Coalition 2030

www.coalition2030.ie

Meaghan Carmody, <u>meaghan@coalition2030.ie</u>, Coordinator

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future, as social dialogue with all relevant stakeholders is of utmost importance in the development of a common plan for how we collectively move forward in a world plagued by polycrisis.

This Pact must constitute a clarion call for increased ambition to achieve the SDGs by 2030. We must not lose sight of the 'world's to-do list' as there is still time to achieve the SDGs. The Pact must firmly

High-income countries and the World Trade Organization (WTO) should, in low-income countries, allow local protection of fledgling and indigenous industries and encourage sustainable export expansion.

Deep economic polarisation due to inequality has a destabilising influence on democratic societies making it difficult to make long-term decisions that benefit the majority of people. More than a quarter of the world's population now live in countries that are backsliding on democracy. Two-thirds of the world lives in either non-democratic regimes or backsliding democracies.

The transformation to wellbeing economies is likely to be disruptive given the narrowing window of time in which the global community can avoid 1.5C. What's more, rising inequality and the impacts of the climate and ecological crises will very likely contribute to rising social tensions and be employed as rationalisation for a move to an exclusionary politics of scarcity. This transformation must therefore be fair and just. Otherwise, it risks facing rejection, and increasing conflict.

It is well documented that the climate crisis is a threat to global security. That's why a new Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty must be endorsed by the UN. This treaty has been inspired by the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that slowed the spread of nuclear arms in the 1960s and 70s, and served to delegitimize and shame the actions of countries that, despite the treaty, continue to stockpile and test nuclear weapons.

The power imbalance on the UN Security Council must be addressed. The veto power exercised by certain actors in recent months and years risks making a mockery of multilateralism, a development which is evidently a threat to global security.

To achieve the SDGs the WTO must amend TRIPS to ensure that potentially life-saving treatments reach all globally and that vaccine apartheid never happens again². This is central to ensure the resilience of our global social fabric and trust in multilateralism.

All and large language models should be internationally regulated to mitigate the serious risks involved.

The worrying spread of anti-science narratives, misinformation and disinformation is destabilising efforts to achieve the SDGs. Social media platforms must be bound to an international code of conduct in order to counter this trend.

Efforts must be made to diminish the power of the 'attention economy' and especially its deleterious impacts on children and young people whose developing brains are more susceptible to the impacts of addictive technology.

A global data protection mechanism should be developed, similar to GDPR.

Governments should pass laws to strengthen worker's rights and trade unionisation. In a time of deep digital and green transformation, workers need economic protection and new skills development opportunities. Workers must be protected in the 'gig' or app-based economy, and the algorithms under which work-based apps operate must be worker-friendly.

National governments should be encouraged to increase their funding to National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) which require vastly more resources in order to collect disaggregated data on all the protected grounds of discrimination. Wellbeing indicators must not be merely an add-on to existing economic governance but must replace an economic system designed to grow exponentially.

The UN must scrutinise its own accessibility in the digital (as well as physical)³ realm, given that those hard of sight or hearing, and those with intellectual disabilities are currently unable to participate in online fora. The UN should develop a policy whereby all online meetings must have closed captioning and sign language, and all online materials should be developed using Universal Design Principles.

A vibrant economy does not have to mean one that relies on the continuous extraction of resources and commodification of the commons. Companies that are contributing positively to the wellbeing economy and that are not doing social or environmental harm sh

The Pact for the Future should promote 'cathedral thinking', the long-term and intergenerational approach to solving the problems of our time, and the Seventh Generations Principle, an indigenous philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future.

On our current trajectory, global average temperature is likely to hit 2.5C this century. This overshoot is likely to trigger unstoppable, self-reinforcing tipping points of warming, setting in motion feedback loops of climate travesty, yet those not yet born do not have a voice or a vote in our societies at large.

That is why we recommend that the Pact commit to establishing a UN Special Envoy for Future Generations. It should also encourage all countries to establish independent Future Generations Commissioners on a statutory footing, following the innovative example set by Wales, whose task would be to assess the actions of public bodies for their alignment with meeting the needs of future generations.

Governing for Future Generations is different to governance of and by the children and youth of today, yet it is they more than the adults of the world who will face the consequences of the decisions made today. Therefore enabling young people to *lead* is crucial. We must go beyond tokenistic inclusion and instead act on the recommendations of our young people today.

Underpinning the transformation is lifelong global citizenship and skills-based education and