climate, Emergency Platform, Declaration on the Future Generations.

2. The **security aspects** will be primarily developed through the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior.

3. Resolution 76/55 mandates a further joint panel of the **First and Fourth Committee**, to be convened in October 2022 and to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability. The 2022 joint panel could be used as an opportunity to facilitate broad discussion among Member States on all aspects of the outcome of the Summit track on outer space. It will also be an opportunity to set expectations for the Summit.
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Report of the Secretary-General

Status and next steps

✓ 5 GA cluster consultations on the Common Agenda
✓ Fireside discussions with MS on the Common Agenda with Mr. Peter Martinez, SWF discussing on outer Space
✓ Report of the PGA expected to be released soon
✓ OEWG First meeting this week
✓ COPUOS June
✓ Multistakeholder Events
✓ Alignment of process outcomes of both streams
✓ ...

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