

UNITED NATIONS



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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE FOR THE LAUNCH OF A REPORT ON SMALL STATES AND THE  
FUTURE OF MULTILATERALISM**

**19 September 2024**

I send my warmest greetings to Singapore and the many other small states in attendance, and commend you and the International Peace Institute on the launch of your report and this interactive dialogue on small states and the future of multilateralism.

Multilateralism is embedded in the DNA of small states. Gatherings such as this remind us of the power of small countries as they unite around common goals.

At the same time, the world's challenges have an outsized impact on small states — from the devastating effects of climate change, to an outdated and unfair global financial system, to conflicts and divisions. We must ensure that the specific needs of small states are not lost to the ambitions of larger, more powerful countries.

Over the coming days, the Summit of the Future is an opportunity to change this trajectory, and demonstrate that a reinvigorated multilateral system is essential and must reflect all countries, large and small.

Just as your ideas and voices shaped the Summit and the Pact for the Future from the very start, small states will continue to be a vital force as we make meaningful reforms that can level the playing field, so that all countries are represented and heard at every level of the international system.

The United Nations is proud to stand with you in this important work.

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