



**Transcript**  
New York, September 22, 2024

## **Remarks by Foreign Secretary Alicia Bárcena Ibarra at the Summit of the Future, during the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**

President, distinguished delegates:

I invoke the words of Jaime Torres Bodet, a Mexican diplomat who addressed the General Assembly in 1947, saying: "We meet at a solemn hour for humankind. The solemnity of this hour is not a product of our presence in this hall, but of the concerns and anguish that all peoples are suffering."

The relevance of his words 77 years later is unsettling, because this is indeed a crucial hour.

This Summit of the Future is an opportunity to renew the international community's collective commitment to multilateralism, an essential tool for facing our current challenges, but one that is facing growing skepticism.

One year from its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the UN faces the enormous challenge of fulfilling the essence of its mandate: to save humanity from the scourge of war, promote and protect all human rights and international law, collectively address climate change, and foster sustainable and inclusive development.

This cannot be the criticism of mere spectators. This is our organization, and its successes and difficulties are a reflection of our own abilities and shortcomings. Let this Summit, then, be a pause to examine where we stand today, to take a critical look at the international framework, to acknowledge the legitimacy crisis the UN is going through, and to sow hope for the future.

We arrive at this Summit after many efforts to reach a consensus. We have tempered our expectations in order to forge agreements. Mexico will persist in its efforts to serve as a bridge between different opinions.

The world of 2024 is very different from that of 1945; its geopolitics and centers of economic and military power have been radically transformed. Armed conflicts, the risk of nuclear war, the climate crisis, growing inequality, accelerated technological change with its increasing challenges and opportunities, and above all, the erosion of public trust in global institutions, require urgent action.

Multilateralism must overcome partial and nationalist visions. We must agree on means of implementation based on the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities, overcoming inertias that normalize injustice and inequality.



# RELACIONES EXTERIORES

SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

During the negotiations on the Pact, Mexico enhanced its ambition with concrete proposals. We advocated for accelerating progress towards substantive gender equality, and rethinking development models to eliminate privileges and to transition from extractivism and environmental deterioration to sustainability. We emphasized the urgent need for a more representative and inclusive international financial architecture.

Far from seeing the pact as just another UN document, we believe it makes three key contributions: the urgent need for a nuclear-weapon-free world amidst high military tension; second, the critical need for development financing; third, the need to reform multilateral governance, identifying guidelines for the reform of the Security Council and the international financial architecture.

We also believe that our solutions must be viable, timely, and relevant, and must be supported by the indisputable strength of evidence. We must measure first and measure together. Therefore, we must give the United Nations System the mandate and the roadmap to measure and advance agendas with cooperation and coordination.

We cannot conceal our dismay at the dilution of ambition for reforming the United Nations System and the Security Council, despite their evident ineffectiveness in recent years.

Therefore, reforming the Security Council to reflect current geopolitical realities—including the Global South and eliminating the veto once and for all—remains pending.

We must also urgently undertake a critical review of how organizations and forums function to address public disillusionment and promptly mobilize the United Nations for necessary action.

Allow me to convey warm regards from President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and greetings from Claudia Sheinbaum, who will be the first woman president in Mexico's history.

Mexico stands ready to implement the Pact in the upcoming administration. Claudia Sheinbaum does not arrive alone; she arrives with all of us, because when a woman advances, all of society advances.

Thank you.