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## SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

### **Amnesty International's written submission to the zero draft of the Pact for the Future**

#### Chapeau

Amnesty International welcomes the Pact for the Future initiative and its zero draft.

We recognise the multiple crises and the risks confronted by people the world over. We suggest that the introduction should not shy away from insisting on the gravity of the situation we are confronting. Being global, supra-state, and existential, these crises, and their inter-connectedness, underscore our global inter-dependency even as they most locally devastate, first and foremost the lives and livelihoods of those who have contributed least to their genesis and escalation. We are confronting a world of change on the back of a world of inequality, driving a world of contestation, teetering on descent into a world of conflict.

The introduction to the Pact for the Future must not shy away from naming the reality which is prompting this initiative. The responses cannot be found in business as usual or in language as usual. We are hoping to find in the text the boldness and courage required to tackle the existential challenges we are confronting.

We remind the Pact for the Future drafters that in 1945, in midst of the globally ruinous aftermath of world war, a choice was made. The choice was in favour of a system of international cooperation founded on universal principles, norms and standards. It was a bold and imaginative commitment to principled global governance, underscored by its core founding document, the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Today, once again, we face ruinous scenarios globally, including those potentially even greater in scale, complexity, and appalling consequence. That reality is not merely the product of the post-WWII global system's failings, but indicative too of the system's increasing redundancy, given the speed, scale and spread of global change. The post-WWII system is no longer fit for the purposes it promised to serve: it is not fit for the world as it is, let alone capable of staving off the world that threatens to become. Nonetheless, the task before us boils down to the uncannily familiar. It is as an author of the post WWII international system expressed it, decades ago: "We have created unprecedented possibilities for both progress and disaster on our planet without yet assuming the collective

responsibility that both those possibilities demand. We already have much of the machinery for this purpose. We must take it out, overhaul it, and get it on the road.”<sup>1</sup>

The gravity of the situation we confront demand that we (re)assume collective responsibility, and global cooperation, commensurate with the possibilities for progress and disaster around and in front of us - with their immensity on the one hand, for far greater equality of access to dignity and prosperity and yet, on the other, for utter calamity to the point even of human extinction.

For Amnesty International, there is only one acceptable pathway to the future - that which is paved with human rights - universal and indivisible. And there is only one acceptable destination - the sustainable equal dignity of all persons as rightsholders. The singular surety on the road ahead is that none of that is assured.

In addition to the specific comments made below under each section, we call on the Summit of the Future to ensure that the following are included in future versions:

1. The Pact for the Future must contain concrete commitments on United Nations and other intergovernmental institutions’ reform so as to make sure that these institutions are fit to address and deliver on the many challenges facing current and future generations. Lofty principles and commitments expressed in the chapeau and the four initial chapters of the zero draft must be translated into concrete commitments on intergovernmental institutional and procedural reform in chapter 5. Unfortunately, those essential concrete reform commitments are in general lacking in the zero draft. As expressed in our comments regarding the relevant chapter, the draft lacks reform proposals to existing UN bodies and mechanisms, such as the Security Council, which are clearly failing to effectively carry out their mandates.
2. A weakness of the international system currently is the lack of stable and consequential mechanisms that allow space for civic engagement and participation in its workings. Indeed, that space has been decreasing and shrinking. It is an echo of another major challenge now and for the future, which is the contraction of civic spaces nationally under force of regressive laws, regulations and policies, such as those introduced in recent years by more than a third of member states. The Summit of the Future must identify ways and means to strengthen civic space in the context of rapid change and intermingled existentialist crises. The challenges we are confronting demand that we harness the aspirations, energy, and power of global and local civil society. The Summit of the Future should ensure that the United Nations and all member states recommit to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which recognises that civil society, individuals and groups play an essential role in advancing and protecting human rights alongside states. States must reiterate that they value their role and commit to open safe and effective spaces for them to scrutinise the action of governments and other powerful actors that have a bearing on the realization of human rights.
3. The second half of the twentieth century witnessed the multiplication of mechanisms seeking to hold accountable those that had violated international human rights and humanitarian law. It has also seen a multiplication of evasions of these mechanisms, including through re-interpretation of international law and principles. The Summit of the Future should not only re-affirm commitment to accountability and the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence, but identify too the

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<sup>1</sup> So wrote the UN diplomat Brian Urquhart in his 1987 memoir “A Life in Peace and War” (Harper & Row. ISBN 9780060158408). Urquhart, as a member of the UK delegation, played a significant role in the design of the UN and its systems and would serve for many years with the UN.

commitments and actions governments and other actors must take to deliver accountability and justice. Such vision should include corporate actors who should be brought onto the international plane fully and squarely, a necessity driven by their role vis-à-vis the climate crisis, technological revolution, and economic globalization. Amnesty notes too that without human rights woven into the very heart of the technological development process - including explicit and transparent attention to the implications for equality, dignity, and accountability - all rights are at risk.

4. The Summit of the Future should push for, initiate or support reframing of paradigms of human progress, including by challenging paradigms of prosperity, (economic) growth, and redistribution in an era of existentialist crises. The summit should reenergize the SDG approach and support a process to rethink global prosperity definitions and narratives of success and failure. It should challenge indicators that are predicated on unsustainable economic growth, structural and systemic inequalities. It should offer indicators and mechanisms that can underpin solidly a shared and sustained prosperity for people, planet and peace.
5. While the Zero Draft acknowledges inequality globally and references equality and non-discrimination in different parts of the document, Amnesty International calls for a stronger and more explicit commitment to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. In particular, the Pact must ensure that all commitments made factor in and address the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that people face when trying to claim their human rights, particularly those who are discriminated and marginalized on the basis of gender, sexuality, disability, age, socio-economic status, work status including those working in the informal sector, nationality or migration status and those belonging to racialized and otherwise minoritized communities.
6. Amnesty recalls that barriers to sexual and reproductive rights, including access to abortion, are increasing in too many countries. Women and girls and people from marginalized groups, such as gay men, lesbian women and trans people or people from so called “lower” castes, people living in poverty, or minorities, risk a huge amount when they try to exercise reproductive choice. The Summit of the Future must ensure that these rights, reflected among other things in the Cairo Declaration, are re-affirmed and strengthened.

## Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Amnesty International welcomes the acknowledgement in the Zero Draft of the importance of “robust social security systems as well as social protection floors” [paragraph 105]. However, we note that this is done only in the context of ‘Youth and Future Generations’ when in reality, the right to social security is a key to respond to the needs and rights of all. It is also critical for achieving the 2030 Agenda, specifically, ending poverty and hunger [paragraph 23] and ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda [paragraph 24].

Amnesty International therefore calls for explicit commitments by member states to guarantee the right to social security and as per the human rights obligation of international cooperation and assistance, take steps to assist states who do not have the necessary fiscal space, to fulfil their obligations vis-à-vis the right to social security.

In light of this, Amnesty International calls for the inclusion of the following text in section 1.1 [Accelerating the full achievement of the 2030 Agenda]:

- Urgently invest in social protection measures that guarantee the right to social security, and progressively achieve universal social protection for all;
- Support the establishment of a global fund for social protection and ensure it is adequately resourced.

Amnesty International welcomes the recognition in the zero draft of the “primary role played by domestic resources in financing development” [paragraph 40] as well as the commitment to combating illicit financial flows. In order to strengthen this point and recognizing the importance of and the obligation of member states to mobilize the maximum available resources to fulfil their human rights obligations, Amnesty International calls for explicit commitments by member states to this end through the inclusion of the following text:

- Mobilize the maximum available resources to fulfil their human rights obligations including through progressive taxation such as wealth taxes, windfall taxes on fossil fuel companies’ profits, curbing illicit financial flows, debt relief, international cooperation and assistance (including the review of double taxation and free trade agreements), and climate finance for climate-change related adaptation and loss and damage and ending financing and tax exemptions and incentives for fossil fuel industries to provide comprehensive social protection coverage.

Amnesty International notes that the zero draft looks forward to the intergovernmental discussions on a framework convention on international tax cooperation [paragraph 143]. However, in light of the critical need for states to mobilize their maximum available resources to fulfil their human rights obligations and address issues of past and ongoing economic harms, Amnesty International calls for the Pact to include a clear commitment to tax reform calling on member states to:

- Support progressive tax reform at both the international and national level including the current UN tax treaty process leading to the elaboration of a framework convention on international tax cooperation, the rationalization of tax incentives and exemptions and ensuring greater corporate fiscal transparency in order to contribute to the resources needed for states to meet their human rights obligations.

Amnesty International welcomes the attention paid to high and unsustainable levels of debt and financing costs in several countries around the world [paragraph 141] as well as “the need to strengthen the global debt architecture to provide timely, predictable and fair debt restructuring and debt relief, when required”. In light of this, Amnesty International calls for the Pact to commit member states to:

- Ensure timely debt relief for all countries in and at risk of debt distress and consider all options for such relief including debt restructuring and/or cancellation with relief terms considering states’ human rights obligations.
- Consider automatic debt relief for those countries subject to natural disasters including those related to climate change.

Amnesty International welcomes the call to donors in the zero draft to increase official development assistance to address climate change [paragraph 42]. In light of this, Amnesty International calls for the Pact to further commit all states to:

- Ensure that any increases in international development assistance are consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities based on reparative justice for historical and ongoing economic harms in relation to the climate crisis. All such assistance should be in the form of grants and not loans.

In addition, the Pact for the Future should reflect the following states' commitments:

- To gather socially disaggregated data and ensure gender and racial justice responsive sustainable development financing that is attuned to the needs and ensures resource allocations for discriminated and marginalised groups.
- Acknowledge that the climate crisis disproportionately affects groups who experience discrimination based on race, colour, descent, national and ethnic origin, especially those experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and commit to ensuring that the implementation of the 2023 agenda promotes climate justice as a means to secure racial justice for all.
- Reaffirm their commitment to fully respect and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a means to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' development priorities are centred, and their rights, identities and cultures are respected. They will also work together to prevent that the development agenda further negatively affects Indigenous Peoples and their ways of life.
- Commit to ensuring that development models reflect a radically new approach to protecting nature and biodiversity in line with the right to a healthy environment. This approach must be based on a full and equal partnership with Indigenous Peoples and other land-dependent communities and fully respecting their rights.
- Reiterate their support for the efforts of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent to contribute to the drafting of a UN Declaration on the Promotion, Protection, and Full Respect of the Human Rights of People of African Descent. Once adopted, this declaration should inform the incorporation of a racial justice perspective into our states' efforts for sustainable development.
- Acknowledge as part of the Pact for the Future the importance of addressing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance in the context of migration, asylum, refuge, and other forms of people's mobility across state borders. We commit to protecting people on the move from human rights violations, especially those who are on the move because of climate change.
- Recognise the importance of addressing systemic racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance globally and express their commitment to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and their full implementation, particularly concerning the duty of states to engage in international cooperation to redress the legacies of slavery and colonialism.

## Chapter II. International peace and security

The rule of law is as central at the international level as it is at the national. International humanitarian law and international human rights law are the guardrails that oblige governments and other authorities to respect, protect, and defend the very essence of our common humanity. They include universal standards to which all countries accede as UN members states, and they provide the foundations for just and equitable solutions to present and future challenges. Yet time after time, we are made witness to their breach: to complete disregard for the Geneva Conventions; to warring parties' exclusion of whole categories of people from legal protections; to intentional distortion and expansion of the meaning of

“self-defence” in the name of counter-terrorism, causing a “global non-international armed conflict”<sup>[1]</sup> with neither time limit nor geographical border. Instead of upholding the rule of international law, states have self-authorized a barely restrained use of force against whomsoever and whatever they deem, by loose definition and wide application, to constitute a “terrorist” threat, whether imminent or not, whether internal or external to their borders.<sup>[2]</sup> Everyday, war crimes are being committed with impunity. The world over, states are violating international humanitarian law, without limitations. Yet, every state has signed onto the Geneva Conventions. The Summit of the Future must elevate the rule of international law to a global priority. Amnesty International is prepared to work with the Summit to identify all possible means and mechanisms to enable international law to deliver what it is meant to do: uphold the inherent dignity of each and every one of us.

As part of the Pact for the Future, members of the Security Council or states aspiring to serve in the Security Council must pledge to:

- “Support timely and decisive action by the Security Council aimed at preventing or ending the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes” and pledge in particular “not to vote against a credible draft resolution before the Security Council on timely and decisive action” to end the commission or prevent such crimes by as pledged by those joining the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group’s Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

In addition, as part of the Pact for the Future, UN member states must commit to:

- Negotiate a new legally binding instrument to set clear prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapon systems, including banning systems that do not allow for meaningful human control; prohibiting all systems that use sensors to target humans; and establishing a positive obligation to maintain meaningful human control over the use of force.
- Negotiate a legally binding global instrument prohibiting the production of and trade in inherently abusive law enforcement equipment and controlling the trade in law enforcement equipment that could be used for torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- Translate UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security agenda into action, to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, and post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. States must also adopt a zero-tolerance approach to reprisals and ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society in which women human rights defenders and peacebuilders can cooperate safely with the UN Security Council and other UN mechanisms.
- Acknowledge the urgency of addressing violence against Africans and People of African Descent worldwide. In line with the resolution on the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Africans and of People of African Descent Against Excessive Use of Force and Other Human Rights Violations by Law Enforcement Officers Through Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality (A/HRC/RES/47/21), commit to fully addressing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance in policing and security.
- Recognize that older people and persons living with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by conflict and crisis and ensure that humanitarian

responses are inclusive and address the unique vulnerabilities older people and persons living with disabilities face.

- Recognize that climate impacts can multiply risks that fuel conflict. Relevant organs of the United Nations, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, must intensify their efforts in considering and addressing climate change, including its possible security implications and commit to scale up work on enhancing environmental protections before, during and after armed conflict. The Security Council must address the peace and security implications of climate change in the mandates of peace operations and during discussions on other countries or regional situations on its agenda, where relevant.

### Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

As part of the Pact for the Future, UN member states must commit to:

- Reaffirm their commitment, as expressed in articles 2.2 and 15(b) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to the right of all people to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications without discrimination of any kind, including based on race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin. States must commit to addressing all forms of racism and racial discrimination in science and technology and their applications and double their efforts to guarantee the full participation of groups experiencing racial discrimination in scientific and technological development.
- Ban highly invasive surveillance. Spyware that by default takes the maximum amount of data possible (in violation of the requirement of proportionality) and attempts to delete traces of its use, making it difficult to detect (undermining the right to remedy) can never be used in a rights-respecting way. All states must immediately ban this type of highly invasive spyware.
- Regarding spyware that can be limited in its functionality and whose use is capable of being independently verified and audited, impose a global moratorium on the sale, use, export and transfer of surveillance technologies until a human rights-compliant system is in place.
- Agree on human rights-compliant safeguards and regulations at both national and supranational levels, that would include access to justice for victims of unlawful targeted surveillance through spyware and stronger export controls for surveillance technologies, including by denying export authorizations where there is a substantial risk that the export in question could be used to violate human rights.
- Require companies to conduct human rights due diligence in their global operations, supply chains and in relation to the use of their products and services.

### Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

In any Pact for the Future UN member states must commit to:

- Ensure child and young human rights defenders (HRD) are actively protected from any harm in the context of public assemblies, without unnecessary restriction of their rights.

- End criminal proceedings against child and young HRDs charged for their participation in peaceful assemblies or for the exercise of their right to freedom of expression and freedom to assembly and association.
- Ensure that child and young HRDs and their child and youth-led organizations and networks can work in a safe and empowering environment and can comprehensively report on human rights violations. They should be able to access necessary support and resources, including funding for their activities.
- Ensure a consistent national approach in protecting, respecting, and fulfilling children’s interlinked rights contributing to their abilities to participate in peaceful assemblies in line with international human rights law.
- Ensure that law enforcement and other relevant officials are trained on children’s rights and on the rights of child and young HRDs in peaceful assemblies.
- Provide effective and age-appropriate remedies to the child and young HRDs who were victims of unlawful use of force or harassment, intimidation, and surveillance by law enforcement authorities, or other violations which restrain them to exercise their rights as defenders.
- Improve security for child and young HRDs in the digital environment, without discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, or other diverse characteristics.
- Amend or repeal problematic provisions of laws used to target peaceful child and young HRDs and ensure laws contain safeguards against potential abuses that can affect children’s right to peaceful assembly and be in line with international human rights law.
- Ensure child soldiers are seen primarily as victims of conflicts; immediately end all forms of recruitment of children under 18, whether voluntary or compulsory, by governments or armed groups, in peacetime or in armed conflict situations; release all children within their ranks; and support the rehabilitation and reintegration of demobilized children into the community.
- Better protect children against sexual and gender-based crimes in conflict, including forced pregnancy, forced marriage and sexual violence crimes against boys.
- Recognize older people as key stakeholders in their communities alongside youth and ensure their full engagement and inclusion as intergenerational partners.
- Address issues that have a particular impact on older people’s ability to participate in society, including access to adequate and affordable long-term care and support.

## Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Amnesty International supports the commitment expressed in paragraph 116 of the zero draft to transform global governance and reinvigorate the multilateral system, which has proved unable to respond effectively to the gravest challenges facing humanity. Hence, we support a “vision of a multilateral system that is more effective and capable of delivering on its promises; just and representative; inclusive to allow for a diverse range of actors beyond States” to have a say in key decisions. Regrettably, the proposals contained in the rest of Chapter 5 of the draft do not correspond to such lofty commitment and vision.

It is indicative of the current state of affairs at the multilateral level that, on one of the more pressing needs and demands, the reform of the Security Council, the co-facilitators’ efforts

could not reflect any concrete reform agreement beyond an expression in a placeholder of general commitment to achieve ‘an ambitious outcome in the Pact for the Future’. We believe there is an urgent need to reform the way the Security Council operates. In particular:

- The vision stated above, which we support, of a “multilateral system that is more effective and capable of delivering on its promises; just and representative; inclusive to allow for a diverse range of actors beyond States” to have a say in key decisions, should particularly apply to the Security Council. However, enlargement and fair regional representation per se would not fix the blockages that have made the Security Council unable to respond to key peace and security crises, in particular the arbitrary use of the veto.
- A meaningful Security Council reform that would allow it to effectively carry out its primary responsibility to preserve international peace and security should support and promote initiatives aimed at preventing or ending the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, such as the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group’s Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.
- Members of the Security Council or states aspiring to serve in the Security Council must pledge, as part of the Pact for the Future, to “[s]upport timely and decisive action by the Security Council aimed at preventing or ending the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes” and pledge in particular “not to vote against a credible draft resolution before the Security Council on timely and decisive action” to end the commission or prevent such crimes,” as advocated by the said ACT Group’s Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

The revitalization of the UN General Assembly should include new rules regarding effective and meaningful civil society access and participation as a way to moving towards “a multilateral system that is more effective and capable of delivering on its promises; just and representative” that allows “for a diverse range of actors beyond States” to be heard [paragraph 117] Civil society organizations in consultative status with the UN should be able to address the different main General Assembly committees, including the Third Committee, and be able to attend and participate as relevant on consultations regarding draft resolutions.

Amnesty International supports a truly “transparent and inclusive process” to select and appoint the Secretary-General and other executive heads. Such process should be the norm to be applied to any such selection and not be re-negotiated every time mandates are expiring.

Also, a merit based “transparent and inclusive process”, that respects the criteria for selection should be also the norm in nomination, elections and appointments of independent experts to serve as members of the human rights expert mechanisms, among them as treaty bodies experts or as special procedures mandate-holders.

Transparency and respect for criteria established in UN General Assembly resolution 60/251 should be the norm as well for the annual election of members of the Human Rights Council.

A “more structured and inclusive engagement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status” with ECOSOC [paragraph 121] cannot be achieved without addressing the main existing obstacle for a fair and inclusive UN engagement with NGOs: the ECOSOC Committee on non-governmental organizations. The way said Committee currently assess

and decide on non-governmental organizations' applications for consultative status with the UN, and the way the Committee manages the relationship with NGOs already in consultative status is far from fair and transparent. Rather, it is highly unfair and politicized.

In order to make a substantive and positive change in that relationship, states must commit to initiate, in ECOSOC, a process towards dismantling the Committee on NGOs and create a new, independent expert mechanism or panel that would conduct a fair, evidence-based assessment of all applications for consultative status and recommend consultative status to ECOSOC based on that assessment. ECOSOC should promptly decide based on the recommendations of this mechanism or panel. Any ECOSOC decision against these recommendations should be based on established criteria and denials of consultative status should be followed by a pre-established due process that would allow denied NGOs to request a fair review of the decision.

In addition, as part of the Pact for the Future, states must commit to review existing restrictions to civil society access and participation at the UN and implement recommendations already made in this regard by NGOs and states, including as part of the UNmute campaign.

Furthermore, the UN must ensure wide civil society participation in UN meetings while at the same time assess the environmental considerations of in-person meetings only and must embrace technological solutions that enable online and hybrid modalities ensuring wide access for civil society to the UN and in its turn gives greater effect to the UN at the national level. Participation of civil society in UN affairs should ensure integration of perspectives and participation of groups that are discriminated and marginalised because of their race, gender, disability, sexuality or other disadvantage across policies, frame works and decision-making bodies.

We welcome the commitments expressed at paragraphs 128, 129 and 130 to “redouble efforts in fulfilling [the states’] duties to promote and protect human rights and to implement the provisions enshrined in [the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action]”, as well as the resolve of strengthening the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations human rights system as a whole. However, these pledges sound hollow without concrete and action-oriented proposals.

In the Pact for the Future, states must:

- Commit to take clear steps to raise the profile of the human rights pillar within the UN system and increase the support for the work of UN human rights bodies based in Geneva and New York as well as the work of the UN Secretariat at headquarters and in the field.
- Resolve to take steps towards strengthening the Human Rights Council and enhancing its ability to respond in a timely, efficient and effective manner to the broad range of human rights challenges that confront us. Recognising the importance of the preventive role of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms and the impact this has on peace and security and development, states must commit to achieve closer cooperation between the Human Rights Council and other UN organs and bodies, including the Security Council the Economic and Social Council and specialised agencies of the UN.
- Ensure that all agencies within the UN system assume responsibilities under

the Charter with respect to human rights.

- Substantially increase budget allocations related to the human rights pillar of the UN in a clear, sustainable and quantifiable manner, in order to bring it on par with the financing of other UN pillars.
- Take concrete measures when member states fail to pay their dues in a timely manner, effectively halting the important work of the organization.
- Cooperate fully with UN human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, special procedures and other investigative mechanisms and faithfully implement the decisions and recommendations they issue.
- Fully respect the independence of the UN's human rights mechanisms, among them the treaty bodies, special procedures and other investigative mechanisms and avoid personal attacks on experts serving on such mechanisms.
- Adopt measurable steps to increase the space for the participation of civil society and peoples' movements, both in-person as well as through online and hybrid modalities, in the work of the UN, including in Geneva and New York.

Amnesty International welcomes the attention paid to reforming the international financial architecture and ongoing efforts to improve international debt mechanisms in the Zero Draft and the support for international financial institutions and multilateral development banks (MDB) [paragraph 140]. However, in order to strengthen the role and functions of multilateral development banks in facilitating the developmental needs of states and ensuring that they do not cause or contribute to human rights violations, Amnesty International calls for the Pact to commit all states to:

- Urge MDBs to ensure all their policies and operations are human rights consistent including through the design and implementation of appropriate human rights impact assessments throughout the entire development assistance cycle. Where appropriate such assistance should be primarily in the form of grants instead of loans.
- Urge MDBs to ensure that effective and appropriate remedies are made available to all victims of human rights violations and abuses caused or contributed to by their policies and actions.
- As part of both the global sovereign debt review and existing lending processes consider and prioritise debt cancellation where appropriate as a means of debt relief especially for LICs which are highly indebted.