

« Reimagining multilateralism for the furtherance of peace, health, and education »

FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNESCO House in Paris
14 march 2026

Rotary
District 1660



WITH FRANCESCO AREZZO
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

LEFORUMDUROTARY.ORG

Context

A long-standing partner of the United Nations system organizations, Rotary International is one of the world's largest independent service organizations, with more than 1.4 million members in 46,000 clubs spread over 200 countries and territories.

Since its inception, Rotary International has been committed to promoting peace, mutual understanding, and cooperation among peoples. It has played a pioneering role in promoting the idea of international organizations dedicated to peace. Beginning in 1942, Rotary decisively contributed to the creation of UNESCO by bringing together the ministers of education of the Allied nations in London for a series of conferences. In 1945, it was consulted at the San Francisco conference for the drafting of the United Nations Charter, and many Rotarians from around the world were called upon to actively participate in this historic process.

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Our mission is to serve others, promote integrity, mutual understanding, goodwill, and peace through our network of committed professionals and leaders.

Rotary members believe that everyone must take action to address the most pressing challenges of our time. Rotary International mobilizes its members around priority causes that strengthen international relations, improve living conditions, and contribute to building a better world in the service of peace.

These seven causes are:

- Promoting peace
- Fighting disease
- Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Improving maternal and child health
- Supporting education
- Growing local economies
- Protecting the environment

A comparative analysis of these causes with the Sustainable Development Goals reveals that they address many of the same issues.

Rotary International maintains a strong and enduring relationship with United Nations agencies, based on shared values such as promoting peace, education, and cultural diversity.

With the **highest consultative status granted to a non-governmental organization** by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Rotary International actively collaborates with many UN bodies, commissions, and specialized agencies. This privileged status allows it to make a tangible contribution to major UN missions around the world.

In an increasingly challenging international environment marked by unprecedented geopolitical, climate, and social crises, it is more pressing than ever to **rethink the role and governance of major international organizations**. It is with this in mind that the **Forum on the Future of International Organizations** will be held in Paris on March 14, 2026. This gathering aims to be a space for constructive and inclusive dialogue, bringing together **institutions**, the **civil society**, and **Rotary members** to discuss issues of global cooperation.

This event is in keeping with Rotary's century-long commitment to peace, intercultural dialogue, and international solidarity through education, citizen diplomacy, and concrete humanitarian action.

The theme

This new Rotary International conference at UNESCO will be a “**Forum on the Future of International Organizations**.”

Its purpose is to reaffirm Rotary's historic role in creating and supporting major international institutions such as UNESCO, WHO, and UNICEF.

It will provide a platform for collective thinking on the multilateralism of tomorrow, at a time when many institutional stakeholders and civil society representatives express a growing sense of exclusion from major international decisions.

The event also aims to highlight Rotary International's mission to catalyze dialogue, mobilize international civil society, and strengthen mutual understanding amongst peoples.

At the close of the proceedings, a **white paper** will be produced, compiling the proposals arising from the panel discussions and presentations. This document will be provided to **UNESCO, WHO, and UNICEF**, as well as all **agencies within the United Nations system, governments, and interested organizations**, which may freely draw upon it in their work.

The central theme of the **Forum on the Future of International Organizations** will be: ***“Reimagining multilateralism for the furtherance of peace, health, and education”***

Three main themes will shape the discussions:

- Culture, Peace, and Education through the work of **UNESCO**
- Global Health, Governance, and Crisis Preparedness in conjunction with the **WHO**
- Youth, Innovation, and the Future of Multilateralism through the approach of **UNICEF**

These themes reflect **Rotary International's** commitment to meeting the major challenges of our time, in line with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**.

The conference

The conference will take place on **Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the UNESCO House in Paris from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

It will be held in the presence and under the presidency of **Francesco Arezzo, Rotary International President 2025-2026**.

The main purpose of the **Forum on the Future of International Organizations** is to serve as a platform for reflection and action to overcome the contemporary challenges facing the United Nations and international organizations in general. The Forum aims to:

- **Create a multi-stakeholder dialogue** by bringing together representatives of **governments, NGOs, organizations, experts, young professionals, and members of Rotary International** from around the world.
- **Establish practical recommendations** to enhance the effectiveness and relevance of these institutions in addressing current global challenges.
- **Affirm Rotary International's role** as a historic and ongoing catalyst for peace and international cooperation, building on its legacy and its grassroots network of committed professionals.

The scope is therefore both determinedly international and institutional. Through this Forum, Rotary International wishes to make a tangible and constructive contribution to rebuilding dialogue between peoples, in the service of a fairer, more open, and more united world.

A gala dinner will be held on **Friday, May 13, 2026**, and will be open to all participants and guests.

The Forum is being organized by District 1660 (Paris and Western Paris area) led by Mamadou Camara, District Governor 2025-2026. Other districts have agreed to contribute to the mobilization and outreach efforts.

Overall coordination will be provided by Jean-Philippe Baur, Past District Governor, supported by a team of Rotarians and Rotaractors. The presence of Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo will give the event a significant global and symbolic impact.

Provisional programme

Friday, March 13, 2026, will be dedicated to official meetings and institutional visits in Paris (Senate, Institut de France). **A Rotary gala dinner will bring together some three hundred participants**, attended by Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo. This symbolic dinner will also be an opportunity for clubs to induct new members in a prestigious and memorable setting.

On Saturday, March 14, 2026, the Forum will be held at the UNESCO House. The day will begin with an opening plenary session led by an international figure, followed by several themed panels on culture and education, global health, as well as youth and the future of multilateralism.

Each panel, lasting approximately 60 minutes, will be chaired by a leading figure and will bring together speakers from a variety of backgrounds: institutional leaders, experts, NGO representatives, academics, and young professionals.

In the period leading up to the event, the people hosting the panels will conduct a **broad consultation process** and involve stakeholders who might not be participating directly in the Forum, but whose expertise and experience in their respective fields would greatly **contribute to the discussions and the resulting white paper**. This collaborative process will involve a broader range of contributions and reflect the diversity of perspectives and local circumstances.

Mamadou CAMARA
Gouverneur 2025-2026
District 1660 – Rotary International



FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
« REIMAGINING MULTILATERALISM FOR THE FURTHERANCE
OF PEACE, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION »

Provisional programme

- **8:30** - Participants check-in

- **9:45 - Opening ceremony**
 - Welcome addresses (Host Committee, UNESCO, Governors)
 - Address by Francesco Arezzo, President of Rotary International
 - Conference: "The historical and future role of civil society in global governance: the example of Rotary and the creation of the United Nations"

- **10:30 – Panel 1** – Global health: Strengthening health systems and international cooperation to prepare for future pandemics

- **11:30 – Panel 2** – Education for all: Rethinking education in the age of digital technology and growing inequality

- **12h30** – Lunch break

- **14:15 – Panel 3** – Peace and safety: What role should international organizations play in preventing and resolving modern conflicts?

- **15:15 – Panel 4** – International Organizations at a crossroads: challenges of legitimacy, effectiveness, and funding.

- **16:15 - Closing session: "Roadmap to action"**
Presentation of Rotary's commitments and those of its partners

The Forum on the Future of International Organizations is intended to be a global platform for dialogue and collective reflection on the future of multilateral institutions. Through this initiative, Rotary International reaffirms its historic role and offers a constructive contribution to the furtherance of peace, mutual understanding, and international action.