



Translating Commitments to Action: Africa and the Pact for the Future: Joint policy forum UNOAU – Amani Africa Concept Note

The Pact for the Future, adopted during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2024, presents itself as a big step toward reimagining and reinvigorating multilateralism to address contemporary challenges and seize emerging opportunities. At a time of profound global transformation that is marked by economic and climate crisis, and deepening geopolitical tensions that are shaking at the foundations of the multilateral structures, the Pact calls for renewed international cooperation that is rooted in trust, inclusivity and shared commitments.

For Africa, this comes at a critical juncture. The continent's collective aspirations for peace, sustainable development, and equitable representation in global decision-making resonate with the Pact's vision. The pact aims to reinvigorate multilateralism and international cooperation by restoring trust amongst the International Community, strengthening multilateralism and turbocharging the implementation of SDGs for present and future generations. Though, as indicated in the [report](#) of the Africa High-level Panel of Experts, jointly convened by Namibia and Amani Africa, the pact does not address all demands of Africa's expectations nor make concrete decisions as to how the global governance structures will be reformed, the Pact presents opportunities for advancing Africa's voice and interest in the global stage.

The pact acknowledges the urgent need to reform multilateral institutions to reflect today's global realities that open doors for Africa to assume bigger roles in shaping the agenda of multilateral institutions particularly in areas of peacebuilding and sustainable development, by among others, leveraging the Ezulwini consensus and vying for permanent representation in the UNSC and pushing for greater representation in global economic governance institutions such as the IMF and World Bank. The pact also makes pledges to close the SDG financing gap by mobilizing resources for developing countries. This creates an opportunity Africa can capitalize on by advocating for the operationalization of the SDG stimulus plan which was proposed by the UN secretary-General, Antonio Guterres in 2023.

Yet, despite the articulation of key commitments in the Pact to reform global governance and address systemic inequalities, that create opportunities for Africa and Africans, the promises of the Pact on its own without translating them into action is not enough. The Pact's success depends on translating these commitments into concrete actions. This remains contingent on collective political will and strong institutional frameworks for follow up. It thus of paramount significance for AU and its member states to step up.

African member states and the Union should play leading roles in ensuring the effective implementation of the key commitments for reform made in the Pact. Particularly as they relate to inclusive global governance, sustainable development, and equitable international cooperation that



align with Africa's priorities. Some key reform areas of a reformed, inclusive and equitable multilateral system envisaged in the Pact align with core issues that have been identified in the joint Namibia-Amani Africa High-Level Panel Report. These centered around the reform of the UNSC, development financing and just climate action based on the international law principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The reform of the UNSC, beyond resolving the underrepresentation of Africa in the UNSC despite the continent's significant contribution to global peacekeeping and its status as the largest regional bloc in the UNGA, will provide entry points for Africa to assert influence and have a greater say on global matters of peace and security. The commitments made in the Pact to accelerate climate action also create ways to ensure policy coherence between global and regional climate goals and robust financing and technology transfers to cushion the effects of climate change the continent has had to bear despite contributing the least to global emissions. As it relates to development financing, the pact presents an opportunity to catalyse discussions on reforming international financial institutions and credit rating standards that reflect Africa's reality and requires stronger accountability frameworks to ensure resource mobilization for African states.

The reaffirmation of the role of regional organizations like the AU in global governance by the Pact, presents an opportunity to elevate AU's expanding global profile. As critical avenue for filling in the critical vacuum in the international peace and security architecture, member states have applauded UNSC Resolution 2719 (2023) during the Summit of the Future. This was articulated under Action 21 of the Pact of the Future.

Objectives

The proposed event, bringing together policymakers, experts and African CSOs and think tanks, will serve as a platform to deliberate on the operationalization of the Pact in ways that advance Africa's aspirations in the global stage by:

- Critically evaluating the opportunities that the commitments made in the Pact present for enhancing Africa's role for achieving a more equitable, inclusive and responsive multilateralism through, among others,
 - o Enhancing the role of the UN General Assembly
 - o UN Security Council Reform
- Identifying the implication of the Pact for AU – UN relations;
- Specifying key reform areas envisaged in the Pact that Africa should prioritize for galvanizing effective implementation;
- Examining whether and how the Pact can be leveraged to address some of the pressing challenges affecting people in some parts of the world like Africa such as the debt burden, the growing cost of living crisis and loss and damage due to the climate calamity; and
- Reflecting on how Africa/the AU position itself to optimize opportunities from the Pact.



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Amani Africa – UNOAU Joint Policy Forum

6 December 2024

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Time	Agenda	
1:00 – 1:30PM	Arrival, Registration and lunch	
1:30 – 1:45PM	Opening Remarks	H.E. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga
1:45 – 2:30PM	<p>Translating Commitments to Action: Africa and the Pact for the Future</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>H.E. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, SRSG and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)</p> <p>H.E. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner, Political Afaris Peace and Security Department (AUC-PAPS)</p> <p>H.E. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)</p> <p>H.E. Rebecca Amuge Otengo, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Ethiopia/Permanent Representative the AU and UNECA</p> <p>H.E. Amb. Jens Hanefeld, Ambassador of Germany to Ethiopia</p> <p>H.E. Amb. Jerobeam Shaanika, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Multilateral department of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of Namibia</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Dr. Solomon Dersso, Founding Director, Amani Africa</p>
2:30 – 3:50PM	Discussions/Q & A	
3:50 – 4:00PM	Closing Remarks	Dr Solomon Dersso, Founding Director, Amani Africa