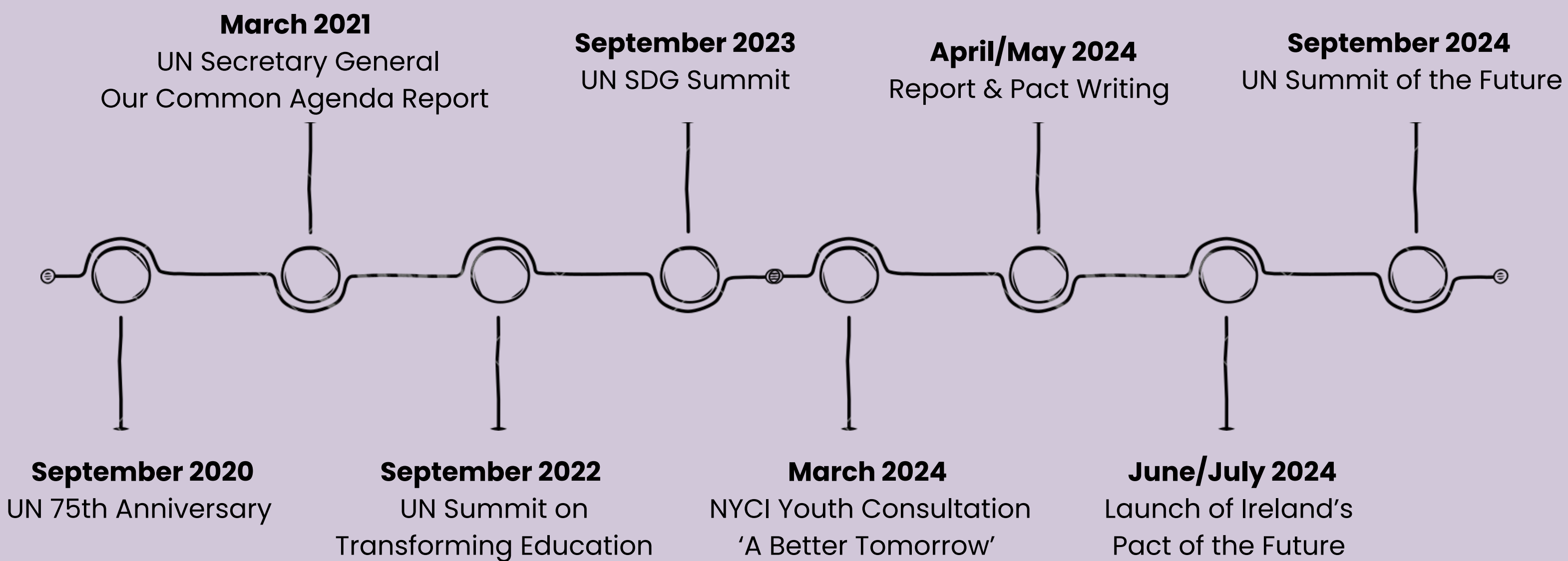


Youth Consultation: A Better Tomorrow – Ireland’s Youth Pact for the Future



In September 2021, the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, published his Our Common Agenda report, underlining the need for urgent implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which had been universally agreed in 2015. This followed a 2020 Declaration from Member States, commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, and requesting that the Secretary-General provide guidance on how best to address current, as well as future global challenges. One such recommendation in Our Common Agenda included the convening of a Summit of the Future, to both prepare and safeguard for long-term risks and opportunities.

The first-of-its-kind Summit of the Future will be held at UN headquarters in New York on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2024. The aim of the summit is to recognise the need for reform of international institutions and multilateral decision-making, considering past, current, and potential future challenges. The overarching theme is “Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow”. Now more than ever before, our world leaders must come together in unity and solidarity, to ensure that fundamental human rights are upheld even in a world where crises arise.



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Member States will decide the outcomes of the Summit, which will be recorded in two documents.

- 1) The Pact for the Future – An ambitious and action-orientated agreement.
- 2) The Declaration on Future Generations.

The draft documents will be submitted in advance and will hopefully be endorsed by Heads of State and Government during the Summit.

The Secretary-General has provided some areas that require particular attention including:

- Responding to global shocks
- Meaningful inclusion of young people
- Digital technology
- Integrity in public information
- Peaceful and sustainable use of outer space
- New agenda for peace
- Transforming education
- And more...



As was the case with previous Summits, such as the Transforming Education Summit in 2022 and the SDG Summit in 2023, work begins well in advance of the gathering itself. In October 2023, the President of the UN General Assembly, Dennis Francis, appointed Germany and Namibia as co-facilitators to prepare for the Summit. Consultations with various stakeholders have been taking place since February 2023 and will continue into the coming months. It is hoped that the Summit of the Future will build off the 2023 SDG Summit, reaffirming commitment to the previously agreed actions for the protection of present and future generations (ie. those yet to be born). One exciting possibility is the creation of a ‘UN Special Envoy for Future Generations’, an individual who could act as an advocate for long-term planning and foresight practice, as well as a guardian of future generations.

This consultation will specifically focus on a National Pact for the Future, outlining the priorities of the young people of Ireland, while recognising the connections between local and global actions.



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