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*Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Committee on Development  
Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
Subcommittee on Human Rights  
Subcommittee on Security and Defence*

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13.1.2025

## MISSION REPORT

following the European Parliament ad-hoc delegation to the Summit of the Future in New York, 20-23 September 2024

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Development, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, Subcommittee on Human Rights, Subcommittee on Security and Defence

Members of the mission:

Barry Andrews	(Renew)	(Co-chair of the mission)
Marta Temido	(S&D)	(Co-chair of the mission)
Alexander Bernhuber	(PPE)	
Lukas Mandl	(PPE)	
Hélder Sousa Silva	(PPE)	
Udo Bullmann	(S&D)	
Tiemo Wölken	(S&D)	
Jordan Bardella	(PfE)	
Sebastiaan Stöteler	(PfE)	
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Giorgos Georgiou	(The Left)	
Marc Jongen	(ESN)	
Ruth Firmenich	(NI)	

## ***Introduction***

The European Parliament has a longstanding commitment to supporting the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the multilateral work carried out by the United Nations (UN) in a wide range of areas, including climate, sustainable development, financing for development, science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation, human rights, as well as peace and security.

Parliament implements this commitment through its parliamentary work, which includes adopting regular own-initiative resolutions, organising debates in committees and in plenary, and sending regular ad-hoc delegations to the UN's High Level Political Forum as well as to the UN's General Assembly and other UN conferences. The European Parliament, as the only EU Institution directly elected by citizens, has a key role to ensure that the parliamentary dimension, and therefore the voice of citizens, is reflected in the deliberations and outcomes of such important international conferences.

At its meeting of 17 April 2024, the Conference of Presidents authorised a 15-member ad hoc delegation to the UN Summit of the Future (SOTF) in New York, USA, from 20-23 September 2024. The high-level delegation was composed of 13 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) representing five different parliamentary committees (the development committee, environment, public health and food security committee, the foreign affairs committee, as well as the security and defence and the human rights subcommittees), taking into account the broad scope of the SOTF. The SOTF, that took place from 22 to 23 September 2024, was preceded by two Action Days on 20 to 21 September 2024 which Members attended.

## ***Summary account of meetings and key points***

During the mission, the EP delegation met with a wide range of interlocutors, such as UN high-level representatives, parliamentarians from across the globe, Ministers, students, as well as civil society representatives.

Members welcomed the UN's Pact for the Future and its commitments to multilateralism for a more fair, equitable and inclusive future. They also welcomed the adoption of the Global Digital Compact and Declaration for Future Generations.

During various bilateral meetings, Members stressed the importance of the role of parliaments in holding governments accountable for delivering on these commitments: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, human rights, climate and environment and the reform of the international financial architecture. Members also raised questions on biodiversity, food security, health, as well as issues related to peace and security, including the reform of the UN Security Council.

## ***Multilateralism***

The strong presence of Parliament conveyed a message about the need to defend multilateralism, emphasising the essential role parliaments can play. Throughout the programme, discussions on threats to multilateralism and the necessity of its defence emerged

as a recurring challenge.

In particular, two events were specifically dedicated to more in-depth deliberations on these issues. The first was an event hosted by Parliament on the role of parliaments in multilateralism at the global level. This event brought together a number of parliamentarians from across the globe, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), for an exchange on this priority issue. Members actively participated in the discussion, and President Metsola delivered an opening speech that helped strengthen ties with other parliaments worldwide. Secondly, the European Parliament was represented at the IPU side event, “Parliaments and Multilateralism: Opportunities from the Pact for the Future.” At this event, the European Parliament shared its unique example as the world’s only directly elected transnational parliament, illustrating how a parliamentary institution can play an active role in multilateralism, particularly in its cooperation with the United Nations. The event provided an opportunity to present examples of Parliament’s work, including promoting global governance and multilateralism, human rights advocacy, climate leadership, parliamentary diplomacy, and support for peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

### *Climate, biodiversity and environment*

The delegation met with Ms Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). During the meeting, it was stressed how the reaffirmation of multilateralism was particularly important for climate, environment and biodiversity policies, as they are all policies that do not know borders. While the Pact on the Future did not focus particularly on environment and climate, the fact that there were no steps backwards in the commitments is to be taken as a good result from the Summit. On climate, Members also addressed the issue of carbon credits and carbon removals, implementation challenges at global and national level, the role of UNEP in monitoring performances and compliance, the possibilities of climate financing in view of the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP) 29 in Baku, which should include both public and private sectors, and address critical raw materials and minerals, and negotiations on the Treaty on Plastics. During the meeting with Ms Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Members discussed the challenges for the implementation of the Convention and the possible financial tools to boost its implementation supporting in particular poorer countries. A dedicated Fund was created in Montreal during COP15 but it is under-capitalised. How to better finance biodiversity will be one of the main topics during the upcoming COP16 in Cali, Columbia. The new Nature Restoration Law, that could be seen as a model for other countries, together with the importance of involving farmers in transitioning to more sustainable agricultural practices as well as the importance of supporting indigenous peoples were also mentioned during the meeting. Lastly, in their meeting with Mr Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Members discussed the importance of early warning systems and engaged on EU’s support to the work of UNDRR, including on infrastructure resilience and sharing knowledge and best practices.

## ***Health***

During the meeting with Dr Barbosa, Director for the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for the American Region, Members had the opportunity to discuss challenges linked to public health in the region. Latin America and the Caribbean represent a very large and diverse region, with a complex landscape of inequalities depending on the country. There are specific regional public health challenges, for example, it is the region with the highest rate of teenage pregnancies, and there are countries facing particular difficulties due to climate events and devastations. PAHO has a key role in supporting those countries, and in promoting programmes to ensure the provision of vaccines in the countries most affected and building the capacity of health systems, both in terms of regulatory frameworks (establishment of independent bodies, clear authorities) and in logistics. PAHO also has significant operational responsibilities, it operates one of the two Emergency Room (ER) hospitals in Haiti. It was also directly responsible for handling vaccine donations during the Covid-19 pandemic. During the meeting, Members raised several key issues including the importance of ensuring equitable access to vaccines, including the M-pox vaccine for the most vulnerable populations in the region, and to other regions like Africa. They also highlighted concerns regarding access to and affordability of medicinal products as well as medical devices, the importance of increasing the efforts in health prevention and preparedness during health crises. Improving preparedness, the need to enhance procurement programmes and mechanisms for vaccines and medical devices as well as the negotiations of the Pandemic Treaty were also discussed by Members.

## ***Sustainable development and SDGs financing***

Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and financing for development were among the key issues recurring throughout various bilateral meetings, most notably during a dedicated side event on SDGs entitled “How Can Parliaments Help Close the SDG Financing Gap?”, co-organised by the European Parliament and the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire. This event marked an important achievement for Parliament, as it was the first time Parliament had organised an event within the framework of the official Action Days, which took place at the UN Headquarters. It brought together prominent guests, including representatives from the World Bank, the National Assembly of Côte d’Ivoire, the President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), and NGOs. The event concluded with closing remarks by President Metsola, who emphasised the importance of parliaments in delivering on the SDGs.

During the meeting with Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Members had the opportunity to discuss the challenges of the implementation of Agenda 2030. Mr Steiner emphasised that the public has lost trust in development cooperation, often questioning whether it can truly make a difference. Mr Steiner stressed the importance of multilateralism, the increasing role of the digital transformation, and the need to strengthen institutions in light of cyber threats, as well as the growing role of developing countries in Official Development Assistance (ODA) financing and their role as co-investors. Members expressed hopes that the new European Commission would prioritise the SDGs on its political agenda. They regretted the systematic underfunding of ODA, called for an increased role of parliaments in holding governments accountable for SDG funding, and expected concrete outcomes from the Financing for Development

Conference in Seville in 2025. They also exchanged views on the Global Gateway and its contribution to SDG implementation. The role of NGOs and youth in the implementation of the Pact for the Future, in which SDGs featured prominently, was also discussed with representatives from both groups. Lastly, Members engaged in an active discussion with World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the issues of food security and sustainable agriculture, with a focus on fragile states and funding challenges, committing to keeping these issues high on the political agenda of the Parliament.

### ***Peace and security***

The issues related to peace and security were addressed during various bilateral meetings, in particular during the meeting with Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations. During this meeting, the Members could discuss the challenges – including the new types of threats - faced by the peace keeping operation missions as well as the situation in Middle East and in the Sahel. Jean-Pierre Lacroix stressed the critical importance of partnership and the need for cooperation at all levels: political, operational and humanitarian.

Furthermore, the European Parliament organised a side event on “Parliaments and Parliamentary Partnerships for The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda”, which focused on the role of Parliaments as well as Parliamentary Partnerships and Diplomacy in the implementation of the UNSCR 1325. This event featured a series of high-level interventions – including from Elizabeth Mary Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support at the United Nations; Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, System Coordination, Programme Results at UN Women and Cristal Downing, Director of the Gender and Conflict project at International Crisis Group - and was followed by a debate with Parliamentarians from around the world. The speakers underlined that parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to promote peace and pluralism, in their role as elected representatives of the people. They have the duty to ensure that all people - including women and girls - can live their lives safely, securely and peacefully and have equal opportunity to build peaceful and secure society. Parliamentarians through their law-making, budgetary and oversight functions, can ensure that the government and its institutions promote peace, security and gender equality. Different interventions stressed the need to reflect collectively on how to increase the number of women elected to parliaments and underlined the importance of peer to peer support and dialogue among MPs and that of developing multi-stakeholder partnerships.

### ***Human rights***

Human rights were discussed in several bilateral meetings, and most importantly in a meeting with the Assistant Secretary General of the UN for Human Rights, Ilze Brand Kehris. During this discussion, she insisted that the very existence of the Pact for the Future was a success. The language of the Pact addresses relevant issues, with human rights being an overarching element of it. Ms Kehris also referred to the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations as positive achievements at global level. She gave an overview of the main challenges that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is facing in its work. Members raised questions on the future of UN peacekeeping missions and the role of regional organisations in maintaining peace, the increasing number of so-

called forgotten crises as well as the process surrounding the adoption of the Pact. In other bilateral meetings with Kitty van der Heijden, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, and Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Members were briefed on the specific situation of children and women in conflict situations. During the meeting with Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, she emphasised the evolving nature, expansion, and increasing complexity of armed conflict, which leads to a significant rise in grave violations against children. She asked for the support of the Members of the European Parliament, notably through the recently revised EU guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, which represent a comprehensive framework to protect the rights and well-being of children throughout the whole conflict cycle, to strengthen prevention and to strengthen accountability for perpetrators.

### *Conclusions and follow-up*

The strong Parliament presence at the Summit of the Future and Action Days, with a delegation of 13 Members from five different parliamentary committees, reinforced by the presence of the President of the European Parliament, shows clearly Parliament's commitment to multilateralism, Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, as well as to enhancing parliaments' role in global governance reforms. The organisation of successful side-events and the wide range of high-level bilateral meetings during the mission strengthened Parliament's credibility and leadership among not only the European institutions but also with our partners: the United Nations agencies and Member States, civil society and youth.

Annex:           Final programme

## Final programme of the EP delegation to the Summit of the Future, New York

### Friday, 20 September

18:00 - 18:45 Briefing with Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to the UN

### Saturday, 21 September

09:00 - 10:00 Meeting with Ms Inger Andersen, Executive Director UNEP

10:30 - 11:25 ***ACTION DAYS Session 1:*** Sustainable development in a time of global transformation

11:25 - 12:35 ***ACTION DAYS Session 2:*** International Tax Cooperation - A new frontier for inequality reduction

12:00 - 12:30 Meeting with Ms Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

13:00 - 14:15 IPU side-event “Parliaments and multilateralism: Opportunities from the Pact for the Future”

14:30 - 15:45 EP side-event with Republic of Côte d'Ivoire: “How can Parliaments help close the SDG financing gap?”

16:00 - 17:00 ***ACTION DAYS Session 5:*** “*International Financial Architecture for 21 Century*”

17:30 - 18:30 ***ACTION DAYS***, closing ceremony

### Sunday, 22 September

09:30 - 10:00 Meeting with Dr Barbosa, Regional Director for the Pan-American Health Organisation, WHO for American Region

10:15 - 10:45 Meeting with Ms Isabelle Durant, Expert, UN Human Rights Council

10:50 - 11:20 Meeting with Ms Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

11:30 - 13:00 EP side-event on “Parliaments and Parliamentary Partnerships for the Women, Peace and Security agenda”

14:00 - 14:45 Discussion with global parliamentarians to discuss the Role of Parliaments in multilateralism at global level

15:45 - 16:45 Meeting with SDG Watch Europe, Pakistan Development Alliance (PDA), and youth representatives

- 16:45 - 17:20 Meeting with Ms Tanja Fajon, Foreign Affairs Minister of Slovenia, Security Council Presidency
- 17:20 - 18:00 Meeting with Ms Virginia Gamba de Potgieter, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- 18:15 - 19:00 Meeting with Mr Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### Monday, 23 September

- 08:00 - 08:40 Meeting with Ms Joyce Msuya, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
- 09:00 - 09:45 Meeting with Ms Rania Dagash-Kamara, Assistant Executive Director for Partnerships and Innovation representatives of WFP, and a representative of FAO
- 10:00 - 10:45 Meeting with Ms Kitty van der Heijden, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships, of UNICEF
- Meeting with Ms Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- 11:00 - 12:00 Parallel meeting:  
Meeting with Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- 12:15 - 13:15 Meeting with Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations
- 15:30 - 17:00 'Policy Dialogue on the Future of Multilateralism', with students of Columbia and City University of NY