

Summit of the Future Plenary

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia

New York, 23 September 2024

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

We have gathered here today driven by a common purpose: concern for the present and a commitment to shaping a better future.

This Summit is crucial because the choices we make now will define the world for future generations.

I thank Germany and Namibia, alongside Sweden, Zambia, Jamaica and the Netherlands, for their leadership in guiding this essential global dialogue.

Today, the world faces an alarming surge in conflicts.

The cooperative spirit that has long underpinned international relations, embodied by the United Nations, is under severe strain.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and other global hostilities are existential threats to global peace, security, and humanity.

These challenges do not affect just one region; they endanger us all.

In these turbulent times, restoring trust and solidarity among nations is not merely desirable—it is imperative.

Croatia understands this deeply.

Thirty years ago, much like Ukraine today, we were a nation ravaged by war, defending our sovereignty against a far more powerful aggressor.

Today, Croatia stands as a proud member of both NATO and the European Union.

Our painful history has shaped Croatia's resilience and

Only through a unified approach, combining security, development, and human rights, can we ensure prosperity for all.

Croatia's experience as Chair of the

First, conflict prevention is more urgent than ever.

Our experience in Croatia reminds us of the importance of early action and diplomacy to avoid unnecessary suffering.

Second, we must not waver in our commitment to sustainable development.

Climate action, protecting biodiversity, and reversing environmental degradation are essential for our survival.

Third, we must strive for a more equitable and inclusive global governance system.

International institutions must evolve to be more representative, promoting human rights and social development that reflect the diversity of the world's nations.

The outcome of this Summit provides us with a clear roadmap.

Now, it is up to us to turn these plans into reality.

The time to act is now.

Croatia stands ready **to** contribute to our joint effort