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A Preamble/Chapeau to the Pact of the Future

The Summit of the Future must have a strong, credible and optimistic message for the Future. The proposed content for the Pact of the Future contains five thematic chapters and two declarations – one on the Digital Compact and one on the Future Generations. Our submissions contain general ideas and references to basic principles that must penetrate the entire Pact of the Future. We also have a focus on the preambular text, the Chapeau.

Though cautious we may feel forced to be, and conscious of the stark demands of reality, we owe it to ourselves and future generations to open the Pact of the Future with a strong, heartfelt and honest preambular text expressing our hopes for a better future for all living species. A strong Chapeau sets the tone of what is to be the content of the

example of the importance of the Chapeau. A final example is the “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”³ which gave us a blueprint to save the world.

These and other documents have expressed hope and sustained our belief that a better world is possible. The Pact of the Future cannot be less ambitious.

The Principle of nonregression.

- It is imperative that the Pact recognizes the vital importance of the SDGs-agenda to address interconnected challenges and find ways to streamline the use of the entire SDGs framework and its interlinkages in all relevant issue areas.

Chapter II. International peace and security.

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- No weakening or delinking of rights for all, of freedom, of justice, equality, participation, access, or of transparency at all levels. Continued adherence to the UN Charter and international law, implementation of the 1966 Human Rights Covenants, all MEAs and the 2030 Agenda is a minimum. Respect and support, political and financial, of the International Court of Justice, at the Hague, must be strengthened. Protecting, supporting and financing civil society as a foundation for democracy must be understood and continued.
- A successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda approach to sustainable development is preconditioned by the integration of the principles of good governance including a strengthened UN.

A global digital compact must contain language and understanding to the effect that the private sphere and a person's individual rights, are always respected and protected. Democracies must govern the future of the digital world with equal access and usability for all. The overarching purpose pertaining to this development must be strengthening democracy, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. Unbridled development and exploration by market forces of the digital world will ultimately undermine democracy as we know it.

In conclusion

Understanding the future is always complicated. Different futures are today elements of far-reaching plans. Ascertaining predictability, as an important element of the future, must never jeopardise basic democratic principles, the protection of the environment including climate, and basic rights enshrined in the legacy of the UN. Shortcuts to the future are destined to undermine it.

The challenges we face are encapsulated in the following quote:

"Informed tolerance toward our total legacy is a necessary condition of enhancing the present and enabling the future."⁴

For Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future
Jan-Gustav Strandenaes
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