

**Scientific and Technological Community Major Group statement**  
**Virtual consultation with the co-facilitators of the Summit of the Future**  
**17 April 2024**

Thank you, Excellencies.

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, co-led by the International Science Council and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. We bring together more than 250 national science academies and international unions in the fields of natural, social and human sciences, as well as more than 100 national engineering organizations with over 30 million engineers worldwide.

The Pact for the Future remains an unparalleled opportunity to shift multilateralism towards prevention, action, accountability, and evidence-informed decision-making. Science and engineering serve as essential, universal languages for identifying issues, understanding root causes and impediments to lasting change, and constructing and implementing sustainable solutions. Addressing major intertwined global challenges requires breaking deep-seated siloes in how multilateral issues are understood and avoiding simplistic solutions to multi-faceted issues.

To achieve this, the Pact requires a clear articulation of the critical importance of science and engineering to multilateralism. We therefore wish to stress 3 key messages:

1. First, we commend the zero-draft for recognizing the importance of science, technology and innovation. At the same time, the Pact does not yet reflect the key value of science and engineering to the multilateral system. Science and engineering are not just “issues” relevant to Chapter 3: rather, they are critical *tools* for more integrated and evidence-informed decision-making, relevant to *all* chapters of the Pact. We therefore call for the Chapeau to reflect the cross-cutting importance of science and engineering to evidence-informed decision-making and action across the multilateral agenda. We especially call for recognition of the indivisibility of the commitments in UN intergovernmental agreements and the need for integrated and systemic interventions to act on synergies and trade-offs.
2. Second, we are concerned that Chapter Two currently focuses on the risks to peace and security associated with scientific and technological developments, rather than also on the essential benefits of harnessing these developments to advance conditions that support peace and security and mitigate the impacts of conflict.
3. Third, we strongly recommend that the Summit of the Future should lead to an increased commitment within and among Member States for an enhanced multilateral science-policy interface for the benefit of all humanity. This can deliver meaningful, concrete successes for Member States with cross-cutting value across all Pact chapters, all SDGs, and all issues on the multilateral agenda. This critical opportunity should be acknowledged in Chapter Five.

The S&T Major Group is committed to working with you to deliver an effective, action-oriented and impactful Pact bringing about positive change for both people and the planet, firmly grounded in the latest and best available scientific knowledge and engineering solutions.