



## **OPENING REMARKS**

**BY**

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AS CO-CHAIR OF THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE 2  
OF THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE ON: "*ENHANCING  
MULTILATERALISM FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AND SECURITY*"**

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**Excellency Colleague Co-Chair,**

**Excellencies, Colleague Heads of State and  
Government,**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is an honour and a privilege to co-chair this critical interactive dialogue on ***“Enhancing Multilateralism for International Peace and Security”*** at this Summit of the Future.
2. As we gather at this defining moment, we are reminded of our shared duty to uphold the principles of multilateralism that form the bedrock of our international system.

- 3.** In a world that faces complex global challenges, from violent conflict to transnational threats like terrorism, climate change, and pandemics, multilateral cooperation remains an essential tool for maintaining peace and stability.
- 4.** I extend my most profound appreciation to the Secretary-General and all Member States for their continued commitment to advancing the ideals of multilateralism, particularly in the face of growing global challenges.

5. As we have heard already and detailed in the UN Secretary-General's '**Our Common Agenda**', our world today faces unprecedented challenges: from protracted conflicts and transnational terrorism to global health crises and the existential threat of Climate Change.
  
6. These threats know no borders, and they cannot be effectively addressed by any Member State alone.

- 7.** These challenges require collective action, shared responsibility, and, most importantly, the revitalisation of multilateralism.
  
- 8.** Sierra Leone, as a small but steadfast member of the United Nations, has experienced the consequences of conflict firsthand.
  
- 9.** We know too well the devastating effects of instability, but we also know the transformative power of peacebuilding, reconciliation, and collaboration.

**10.** The multilateral partnerships we formed through the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, and other institutions were crucial in restoring peace, fostering reconciliation, and building the foundations for sustainable development.

**11.** Our history certainly is a testament to the significance of international cooperation in overcoming adversity.

**12.** As we deliberate today on the future of multilateralism, let us not forget the successes we have achieved through cooperation under the United Nations and other multilateral frameworks.

**13.** These successes should inspire us to continue our collaborative efforts.

**14.** For instance, I encourage us to draw from best practices that have proven effective in recent history.

**15.** We can examine regional organisations' roles in conflict prevention and resolution, including the African Union's efforts in peacekeeping and mediation across the continent.

**16.** This regional cooperation model highlights the importance of local ownership in addressing security threats, a practice that could be replicated globally.



## **EXCELLENCIES**

**17.** We must also recognise the growing challenges that threaten the effectiveness of this system.

**18.** Geopolitical tensions, erosion of trust in global institutions, the resurgence of nationalism, and the persistent inequalities among nations have tested the very foundations of our cooperation.

- 19.** The frameworks we have relied upon in the past must now evolve to meet the shifting dynamics of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- 20.** This evolution includes necessary reforms in our global institutions to ensure they are equipped to effectively address the challenges of today and tomorrow.
- 21.** This Summit, as a platform for global dialogue and cooperation, provides a unique opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and to chart a path forward

for a more inclusive, responsive, and effective international order.

**22.** We must ensure that our efforts reflect the voices of all nations, including those of us in the Global South, particularly Africa, who often bear the brunt of global insecurity but are too frequently sidelined in decision-making processes.

**23.** In this regard, reforming the United Nations Security Council must be a priority. The current structure, established after World War

II, no longer reflects the geopolitical realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**24.** The Security Council must become more representative, equitable, and transparent if it is to maintain its legitimacy and effectiveness.

**25.** Africa, home to over a billion people and often disproportionately affected by global conflicts, must have a stronger voice in this critical body.

**26.** It is long overdue that we address the imbalance in representation, which undermines both the Council's credibility and its capacity to address global peace and security issues comprehensively.

**27.** We must recommit to the principles of the UN Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which remain our guiding frameworks for achieving lasting peace, security, and development.

**28.** At the same time, we must be bold and innovative in reforming the institutions that govern us — making them more representative, transparent, and accountable.

## **EXCELLENCIES,**

**29.** The need for solidarity and cooperation has never been more urgent. Let us approach this dialogue with a spirit of partnership and resolve.

**30.** Together, we can forge a stronger multilateral system that addresses today's challenges and anticipates and prepares for tomorrow's crises.

**31.** I look forward to our discussions and to the valuable insights that will emerge from this dialogue.

**32.** I encourage us all to focus on proposing actionable solutions to the challenges we face.

**33.** We must deepen our collaboration, pool resources, and strengthen our commitment to multilateral approaches, including peacekeeping, diplomacy, and humanitarian interventions.

**34.** I am optimistic that today's discussions will yield practical recommendations to enhance our collective efforts in building a more peaceful and secure world.



**35.** Together, we can lay the groundwork for a world where cooperation triumphs over conflict, dialogue over division, and peace over war.

**36.** Let us work together to ensure that our collective actions are equal to the challenges before us and that we build a future of peace, security, and prosperity for all.

**I THANK YOU.**