



2024 UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE 2024 REPORT

Louise McLeod
WG-USA Representative to the United Nations



Louise McLeod, Carolyn Cowgill, Dr Elise Russo, UN
Representatives Report
09.24.2024
Summit of the Future 2024

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Action Days: 20-21 September 2024
Summit of the Future 2024: 22-23 September 2024

Summit of the Future 2024 Action Days

20-21 September 2024

Attendees in person: Louise McLeod, Carolyn Cowgill – WG-USA Representatives to the United Nations

Summit of the Future Action Day 1

Opening Ceremonies

The opening ceremonies of the Summit of the Future 2024, held on September 21st, were marked by a series of impactful speeches and the adoption of significant documents aimed at addressing global challenges.

Key Highlights

UN Secretary-General's Address: The Secretary-General emphasized the need for inclusive and effective multilateralism to tackle issues like conflict, inequality, climate change, and unregulated technologies¹. He highlighted the importance of greater representation for developing countries and the involvement of civil society, youth, and the private sector in global decision-making.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres opened the Summit of the Future with a powerful speech emphasizing the urgent need for reform in global institutions to address contemporary challenges. He highlighted several key points:

1. **Global Challenges:** Guterres pointed out the world's struggles with conflicts, climate chaos, unregulated technologies, and the perilous state of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [He stressed that multilateral institutions are currently unable to respond effectively to these issues.](#)
2. **Inclusive Multilateralism:** He called for a more inclusive and effective multilateralism, with stronger links between international institutions and the people they serve. This includes greater representation for developing countries and a stronger voice for civil society, youth, business, and academia.

- 3. Reform and Renewal:** Guterres emphasized the need to reform the United Nations and other global institutions to make them more legitimate, fair, and effective. [He noted that the current structures reflect a bygone era and are not equipped to handle today's political, economic, environmental, and technological challenges.](#)
- 4. Collective Action:** He urged for collective action from all sectors of society to tackle global problems, highlighting the role of civil society, businesses, scientists, and innovators in driving change and developing solutions.
- 5. Youth and Future Generations:** The speech also underscored the importance of involving young people in decision-making processes, as they are crucial for delivering change and promoting accountability.

Guterres' speech set a hopeful yet urgent tone for the summit, calling for bold decisions and collective efforts to steer the world towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

[Watch replay on YouTube: Summit of the Future: Opening Ceremony & Plenary segment | United Nations \(youtube.com\)](#)

Adoption of the Pact for the Future: This document, agreed upon through intergovernmental negotiations, includes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations. It aims to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and reaffirm commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Charter.

Youth Involvement: The opening ceremony featured youth representatives who underscored the critical role of young people in driving global change and called for their central involvement in creating a more just and sustainable future.

The event set a dynamic tone for the summit, bringing together leaders from various sectors to forge a new international consensus on addressing today's and tomorrow's global issues.



Summit of the Future Action Day 1 – Side Events

Envisioning our Peace: Youth Voices on Nuclear Weapons, Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the Climate Crisis

The side event "Envisioning our Peace: Youth Voices on Nuclear Weapons, Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the Climate Crisis" at the Summit of the Future highlighted the perspectives of young leaders on the intersection of nuclear disarmament and climate action. Participants advocated for the urgency of addressing both existential threats—nuclear weapons and climate change—and emphasized the need for a holistic, peaceful future. The discussion focused on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, calling for stronger international action to prevent nuclear conflict. Youth speakers stressed the importance of multigenerational collaboration and the inclusion of young voices in global policy-making to build a sustainable and peaceful world.

Summit of the Future Action Day 2 – Side Events

Translating the gender equality commitments of the Pact of the Future into Transformative Action

In a recent discussion focused on translating commitments to gender equality into actionable performance options for women and girls, the Director General of UN Women emphasized the urgent need for systemic change within the United Nations and globally. While progress in gender equality has been acknowledged, significant challenges remain in achieving full participation and leadership of women in political and economic spheres. **The event aimed to shift from rhetoric to concrete action**, creating accountability frameworks that ensure commitments lead to transformative results both in multilateral settings and on the ground. The gathering featured Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of Belgium, a prominent advocate for social justice, who has dedicated her efforts to children's rights, poverty alleviation, quality education, and women's economic empowerment. As a distinguished advocate for the UN Sustainable Development Goals, she highlighted the importance of inclusivity in addressing these issues and urged continued progress towards a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of Belgium highlighted the critical importance of translating commitments to gender equality into tangible actions that benefit women and girls globally. She emphasized the need for systemic change within the United Nations and stressed that meaningful participation of women in political and economic life is essential for achieving any goals. Queen Mathilde called for accountability frameworks to ensure that commitments lead to real transformation on the ground. As a long-standing advocate for children's rights, poverty alleviation, quality education, and women's empowerment, she urged continued efforts to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all, underscoring the necessity of inclusivity in driving progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.



Figure 1 Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of Belgium

Truth, Trust, and Hope in the Global Information Environment: Putting Principles into Practice

The side event "Truth, Trust, and Hope in the Global Information Environment: Putting Principles into Practice" at the Summit of the Future focused on combating misinformation and restoring public trust in the global media landscape. Discussions centered on promoting media transparency, enhancing journalist safety, and fostering accurate reporting. Participants explored strategies to strengthen information integrity, address the spread of disinformation, and ensure that digital platforms prioritize credible content. The event highlighted the importance of global cooperation and concrete actions to safeguard the role of truthful, ethical journalism in building a more informed and trusting society.



Shaping the Future of Learning Now

The side event "Shaping the Future of Learning Now" at the Summit of the Future Action Days focused on the urgent need to reform global education systems. Key discussions emphasized equipping students with future-oriented skills, promoting digital literacy, and ensuring equal access to quality education for all. The event underscored the importance of adapting learning to the digital age, addressing the digital divide, and fostering inclusive, lifelong learning opportunities. Participants highlighted the role of innovative educational practices and policies in shaping a sustainable, equitable future for younger generations.

Beijing+30: Achieving Gender Equality, Rights and Empowerment for All Women and Girls (UN Women)

The side event "Beijing+30: Achieving Gender Equality, Rights and Empowerment for All Women and Girls" at the Summit of the Future, organized by UN Women, focused on advancing gender equality and women's rights, 30 years after the historic Beijing Declaration. Discussions emphasized the need for stronger global efforts to empower women and girls in all aspects of life, including political, economic, and social spheres. The event called for accelerating progress on gender equality, addressing challenges such as violence, discrimination, and systemic barriers. It stressed the importance of translating commitments into concrete actions, ensuring that gender equality is integrated into future global development goals.



Figure 2 Opening Day panel discussion with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres



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Summit of the Future

UN Headquarters, NYC
22-23 September 2024

Attended virtually by Louise McLeod

Summit of the Future 2024: Day 1

World Leaders Unanimously Adopt the Pact for the Future at the United Nations

On September 22, 2024, world leaders unanimously adopted the **Pact for the Future** at the United Nations. This landmark agreement aims to address contemporary global challenges through enhanced international cooperation.

The Pact includes two significant annexes: the **Global Digital Compact** and the **Declaration on Future Generations**¹.

This Pact represents a significant step towards a more inclusive and effective global governance.

Commitments:

- Security Council reform and nuclear disarmament.
- Strengthening frameworks for outer space and new technologies.
- Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals and climate action.
- Reforming international financial architecture.
- Comprehensive digital cooperation and AI governance.
- Inclusion of youth and future generations in decision-making.
- Enhancing human rights and gender equality efforts.

The **Global Digital Compact** aims to ensure that digital technologies contribute to sustainable development and human rights, while addressing risks like digital divides and cybersecurity.

The **Declaration on Future Generations** emphasizes the importance of considering the needs and rights of future generations in today's policy-making.

Summit Process: Involved contributions from millions of voices and thousands of stakeholders, with significant commitments and pledges for digital inclusion.

¹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2024/09/press-release-sof-2024/>

Women Graduates-USA was invited in December 2023 to contribute recommendations to the Zero Draft for the Summit's Pact, addressing key issues that align with our mission and vision.

The input document from Women Graduates-USA is viewable on the Summit of the Future Website:

- [Pact for the Future zero draft - SOF | United Nations](#)
- [sof-women-graduates-usa-inc.-input-zero-draft-pact-for-future.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

Summit of the Future: Day 1 Side Events (virtual)

Improving life and accelerating progress through female leadership catalyzed by philanthropy

The session focused on the role of philanthropy in advancing gender equality through emerging technologies like AI, with a particular emphasis on Africa and other emerging economies. Speakers, including Mia, founder of Women in AI Ethics, and Sophia, founder of Gender Equity Diversity Investments (JEDI), discussed the critical need for philanthropic efforts to address the severe underfunding of women-led tech startups, which currently receive less than 2% of global funding. Both highlighted how early-stage, risk-tolerant capital is essential to support women innovators, particularly in tech and AI, to close the gender and digital divides.



Catalysing Philanthropy for Gender Equality:
Women's Leadership, AI & Bridging the Digital Divide
During the UN Summit of the Future in partnership with UN Women

Sunday, September 22nd | 1pm NY | 6pm UK | 7pm CET

WIPIA
WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY & IMPACT AFRICA

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|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|  Helene Molinier Senior Policy Advisor on Innovation UN Women |  Patrice Wellesley-Cole President, Graduate Women International |  Mia Shah-Dand Founder, Women in AI Ethics CEO, LightHouse |  Sophia Swire Philanthropist and Founder, Gender Equity Diversity Investments (JEDI) |  Dr. Sindy Zemura Bernard CEO, Southern Africa Enterprise Foundation/War Child & Co-Founder, Women in Philanthropy & Impact Africa (WIPIA) |  Dr. Anino Emuwa Founder, Africa Women CEOs Network UNWOMEN Chair & Co-Founder Women in Philanthropy & Impact Africa (WIPIA) |
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Online registration link: [https://www.wipia.org](#) For more information: hello@wipia.org

Partners: UN WOMEN, GENERATION EQUALITY, AFRICA WOMEN CEO NETWORK, WIPIA

Patrice Wellesley-Coles, President GWI: Graduate Women International (GWI), formerly known as the International Federation of University Women, has been instrumental in advocating for gender equality. They played a key role in drafting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1967 and contributed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These frameworks, along with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focus on dismantling structural barriers to gender equality, especially in the tech industry.

Despite progress, significant challenges remain, such as the digital divide and underrepresentation of women in leadership roles in IT. Only 70% of managers in the IT sector are women, and a mere 3% hold CEO positions. Additionally, women constitute just 22% of AI workers globally, and nearly half leave the industry mid-career, almost double the rate of their male counterparts.

To address these imbalances, affirmative action and equal educational opportunities are crucial. Creating supportive workplaces and effective governance of digital technology and data, with active involvement from women, especially from marginalized communities and the Global South, is essential. Philanthropy can play a critical role by providing funding, sponsorship, and training to enhance women's professional development and participation in the digital age.

Digital technology and AI offer unprecedented opportunities for women's empowerment. Initiatives like the UN Women in Tech WhatsApp platform inspire young women worldwide to seek partnerships, funding, mentorship, and job opportunities. However, vigilance is needed to ensure AI advancements are controlled and used ethically.

GWI has made significant contributions to the Human Rights Council, the UN General Assembly, and ECOSOC, advocating for gender perspectives in digital governance. Their efforts, along with those of other women-led organizations, are vital in ensuring women's leadership in AI and digital technology is realized.

Mia stressed the ethical concerns surrounding AI, such as bias in facial recognition and recruiting tools, which disproportionately affect women and people of color. She advocated for greater representation of women in the design and development of AI to prevent these ethical blind spots and ensure inclusive technology. She also emphasized the need for more financial backing to empower women in tech and AI, which is vital for building a more equitable technological future.

Sophia shared examples of how philanthropic and impact investing can drive gender equality and climate action, particularly by supporting female entrepreneurs working in climate technologies. She noted that in regions like North Africa and the Middle East, where female talent in STEM is high but investment is low, philanthropy can play a crucial role in providing early-stage capital to help women-led businesses thrive.

The panel emphasized that closing the gender gap and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 requires mobilizing private sector investment and fostering collaboration between philanthropy, impact investors, and public institutions. They called for collective action to support women-led initiatives, ensuring more inclusive, sustainable growth in technology and beyond.

Summit of the Future: Day 2

5th Plenary Meeting

September 23, 2024

Note: This plenary session took place the day following the adoption of the Summit of Future 2024 Pact for the Future, a momentous and historic event. The following report is a sampling of world leader dialogs for continuing and future action as a result of the Pact.

World leaders during the 5th Plenary Meeting of the Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly underscored the interconnectedness of global challenges and the need for collective action to build a more equitable and sustainable world.

Numerous world leaders emphasized their **commitment to multilateralism** and the vital role of the United Nations in addressing global challenges, praising the "Pact for the Future" as a tool for strengthening global cooperation further underscoring the necessity of reforming the UN, particularly the Security Council.

Global security and peace were central to the speeches and stressed the importance of fair and inclusive security measures. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine was widely condemned, with many countries calling for urgent multilateral action.

Additionally, several leaders highlighted the need for **accelerated progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, emphasizing their links to poverty reduction, security, and environmental sustainability.

Inclusion of youth and women in decision-making was another key theme, with leaders stressing the importance of youth involvement in shaping future policies, particularly in relation to the 2030 Agenda.

Leaders also called for **gender equality and the full participation of women** in global governance to promote sustainable development.

The growing influence of **digital technologies** was acknowledged by leaders who called for international cooperation to ensure a human-centric digital transformation and the need for "digital humanism" and advocated for the Global Digital Compact to address the challenges of the digital era. Combating disinformation was also a priority along with and global efforts to reduce its spread.

On economic and social development, leaders highlighted the need for stronger commitments to **addressing poverty, inequality, and unemployment**, particularly among youth. **Education** was similarly emphasized with a call for improved access to education and lifelong learning as crucial tools for fostering development and reducing inequalities.

Lastly, the commitment to **peace and security was reconfirmed**, with Tajikistan proposing a new UN resolution to promote peace for future generations.

A Day in the SDG Media Zone (Side Events)

September 23, 2024, UN Headquarters, NYC

Moderator: Melisa Fleming²

The SDG Media Zone opened on the second day of the Summit of the Future at the UN, marking a historic moment for global collaboration. The United Nations Department of Global Communications hosted an event discussing the transformation and solutions needed to accelerate the SDGs and highlighting the tracks of the Summit of the Future including the new agenda for peace, global governance, financing for development, digital cooperation and future generations.

This day-long event placed emphasis on the achievement / status on the SDGs on the need for new systems and practices to navigate current geopolitical divisions and conflicts. Topics included: climate crisis optimism, financing global health, accelerating the SDGs, financing a fairer future, harnessing the impact of youth in decision-making, addressing Africa's debt challenge, refugee youth leadership, promoting healthy eating, unlocking women's empowerment, a 2024 gender snapshot and using the media as catalysts for social impact.

Some of the topics are covered here.

SDG Zone Opener

Special Guests: Edward Norton, actor and UN Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity, and Lang Lang, world-renowned pianist and UN Messenger of Peace, were welcomed. They discussed how the creative community can drive social impact and support the SDGs through their advocacy and initiatives.

Edward Norton³, a UN Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity, emphasized the critical role of the creative community in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. Key points from his discussion include:

1. **Climate Crisis as a Defining Challenge:** Norton believes that future generations will view the climate crisis as the defining challenge of our time, overshadowing geopolitical issues.
2. **Role of Storytelling:** He highlighted the importance of storytelling in raising awareness and motivating change. Artists and creatives can effectively communicate complex issues like biodiversity to the public.

² Melissa Fleming is the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications at the United Nations. She has held this position since September 2019. In this role, she leads the UN's Department of Global Communications, which is responsible for informing global audiences about the state of the world and engaging them to build support for the UN's work and goals.

³ Edward Norton is an acclaimed American actor and filmmaker.

3. **Biodiversity's Importance:** Norton explained that biodiversity is crucial not just for iconic species but for essential ecological functions like pollination, which supports agriculture.
4. **Community Engagement:** He stressed the need for local community involvement in conservation efforts, citing his work with the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust in Kenya as an example of successful community-based conservation.
5. **Collective Effort:** Norton used the metaphor of the “teaspoon brigade” to illustrate that small individual actions, when combined, can lead to significant change. He encouraged everyone to contribute in any way they can.

Norton also mentioned the importance of integrating environmental themes into creative works and praised initiatives like the “Act Now” campaign, which promotes individual actions to combat climate change.

Lang Lang⁴, a UN Messenger of Peace since 2013 and former UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, shared his insights on the importance of education, particularly music education. Key points from his discussion include:

1. **Funding for Music Education:** Lang Lang emphasized the need for increased funding for music education, highlighting its transformative power in his own life and its potential to positively impact others.
2. **Qualified Teachers:** He stressed the importance of having more qualified teachers worldwide to provide better education for children.
3. **Mental Health:** Lang Lang pointed out the growing issues of depression and anxiety among children and the need to address these problems within schools. He believes music can play a significant role in improving mental well-being.
4. **Communication and Confidence:** Music helps children communicate better, build confidence, and feel loved. It also bridges cultural gaps and fosters teamwork, as seen in his “101 Pianists” program.
5. **Music for Peace:** Lang Lang believes music can contribute to peace and healing, especially for children affected by war. He advocates for more concerts at the United Nations to promote these values.

Lang Lang’s message underscores the power of music in education and its broader impact on mental health, communication, and peace.

⁴ Lang Lang is a renowned Chinese pianist, born on June 14, 1982, in Shenyang, Liaoning, China. [He began taking piano lessons at the age of three and gave his first public recital at five. Lang Lang gained international acclaim as a teenager and has since performed with major orchestras around the world, including the Berlin Philharmonic and the Vienna Philharmonic.](#)

Africa Renewal: Addressing Africa's Debt Challenge

This conversation highlights Africa's struggle with debt and underdevelopment, despite not being over-indebted. Key points include:

- 1.SDG Progress: Africa has met only 12% of its 140 SDG targets, partly due to its lack of control over its economic and financial flows.
- 2.Economic Control: African countries lose \$500 billion annually due to external economic factors while seeking debt relief, emphasizing the need for better domestic resource mobilization (DRM) rather than relying on external aid.
- 3.Debt Burden: Africa's public external debt stands at \$650 billion, but significant debt service payments (e.g., \$163 billion annually) constrain the ability to invest in development, contributing to inflation and currency issues.
- 4.Development Challenges: Foreign direct investment and remittances significantly outweigh official development assistance (ODA), yet rural areas remain underinvested, exacerbating poverty. Encouraging local private sector participation and policies to support small-scale farmers is crucial for development.
- 5.Global System: The global financial system, established post-WWII, does not adequately cater to African countries. Concessional lending windows are too small, and credit ratings by external agencies limit access to affordable financing.
- 6.Debt Restructuring: There is a call to revisit and restructure Africa's debt, as current frameworks, like the G20's common framework, are insufficient to address the debt crisis and enable investment.

In conclusion, Africa needs greater control over its resources, better financial structures, and stronger DRM systems to overcome debt distress and foster sustainable development.

Sustainable Goals on and off the Court: Sport's Role in Promoting Healthy Diets

Summary of a conversation with two members of the Harlem Globe Trotters discussing their community work with children and schools and a member of the UN FAO on healthy eating and prevention of food wastage.

1. **Promote Sustainability:** Educate on composting, food waste reduction, and reading food labels.
2. **Encourage Healthy Eating:** Advocate for balanced meals, limiting sugar, and eating nutritious food for better performance.
3. **Global Awareness:** Use the Globetrotters' platform to inspire healthier, sustainable eating habits worldwide.

4. **Empathy and Support:** Share stories of helping the less fortunate; encourage donating surplus food.
5. **Engage Children:** Promote composting, recycling, and school gardens to involve kids in sustainability.
6. **Improve School Meals:** Ensure schools offer nutritious meals to influence healthy habits in students and communities.
7. **Advocate for Nutritious Food:** Push for affordable, diverse, and safe food through systemic changes.
8. **Family and Community Involvement:** Encourage early healthy habits and community efforts to improve food access.
9. **Future Collaboration:** Continue work with FAO on global food initiatives.
10. **Local Action:** Promote local involvement in reducing food waste and supporting sustainable food practices.

Unlocking Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment

The UN General Assembly's high-level week focused on gender equality, highlighting the disproportionate effects of poverty, climate change, and systemic barriers on women, particularly in rural and impoverished communities. Key discussions included the necessity of economic empowerment for women, particularly through improved access to financing and addressing systemic barriers. Panelists emphasized the need for significant investments in gender equality to achieve the 2030 Agenda and presented calls to action aimed at mobilizing resources, increasing women's representation, and providing education and skills for women in emerging sectors.

Rebecca Grynspan (Secretary-General of UNCTAD), Niels Annan (German Parliamentarian), and Fotini Papagiotti (International Center for Research on Women) discussed solutions for women's economic empowerment.

Here's a summary of the session along with key statistics:

Key Statistics:

1. **Poverty Duration:** It will take an additional **137 years** to end extreme poverty among women and girls.
2. **Gender Wage Gap:** Approximately **250 years** are needed to close the gender wage gap.
3. **Child Marriage:** It will take about **68 years** to eliminate child marriage globally.

4. **Unpaid Care Work:** Women do significantly more unpaid care work, valued at nearly **\$11 trillion annually**.
5. **Investment Needed:** An additional **\$360 billion per year** is estimated to achieve gender equality across key global goals.
6. **Women in Workforce:** Women represent only **20%** in oil and gas but **over 35%** in renewable energy and green technologies.

Key points included:

1. **Access to Finance:** Women's lack of collateral often limits their ability to access loans and capital, even as digital platforms open opportunities for business. There is a need for inclusive financing mechanisms.

2. **Global Policy:** Annan stressed the role of developed countries in supporting gender equality by providing access to finance and promoting women's entrepreneurship through sustainable development initiatives.

3. **Systemic Barriers:** Papagiotti highlighted three key barriers—underinvestment in care economies and education, lack of women's political representation, and discriminatory laws—that hinder gender equality.

The panel agreed that action is needed in key areas: investing in education, preparing women for the digital and green economies, increasing women's representation in leadership, and ensuring systemic investment in women's rights organizations.

The Gender Snapshot 2024

UN DESA released the annual SDG gender snapshot report. This report, presented by UN experts, reveals both progress and setbacks. For example, poverty rates for women have declined, but gender gaps persist in education, child marriage, and political representation. The report emphasizes that investing in areas like agriculture, care economies, and technology can significantly boost global GDP and lift millions out of poverty.

The session discussed the importance of focusing on gender equality as a key element for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While there is skepticism about meeting SDG targets, the speakers believed that gender equality can unlock progress. Only 17% of the SDGs are on track, and the lack of gender equality is a major hindrance.

The speakers urged policymakers to invest in gender equality, as it impacts all SDGs. They stress that achieving gender equality will require systemic changes, political will, and more female leadership. The data from the report should be used to advocate for solutions that can drive meaningful change.

In conclusion, the session called for action at all levels—individuals, policymakers, and organizations—to support gender equality, which is not just a moral imperative but an economic and social one as well.

In addition, the session provided several key data points and insights on gender equality and its impact on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. Progress on the SDGs: Only 17% of the SDGs are on track, with significant gender equality gaps affecting progress.
2. Poverty: Poverty rates for women have declined to below 10%, but it will take 137 years to eliminate extreme poverty for women and girls at the current rate.
3. Education: While 5.4 million more girls are in school since 2015, 119 million remain out of school. Child marriage is declining, but it could take 68 years to end.
4. Parliament Representation: It will take 39 years to achieve gender parity in parliaments.
5. Economic Costs: Gender inequality costs \$10 trillion globally, and the digital gender gap could cost \$500 billion over the next five years.
6. Investment Benefits:
 - Closing the gender gap in agriculture could add \$1 trillion to GDP and lift 43 million people out of food insecurity.
 - Investing in the care economy could create 300 million jobs globally.
 - Connecting households to electricity could increase women's employment by up to 23%.
7. Legislation Impact: Countries that have banned domestic violence saw a 7% reduction in violence.
8. Leadership: 107 countries have never had a female head of state, and more female leadership is crucial for addressing these issues, including reducing military expenditure and increasing social investment.
9. Call to Action: Everyone, from policymakers to private citizens, should act on this data by investing in gender equality, social protections, care programs, legal frameworks, and data collection.

Here are the key Call to Action items from the discussion:

1. Invest in Gender Equality: Prioritize investments in key areas like agriculture, care economies, and technology to close gender gaps and boost economic growth.
2. Expand Social Protection: Ensure that all women are covered by social protection systems, aiming to improve coverage from the current 50%.
3. Support Women's Labor Participation: Invest in care programs that empower women and encourage their participation in the workforce.
4. Strengthen Legal Frameworks: Enhance laws to eliminate discrimination and violence against women globally.

5. Invest in Data: Collect and analyze gender-disaggregated data to better inform policies and understand disparities, particularly in health and education.
6. Engage with the Data: Encourage individuals to actively discuss and share data points from the report to raise awareness about gender equality issues and solutions.
7. Promote Female Leadership: Advocate for more female representation in leadership roles to drive progress on gender equality and other important issues.
8. Act Now: Encourage collective action from policymakers, private sector, and individuals to implement the report's recommendations and make tangible changes.

The Media: Catalysts for Social Impact

The discussion centers on how diverse organizations are advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative initiatives. Here's a consolidated summary of key examples:

1. Springer Nature Group:

- Role: A leading publisher in scientific content.
- SDG Involvement: Launched an SDG program in 2015, fostering employee participation in working groups to promote these goals.
- Example: Their well-known brands, such as *Scientific American* and *Nature*, contribute to research that aligns with SDG objectives, producing content that engages audiences on critical issues.

2. Open Planet:

- Role: A platform providing free video footage for climate communication.
- Mission: Addresses the climate communication crisis by offering high-quality visuals to tell diverse stories.
- Example: With over 10,000 clips, Open Planet supports projects in Kenya and South Africa, demonstrating the links between climate and health. It has received the SDG Innovation Award for its efforts.

3. Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS):

- Role: One of Japan's largest private networks promoting SDG awareness.
- Campaign: Launched "Week to Make the Earth Smile," featuring around 50 TV and radio programs focused on SDG issues.
- Impact: Engaged over 20,000 children through interactive events, with over 90% of participants expressing motivation to act on the SDGs after exposure to their initiatives.

4.Paramount:

- Role: A global entertainment brand with a significant reach across 179 countries.
- Initiatives: Utilizes popular brands (e.g., MTV, Nickelodeon) to convey SDG messages through engaging storytelling.
- Example: Leveraging *SpongeBob SquarePants* to promote ocean conservation, effectively educating audiences on important environmental issues.

5.RX Global:

- Role: The largest trade show and events organizer, conducting 350 events across 25 countries.
- SDG Engagement: Integrates SDG discussions into their events and awards to foster dialogue.
- Example: The "mid SDG Awards" recognizes sustainability innovations, highlighting contributions from 26 countries.

These organizations underscore the significance of partnerships, employee engagement, and creative storytelling in effectively promoting the SDGs and inspiring action across diverse audiences. Their examples illustrate how different sectors, from publishing and broadcasting to video production, are working collaboratively and creatively to advance the SDGs through impactful communications and community engagement.

Information Integrity and News

The discussion highlighted the critical importance of journalist safety and the integrity of information in today's media landscape. Nuyaka, a digital sub-editor, and Mira Milosevic, Executive Director of the Global Forum for Media Development, emphasized the increasing restrictions on press freedom, particularly the targeting of women journalists, which severely impacts the quality and trustworthiness of journalism.

Mira noted that her organization has advocated for the inclusion of freedom of expression and journalist safety in the Sustainable Development Goals since 2014, leading to improved monitoring and recognition of journalists as civilians deserving protection in conflict zones. The alarming statistic of 99 journalist deaths last year underscores the urgency of this issue.

Both speakers pointed out the decline in credible sources of information, exacerbated by financial challenges facing media organizations. They stressed the necessity of investing in quality journalism as a countermeasure to misinformation, supported by frameworks like the Global Digital Compact and UNESCO guidelines that encourage positive action.

Frida, a young journalist, shared her experiences of navigating a toxic information environment filled with disinformation. She highlighted the challenges posed by the digital divide, which limits access to accurate information, making it difficult to correct misinformation once it spreads.

Jonathan from the BBC discussed the organization's efforts to combat disinformation through rigorous training for journalists and the implementation of initiatives like BBC Verify, ensuring that their reporting remains trustworthy and accurate. He emphasized the importance of transparency in addressing misinformation, noting that public trust in media is crucial for effective journalism.

Overall, the panelists underscored the need for collaboration among media organizations to address financial constraints and foster best practices, while advocating for stronger policies to support the integrity and safety of journalism in a challenging environment.

In Conclusion:

The **Summit of the Future 2024** resulted in several significant outcomes:

1. **Pact for the Future:** [This inter-governmentally negotiated, action-oriented document includes chapters on sustainable development, financing for development, international peace and security, science, technology and innovation, digital cooperation, youth and future generations, and transforming global governance¹.](#)
2. **Three Landmark Agreements:** These agreements aim to enhance the effectiveness, inclusivity, and networked nature of multilateralism. [They focus on deep reforms to global institutions to make them more legitimate, fair, and effective².](#)
3. **Global Digital Compact:** [This initiative seeks to ensure that digital technologies are governed in a way that benefits all of humanity, addressing issues such as digital inclusion, data privacy, and the ethical use of artificial intelligence¹.](#)
4. **Declaration on Future Generations:** [This declaration emphasizes the importance of considering the needs and rights of future generations in today's policy-making processes¹.](#)

These outcomes are designed to address contemporary global challenges and pave the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

The **Summit of the Future 2024** will significantly impact the work of Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA) in several ways:

1. **Enhanced Advocacy for Gender Equality:** [The Summit's outcomes, particularly the Pact for the Future, emphasize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as central to achieving sustainable development.](#) This aligns with WG-USA's mission to



advocate for women's rights and education, providing a stronger platform for their initiatives.

2. **Increased Focus on Youth and Future Generations:** [The Declaration on Future Generations underscores the importance of considering the needs and rights of future generations in policy-making.](#) This focus on youth aligns with WG-USA's efforts to empower young women through education and leadership opportunities.
3. **Global Digital Compact:** [The Compact aims to ensure that digital technologies benefit all of humanity, addressing issues like digital inclusion and the ethical use of AI.](#) WG-USA can leverage this framework to advocate for better access to digital education and technology for women and girls, helping bridge the digital divide.
4. **Strengthened Multilateralism:** [The Summit's call for more inclusive and networked multilateralism](#) provides WG-USA with opportunities to engage in global dialogues and partnerships. This can enhance their advocacy efforts on issues like human trafficking and peace, ensuring that women's voices are heard in international policy-making processes.

Overall, the Summit of the Future 2024 provides WG-USA with a robust framework to advance their goals, offering new avenues for advocacy, collaboration, and impact on a global scale.

Which of these outcomes do you think will be most beneficial for WG-USA's mission?