Statement by H.E. Cardinal Pietro Parolin,
Secretary of State of the Holy See,
at the Summit of the Future
New York, 22-23 September 2024

Mr. President,
The current Summit is being convened against a backdrop of apparent
crisis in the multilateral system. This is largely attributable to the erosion of
trust between nations, as evidenced by the growing prevalence and intensity
of conflict. Therefore, this Summit should be a source and a reason for hope,
in line with Pope Francis's assertion that “hopeful does not mean to be
optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the
virtue of a heart that doesn’t lock itself into darkness, that doesn’t dwell on
the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow.”
1

The future should be constructed on a foundation of principles, including the
inherent, God-given dignity of every individual, the promotion of integral
human development, the equality and sovereign dignity of all nations, and
the establishment of trust between them. It is thus that there is a need to
rethink actions in a number of areas:
First, eradication of poverty must remain the overarching goal of all
future action, bearing in mind that development is the name for peace.
2

significant and positive historical events. […] The future demands of us
critical and global decisions in the face of world-wide conflicts which increase
the number of the excluded and those in need.”
4