



# CZECH REPUBLIC

## Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

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Strengthening of the United Nations System

Agenda Item 123: Summit of the Future

**Statement by**

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President of the Czech Republic

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Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to address this distinguished audience, and I express my gratitude to the Secretary General and his team, who started one of the most important processes of our time focused on revitalizing multilateralism.

The 2030 Agenda is our common road map for sustainable development. Now, we have a unique opportunity to accelerate its implementation.

The Pact for the Future creates a solid base for a better and more effective multilateral system and we stand ready to work together with other delegations on ensuring Summit's successful follow-up.

In order to find the right way forward, we need to know the challenges that threaten our future.

Let me clearly state that the Russian aggression against Ukraine represents a singular challenge shaking the very core of the international system and the fundamental principles of the United Nations.

But addressing one challenge does not diminish the urgency of others. We are aware of the suffering caused by wars and conflicts, of the life-threatening disasters aggravated by climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, the slow progress in achieving sustainable development or pervasive violations and abuses of human rights.

These challenges are connected. No country is immune to them and no country can address them on their own.

Let me now highlight specifically two points.

Firstly, I welcome the Global Digital Compact.

It outlines a common vision and intent to promote realistic international cooperation in the context of digital technologies worldwide and presents a joint understanding of some core principles. Czechia intends to play an active role.

Digital transformation cannot benefit every individual without human-centric and human-rights based approach to the challenges that lie ahead.

The potential of today's emerging technologies like artificial intelligence or biotech is enormous. They will surely contribute to finding solutions to many of today's challenges. At the same time, greater technological dependence creates greater vulnerabilities.

Therefore, I recently co-sponsored the launch of a Prague GeoTech Summit to be held every year at the Globsec Forum. Its aim is to foster dialogue between business and government to contribute to our shared understanding of how to handle technology safely on a daily basis and protect ourselves against its misuse by the malign actors, be they states or individuals.

My second point concerns Climate Change.

The current climate crisis and its far-reaching implications must be addressed in a comprehensive and integrated way through enhanced and effective multilateralism.

Czechia will continue to advocate for a stronger global response. Climate change is more than one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. It is a threat multiplier with the potential to worsen some of humanity's greatest challenges, such as poverty, hunger, or health. We are ready to work with all international partners to ensure successful outcome of the next UN Climate Conference to be held in November in Baku.

Through our bilateral and multilateral development assistance, we implement a wide range of climate-related projects to help partner countries to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The outcomes of the Summit of the Future will only become effective if we fully implement them. And our work begins at home.

The Czech historical experience with transition from an authoritarian to a democratic state, from a centrally planned to a market economy, taught us many lessons. Ever since then, we have been striving to build upon the benefits of participatory decision making, particularly youth engagement, rule of law and accountable institutions as catalysts for sustainable future for all. The work never finishes.

To end with, I wish to confirm that Czechia joins others in demanding a tangible reform of the UN system. Czechia will also continue to pay its regular budget contributions to the UN in full and on time and urge others to meet their financial obligations as well to ensure that the UN can carry out its mandates.

We will also seek to share our responsibility for the UN's work through our candidatures to the Human Rights Council, ECOSOC as well as the Security Council.

Czechia stands ready to do its part in our common effort, working together with the UN and broader international community.

You can count on our support!

Thank you for your attention.