



This submission is made on behalf of :

- Child Rights Connect: <https://childrightsconnect.org/>
- Terre des hommes international Federation : <https://terredeshommes.org/>

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## Chapeau

The Summit of the Future is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to anchor a robust and ambitious vision for a future of human life on planet Earth that is underpinned by dignity and fundamental rights. Given that some 4.2 billion children are expected to be born over the next 30 years, the Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future should be informed by, and explicitly articulate the centrality of a child rights approach to sustainable development, peace, justice and prosperity for all.

When world leaders gathered at the end of 2023 to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations (UN) Secretary General [reminded](#) States that the Pact of the Future is an opportunity to reaffirm their commitments to the realization of human rights well into the twenty-first century. In addition, the UN Office for Human Rights reached out to thousands of children worldwide to inform a new vision for human rights and ultimately the Summit and Pact for the Future. Their voices, experiences and solutions can be found in the ["Children's vision for human rights"](#).

The Chapeau of the zero draft of the Pact for the Future should clearly and unequivocally articulate States obligations to protect, respect and fulfill o fu pro,

**the Chapeau of the Pact for the Future should make explicit reference to 'children', all persons under 18, as a group of distinct rights holders under international law.** Without explicit mention of children in the Pact for the Future, their specific rights and unique perspectives risk being forgotten.

In addition, **children's rights must be included as a cross-cutting issue to be considered in deliberation on all thematic chapters, meaning that, children in all their diversity and their rights are considered under each chapter of the Pact for the Future.** Echoing the [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#),

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strongly recommend that the Summit and the Pact integrate a child rights perspective into all discussions and decisions, including on climate crisis, peace and security, digital compact and future generations.

Moreover, as the former Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child [emphasized](#) in February, “If the UN is truly committed to become a more inclusive multilateral platform for partnership and solidarity having people at center – as outlined in Our Common Agenda – children cannot be excluded from the process for the Summit of the Future (...). Children shou05.5 (...)-9..3 (l) (n)-0.8 Tw -30.76.8 (re)-3 (7u6 ()5.535



rights and be designed and operated with their best interests in mind, integrating privacy, safety and security by design and by default.

- Respecting and fulfilling the right of the child to be heard with regards to the digital environment, taking children's views and the diversity of their situations into account by States in the development of laws, policies and by businesses in their activities, including in relation to the design, development, operation, and marketing of their products and services.

In addition, Chapter III of the Pact for the Future should adopt a child rights-based approach by specifying that science and technology advancements serve the realization of children's rights and development. Specifically, building on UNICEF recommendations, Chapter III should:

- Recognise equitable digital education as a public good, in order to maximise opportunities while minimising digital divides and inequalities.
- Commit to equipping children with science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills, enabling them to actively shape sustainable futures, participate in evolving job markets and contribute to solutions to global challenges.
- Acknowledge that children face multiple risks in the digital environment such as online sexual exploitation, misinformation, harassment and hate speech, alongside additional risks posed by artificial intelligence such as discrimination and rights infringements. To prevent and respond to these risks, children should be protected and empowered as child digital citizens, through digital literacy and participation in digital policy dialogues.

#### Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

It is deeply regrettable that, despite [vocal advocacy](#) from children and civil society organisations across the world, children have only rarely received specific mention as a distinct group of stakeholders in the different Our Common Agenda Policy Brief series and they are not yet

This addition would also ensure that, when expanding spaces for meaningful engagement of youth in all UN decision-making process (including the establishment of the Youth Office) we ensure these mechanisms have the necessary expertise on child rights, child participation and child safeguarding given the overlap between children and youth. Young people are uniquely placed to support children's meaningful participation through peer-to-peer methods. Intergenerational approaches to research are increasingly showing how youth-led research methods can