

# UI

INTRODUCING  
**THE UNITED INSTITUTIONS**



UNITED INSTITUTIONS FOUNDATION

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## INTRODUCING THE UNITED INSTITUTIONS

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The United Institutions (UI) is a new global institution and coordination mechanism being developed for the international community with the aim to strengthen and advance global governance, cooperation, development capacity and collective action, for the needs and opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The planned new institution will serve and support the international community in advancing the ideals and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and in establishing cohesive international relations, global partnership and solidarity in the achievement of a sustainable, equitable, prosperous and peaceful world for people and planet, leaving no one behind.

It is developed to help enhance the international community's long-term positioning and capacity to address pressing global challenges and to achieve development goals at local, national, regional and international levels.

The United Institutions is a next generation global institution and will be the first ever permanent world forum for international cooperation on sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, peace and security, human rights and governance - between institutions and mechanisms from the public, private and civil sectors.

The platform is a strategic infrastructure investment in the international architecture, complementing and supporting the mandates and functions of existing governance structures including, inter alia, the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, national platforms and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

It will serve as a global coordination mechanism and integrator platform at the global level, to strengthen international cooperation, coherence, connectivity, and strategic relations between institutions and mechanisms, and between the development, humanitarian, peace and human rights pillars.

The platform will provide stakeholders system-wide with a unifying framework and enabling environment for effective and sustained collaboration, integration coordination and collective action.

The United Institutions will feature a comprehensive infrastructure for international cooperation, a dedicated strategic framework, a networked global program platform, year-round global forums in international affairs and a permanent venue and secretariat, similar to the services provided to governments at the United Nations in New York, introducing a new era of international cooperation.

The global platform will serve as a universal tool, global hub and joint resource for stakeholders from all levels - national, regional and international. It will introduce and instate new and enhanced capacities for cooperation at the global level, help mobilize and realize means of implementation across global frameworks and agendas, and help address systemic limitations and implementation gaps, system-wide.

The United Institutions is a comprehensive and pragmatic infrastructure investment that will support the international community in becoming more coherent, integrated and connected, and better equipped and fit-for-purpose for the needs of today's world.

## Strategic Context

The establishment of the United Institutions comes at a critical time for our world, as we face a host of pressing global challenges including, inter alia, poverty, hunger, inequality, water scarcity, violence, armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, famine, refugee crises, intolerance, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, climate change, new and emerging threats, complex political realities, a fragmented international system, and increased mistrust in governments and public institutions.

It also arrives at a turning point for the international community, as we embark on the collective journey to transform our world and implement the bold and ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Agenda for Humanity, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Sustainable Peace Agenda.

The United Institutions is a strategic investment in the global agendas, in mobilizing and realizing their means of implementation, and in revitalizing the global partnership to achieve them. It is further a strategic investment in the long term positioning of the sustainable development, humanitarian, peace and human rights sectors, and in their collective capacity to work together and collaborate; coordinate, align and leverage contributions; implement systemic change; realize collective outcomes; deliver meaningful results; and achieve results at scale.

Addressing our global challenges, realizing the new global frameworks and transforming our world, calls for a major shift in how we approach our efforts. It will require us to move away from single-issue measures and to instead adopt holistic and integrated approaches that account for linkages, synergies and trade offs across frameworks, policies, interventions and implementation efforts.

It also calls for the involvement of all stakeholders of society working together in global partnership. Moreover it will require means of implementation related reforms and investments to ensure that stakeholders, governments, the UN system and the international community as a whole are equipped and 'fit for purpose' for the integrated requirements of the new frameworks.

There is broad consensus that business as usual is not an option and that we need to think differently and work in new ways - with a systemic and integrated whole-of-society approach.

These reforms and investments cover a vast array of issues including, inter alia, governance structures, institutional frameworks, systemic thinking, policy coherence, financing for development, international cooperation, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and accountability mechanisms. The changes need to be implemented system wide, at institutional, local, national, regional and international levels.

Moreover, the requirements are systemic and interconnected working across frameworks and sectors. They need to be implemented, aligned and delivered in a systemic, effective and sustained manner, and by connecting resources and pathways in ways often not possible within the current international architecture. It is furthermore important to recognize the resource demands these requirements place on stakeholders.

Addressing the global challenges and realizing the new frameworks will involve all countries, developing and developed. It will be based on national ownership and national development strategies, and require localizing the implementation of the frameworks in communities on the ground, supported by complementary international support, when needed. Above and beyond national implementation, there are also complex and interconnected trans-boundary, regional and international level issues and dimensions.

With the adoption of the new agendas, stakeholders across the global community are embracing the need for reforms and investments. Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and civil society are all taking important measures to implement the frameworks and their means of implementation, such as the steps taken by countries to realize a 'whole of government' approach, as well as the reforms being implemented to reposition the United Nations development system. New and enhanced multi-stakeholder partnerships, instruments and tools are further being put in place across the full spectrum of thematic areas.

However, despite progress being made, there is consensus that far more needs to be done to mobilize and realize the means of implementation, and to accelerate efforts, at all levels.

As reported at the High Level Political Forum and various other fora, governments and other stakeholders are witnessing implementation gaps, coordination challenges, insufficient inclusion and participation; uneven progress, inadequate harmonization, financial and logistical challenges, and system-wide capacity building needs.

These challenges are also reflected at the global level and the systems level, where fragmentation, silos and insufficient cross-sector cooperation continue to present obstacles and impede efforts.

There is a host of areas that are receiving insufficient attention and that need increased investment including, inter alia, strengthening international cooperation on the development, peace and humanitarian nexus; enhancing coordination of complementary international support to national development efforts, and enabling greater multi-stakeholder engagement and inclusion in addressing trans-boundary, regional and international level issues.

There is also insufficient investment in enhancing the institutional and collective capacity of stakeholders; providing strategic support to non-state actors; bridging institutional divides, revitalizing the global partnership, aligning and leveraging collective efforts, strengthening the institutional framework at the global level outside of the United Nations, and in addressing the systemic and structural challenges within the international architecture.

The international architecture is currently inadequately equipped and often too overstretched to be able to support and address many of these areas, leaving critical gaps in both the short and long term.

Furthermore there are few existing mechanisms that have the mandate or the capacity to address these issues on their own. This is where a collective effort and broad coalition of institutions will be needed, bringing together stakeholders, resources and integrated solutions across frameworks, sectors and disciplines.

Taken together, the gaps at national, regional and international levels present significant challenges to implementing the frameworks and making progress

on their goals and targets. Thus there is a systemic and pressing need to accelerate efforts, address shortcomings and increase investments.

It will also be essential that we move forward with a dedicated, systemic and coordinated approach, and don't leave it to ad-hoc efforts and random evolution.

Indeed, the frameworks call for transforming our world and systemic change. As stated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – “achieving the post-2015 agenda will require an equally comprehensive, holistic and transformative approach with respect to the means of implementation, combining different means of implementation and integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development [...] underpinned by effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, sound policies and good governance at all levels.”

## The United Institutions

The United Institutions is being established against the backdrop of our global challenges, the new global agendas, their means of implementation, the mandates and efforts of existing mechanisms, systemic and structural challenges within the international architecture, and the system-wide capacity building needs and implementation gaps.

The United Institutions is developed with a systemic, holistic and integrated view of the needs of the system as a whole, and in response to the need for strategic investment, at the global level, in the following areas, inter alia:

- Strengthen and advance good governance, international cooperation and collective action
- Build out the capacity, infrastructure and institutional framework for cooperation and coordination
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement, integration and cross-sectoral cooperation on sustainable development, humanitarian affairs, peace and security, climate change, human rights and governance
- Strengthen and advance coordination of complementary international support to national development efforts

- Strengthen and advance cooperation on trans-boundary, regional and international issues and dimensions
- Strengthen harmonization between efforts at national, regional and global levels
- Support the adoption of systemic thinking and related institutional capacities system-wide
- Strengthen and advance capacity and engagement on integrated approaches
- Strengthen mobilization and realization of the means of implementation of the global agendas
- Strengthen the revitalization of the global partnership, within and across agendas
- Invest in the long term positioning of the development, humanitarian, peace and human rights sectors
- Strengthen connectivity between institutions, mechanisms, organizations, partnerships and sectors, within and across agendas
- Support greater inclusion, integration and participation of all stakeholder groups
- Build strategic relationships, partnerships and trust between the public, private and civil sectors; and between development, peace, humanitarian and human rights communities
- Strengthen the coherence and integration of the international architecture
- Address systemic and structural challenges within the international architecture
- Provide for an enabling environment commensurate with the ambition and requirements of the new global agendas
- Establish and provide for integrator platform functions at the global level
- Strengthen institutional and sector wide capacity
- Enhance capacity to leverage collective leadership, knowledge, contributions and efforts
- Strengthen capacity to achieve results at scale
- Accelerate collective global efforts

The United Institutions is further designed to meet the need for strategic investment in enabling, strengthening, leveraging and sustaining the new era and spirit of global partnership, solidarity, teamwork and shared commitment between stakeholders, sectors and pillars, working together towards collective common good - as called for by the new agendas.

## Strategic Framework

The United Institutions Global Strategic Framework outlines the platform's mandate, services, functions and institutional framework. The framework identifies 48 prospective strategic goals and over 200 objectives, that will be able to be addressed, supported and met by the United Institutions - to be prioritized and selected by its constituents.

The new world forum will provide a cohesive, pragmatic, neutral and efficient integrator platform and coordination mechanism at the global level, that will enable stakeholders to realize the goals and objectives, in a systemic and integrated manner; building on, connecting, and complementing the efforts of existing mechanisms, consistent with the means of implementation across the new agendas.

The United Institutions overarching functions and institutional framework are as follows:

- The United Institutions will feature a comprehensive infrastructure for international cooperation, a global strategic framework, a program platform, permanent global forums in international affairs; engagement with leading international organizations, close coordination with national and international institutions, strategic support services; and a permanent secretariat and world forum in New York featuring a major international conference center, business services and office space for a large group of organizations.
- It will support systemic engagement between organizations from the public, civil and private sectors, including, inter alia, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, major groups, multi-stakeholder partnerships, government agencies, bilateral agencies, philanthropic foundations, financial institutions, think tanks, academic institutions, the scientific community, corporations and business groups.

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- The institution will provide the organizations with a dedicated platform and enabling environment for systemic, in-depth, results driven and sustained - international cooperation, multi-stakeholder engagement, capacity building, coordination, integration, connectivity, knowledge exchange, partnerships, innovation and collective action.
  - The United Institutions will support stakeholders in addressing the full range of issues on the global development agenda including inter alia, poverty, hunger, equality, gender parity, data, water, public health, education, human rights, humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, conflict prevention, peace building, disarmament, democracy building, trade, debt, financing for development, disaster risk reduction, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, renewable energy, climate change, governance, cooperation, coordination, integration, nexuses, systemic thinking, implementation, monitoring, policy coherence and advocacy.
  - The forum is aimed at strengthening coordination of international support for national efforts; cooperation on trans-boundary, regional and international issues; addressing the development-peace-humanitarian nexus; implementing systemic change; and achieving results at scale.
  - United Institutions activities will be guided by, in support of, and coordinated with national development plans and contexts, global frameworks and agreements, and actions taken by existing mechanisms at institutional, local, national, regional and international levels.
  - The new world forum will support and enable organizations to work closely together on a permanent and continuous basis; engage in in-depth collaboration; address global challenges, root causes and immediate needs; research, understand and navigate the inter-connectivity and inter-linkages between issues; engage in systemic problem solving; develop comprehensive strategies and solutions; undertake joint strategic planning; integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions; strengthen policy coherence and implementation; enhance coordination; and improve development and aid effectiveness.
  - The United Institutions is developed to accelerate the global paradigm shift towards systemic change; support the adoption of holistic and integrated approaches to development; support integration across frameworks and institutions; build institutional and sector-wide capacity; align and leverage global efforts; break down institutional silos; address systemic and structural shortcomings within the global development architecture; reduce fragmentation; build trust and establish long-term strategic relationships between sectors; foster greater inclusion and participation; provide strategic support; strengthen existing institutions and mechanisms; sustain collective commitments and momentum, realize the means of implementation, and support the revitalization of the global partnership for development.
  - The platform will further serve as a dedicated global coordination mechanism aimed at supporting, connecting, integrating and leveraging the collective leadership, expertise, resources and efforts of individual stakeholders, partnerships, coalitions, platforms, programmes and mechanisms. The institution will provide a universal, inclusive and neutral go-to-hub and institutional home at the global level, that will enable institutions to collectively engage, partner, integrate, coordinate and align their work in a systemic, coherent and sustained manner, within and across frameworks and thematic areas.
  - The permanent forum will serve as a universal tool and a joint resource for institutions and organizations from all sectors, engaged at global, regional and national levels.
  - The United Institutions will be networked and allow for engagement both face-to-face and online.
  - The United Institutions permanent forum and secretariat will be located in New York, along with the United Nations headquarters, with a view to enhance system-wide coherence, integration and coordination.
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## Development

The development of the United Institutions is guided by and aligned with established global frameworks and international instruments including, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Agenda for Humanity, United Nations resolutions on the UN peacebuilding architecture and sustainable peace, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The coordination mechanism is being established based upon extensive research, development, and consultations with leading organizations within the international community; international coalitions; non-governmental organizations, the United Nations; the New York State Governor's Office; the New York Mayor's Office; and leading global real estate services firms; as well as endorsements from heads of institutions within the international community.

The United Institutions is a non-profit development, led by the United Institutions Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established to administrate and coordinate the development process, with additional services provided by various partners.

After more than ten years of development the United Institutions is moving into the implementation stage, with a comprehensive strategic and institutional framework, development plans, component designs, program elements, development partnerships and a comprehensive portfolio of business incentives.

The plan for the establishment of the United Institutions calls for an inclusive global stakeholder engagement process. The implementation phase will be managed by a joint development partnership involving constituent organizations across all stakeholder groups, and will be led by a joint chiefs executive board and steering committee comprised of leaders and representatives from the international, regional, national and local levels.

As with the United Nations, the United Institutions will belong to the international community as a whole. Ownership of United Institutions activities will be in the hands of constituents and stakeholders world-wide.

## For Further Information

To learn more about the United Institutions please visit: [www.unitedinstitutions.org](http://www.unitedinstitutions.org)





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