



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
PERMANENT MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK



PERMANENT MISSION OF VIET NAM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Misión Permanente de Colombia  
ante la ONU en Nueva York



Global  
Challenges  
Foundation



Bahá'í  
International  
Community

## Advancing the Environment, Peace and Security Agenda at the Summit of the Future and Beyond

### CONCEPT NOTE

High-level side event to the Summit of the Future Action Days

**Thursday, 26 September 2024**

**11:15 AM - 12:45 PM EDT**

866 United Nations Plaza #120, New York, NY 10017

And online

### Background

In September 2024, the international community will convene at the [Summit of the Future](#) (SotF) in New York for a “once in a generation” opportunity to reconfigure the multilateral governance system to manage the global challenges facing current and future generations. The current global governance system has so far been unable to keep pace with the increasing scale, speed, and complexity of the global catastrophic risks facing humanity. Notably, present measures taken by the international community to halt large-scale environmental degradation and climate change have failed to reach global goals, particularly as direct and indirect destruction of the environment by States and non-state armed groups continues in armed conflicts around the world.

Meanwhile, international prevention, mitigation, and response measures to conflict-linked environmental harm and climate risks in conflict-affected and vulnerable countries are currently ad hoc, incoherent, and uncoordinated across an overburdened and slowly responding system. The international community must make the most of the opportunity presented during the SotF to strengthen global environmental governance and response measures and prioritize means of addressing the environment-climate-conflict nexus in the Pact for the Future and beyond to better protect people, planet, and peace for future generations.

### Objectives of the event

On the margins of the Summit of the Future Action Days, the Governments of **Colombia**, the **Republic of Slovenia**, and the **Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**, in partnership with the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, **PAX**, the **Baha’i International Community**, and the **Global Challenges Foundation (GCF)**, aim to gather high-level representatives of governments, international organizations, and civil society to discuss potential pathways for the establishment and operationalization of the Environment, Peace and Security (EPS) agenda within the UN system beyond Pact negotiations. Event participants will reflect on the current “state of play” for practitioners and policymakers, including within the UN system and throughout the negotiations at the SotF and beyond, identifying existing gaps in current prevention, mitigation, and response measures. They will explore opportunities for better mainstreaming and coordination across the UN system to deal with environmental impacts and climate risks in conflict-affected and at-risk settings. The discussions at this high-level event will serve as a basis for the development of concrete recommendations at the expert level in a report following the event in the aftermath of the SotF.

## **Event format**

The event will take place at the UN office of the Baha'i International Community in New York and online at the Ministerial or Ambassadorial level, bringing together representatives of governments from a diverse geographic and regional representation and high-level experts from international organizations, academia, and civil society. The format will consist of a high-level panel with representation from co-sponsoring States, followed by a panel of high-level practitioners and thematic experts. This will then be followed by interventions from the floor (in line with protocol).

## **Guiding questions**

- *What gaps exist within current UN response measures to address challenges around the environment-climate-conflict nexus? How does this affect countries bearing the compounding effects of conflict, environmental degradation, and climate change?*
- *How can the UN better integrate the efforts of its various agencies to create a more cohesive strategy in addressing the environment-climate-conflict nexus?*
- *What steps can be taken to enhance coordination and collaboration between the UN, Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders on this issue?*
- *How can international partners improve the collection, sharing, and integration of data related to environmental degradation, climate change, and conflict across the UN system?*

## **Programme**

*Session to be moderated by Ms. Rolien Sasse, Executive Director, PAX*

*Opening remarks:*

- **Ms. Linda Burenus**, Head of Climate Sustainability and Communication, Global Challenges Foundation (GCF)

*Panel One:*

- **H.E. Ms. Kandya Gisella Obezo Casseres**, Viceminister for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
- **H.E. Ms. Božena Forštnarič Boroje**, Director-General for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia
- **H.E. Mr. Dang Hoang Giang**, Permanent Representative to the UN, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

*Panel Two:*

- **Ms. Ugochi Daniels**, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- **Ms. Shoko Noda**, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator, and Director of the Crisis Bureau, UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Dr. Zinta Zommers**, Head of Climate Science and Practice, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- **Dr. Cordula Droege**, Chief Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

*Interventions from the floor*

*Closing remarks:*

- **Ms. Liliane Nkunzimana**, Representative to the UN, Baha'i International Community (BIC)

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