

## Multilateralism from Below for the Planet and the People | Public Event

**Time:** 12.45 PM to 2.00 PM EDT

**Date:** 21 September 2024

**Venue:** Violeta Parra Stage, The People's Forum, 320 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018

### Concept Note

As in other moments in contemporary history, a period of intense questioning and reflection on the future of the global order, and in particular of the governance of world affairs, is being seriously addressed. This may mean a step back in the democracy of the multilateral system if not addressed with the appropriate vision and concrete proposals for change.

The lack of meaningful solutions to the people's and planet's common problems and crises, the devastation from ongoing 'local' wars, the real threats of 'local' wars becoming regional and global wars, the global asymmetries of power, and the expansion of corporate global power disproportionately impacts developing countries, the impoverished in all countries, and the future of multilateralism.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the New International Economic Order (NIEO) by the UN General Assembly in 1974, which sparked a crucial debate regarding the global political economic order, particularly the structural relationship between wealthy, industrialized nations and developing nations. The NIEO discussions emphasized the need to address inequalities and restructure the global economic system to ensure a more equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and participation at the global level. The NIEO and its Program of Action set an important precedent of what developing countries can achieve when acting with a common vision.

However, the asymmetries in decision-making power at the international level on key issues continues to be an obstacle to address the economic, social, and environmental problems that peoples and communities face worldwide. This has reflected itself in the process of developing the draft for the Pact for the Future, where the contributions made by developing countries, social movements, and civil society have not been fully taken into account.



# Summit of the Future

Against this backdrop, this side event will:

1. Assess current efforts to keep the multilateral system free from corporate control; and
2. Explore how the multilateral system can better meet the needs of people around the world, particularly the people of the Global South.

It aims to initiate an ongoing dialogue on a UN 3.0 – a United Nations system that is centered on the needs and rights of the people, not on the expansion of corporate self-interests. By doing so, it seeks to pave the way for a more democratic and people-centric future.

Addressing the Pact for the Future as a departing point for a wider discussion on the future of multilateralism, this dialogue will bring together states, scholars, and civil society working towards substantive transformation in the multilateralism system, and enable an exchange of views on the gains and gaps in the Pact for the Future, as well as the set of challenges that need to be addressed in order to enshrine a democratic multilateralism fit for the people in the 21st century.

**Register for the event [here](#).**

**Learn more about the event [here](#).**