

Understanding the concept of the global survivability collective

Nosakhare Ugbo *

Postgraduate School, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 2026, 30(02), 001-008

Publication history: Received on 23 March 2026; revised on 28 April 2026; accepted on 01 May

2026 Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30574/wjarr.2026.30.2.1185>

Abstract

This paper aims to clarify the concept of the Global Survivability Collective (GSC). It became necessary following several requests for clarification regarding the GSC proposal in Ugbo's (2025) study, "Contemporary Geopolitical Dynamics and Global Security: Projections for Sustainable Development". The study argued that adopting the GSC concept would be crucial for tackling many of the issues challenging our world. The GSC concept was introduced in that study, and several scholars have asked the author to provide insights to understand it better and assess its relevance to addressing the multitude of global challenges. Therefore, this paper seeks to explain the context in which the GSC proposal was made and how it differs from other notable approaches to addressing ongoing global challenges. It notes that the GSC's idea is not a cure-all for every problem humanity faces. Still, it highlights its potential in tackling most of humanity's existential concerns that transcend national borders. The paper underscores the importance of cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders to achieve sustainable development for the survival of current and future generations. The paper also provides insights into other collective action initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges and issues impacting our world. Overall, the paper emphasises the GSC's role in guiding our actions and inactions to enhance our sustainability and collective survival.

Keywords: Geopolitical Dynamics; Global Security; Sustainable Development; Collective; Global Survivability Collective; International Relations and Organisations; Global Governance

1. Introduction

How our world came to be what it is presently has been a matter of conjecture. The creation and evolution of the universe and Earth are explained through various mythologies, religious beliefs, cultural perspectives, and scientific theories. Consequently, depending on one's viewpoints, the origins, development, and age of the universe and Earth are interpreted differently. While some claim the universe is only a few thousand years old, others believe it has existed for millions of years, and some estimate it is billions of years old. An individual's position often depends on their biases. Nonetheless, most physical scientists generally accept that the 'Big Bang' theory can explain the universe's origin (Rothman, 2022; Tran, 2024; National Academy of Sciences (US), 1999). This cosmological model has allowed astronomers and physicists to estimate that the universe is roughly 14 billion years old, while the Earth is approximately 4.5 billion years old (Tran, 2024). Since its formation, our world has undergone significant transformations and continues to evolve (Rothman, 2022). Geological, archaeological, and historical discoveries highlight these profound changes. The terrestrial environment, along with its organisms and ecosystems, has continuously evolved in size, form, and diversity, leading to the emergence of various species, including humans (Tuttle, 2026). Humanity's appearance on Earth as an intelligent species has notably shaped the world through numerous advancements and discoveries. Humanity still influences the Earth's composition through its actions and inactions, with significant consequences for global survival (Rothman, 2022).

* Corresponding author: Nosakhare Ugbo

Human activities are dynamic and constantly evolving, impacting the world in both positive and negative ways. Human activities on Earth influence the global governance system, international trade and commerce, the environment, and other vital activities critical for the survival of both current and future generations. Moreover, human influence and exploratory pursuits, for knowledge and other reasons, have extended beyond Earth. The need for peaceful coexistence between humans and other creatures calls for responsible, collective agreement and cooperation on various essential actions for survival (Ugbo, 2025). These collective efforts, which are vital to the continued existence of our planet and, indeed, humanity, require the cooperation of all responsible state and non-state actors and call for the promotion of a global collective for survival.

The concept of a 'Global Survivability Collective' (GSC), as proposed by Ugbo (2025), is an inspirational framework rooted in existing ideas of collective action on critical issues related to global peace, security, and sustainable development. It explicitly promotes a unified, collaborative, and ethical approach to tackling the complex, interconnected global challenges that threaten humanity's long-term survival. This paper will therefore conduct a thorough analysis of the GSC's strengths, challenges, and context as proposed in Ugbo (2025). It will also assess other collective efforts made for the benefit of humankind.

2. The Concept of Global Survivability Collective

The GSC is a concept that describes humanity's collective desire to protect our offspring and biodiversity, prevent harmful environmental practices, and avoid atrocious tendencies and crimes. Its conceptualisation aims to preserve the world for the benefit of this generation and future generations, as desired by most other collectives across numerous human endeavours. The collective, GSC, refers to avoiding indiscriminate resource consumption without due consideration for future generations; avoiding practices that contribute to climate change and irresponsible actions that harm our collective security; and avoiding anything that could endanger humanity, the world, or our survival. This collective operates on the principles of shared responsibility, intergenerational equity, and integrated action to address existential risks that could be detrimental to the universe, most of which equally transcend national and regional boundaries.

The GSC's function is to coordinate efforts to build resilience against systemic threats and to promote regenerative socio-ecological transitions from this generation to succeeding generations. Thus, GSC calls for collective action by all stakeholders and humanity on security, trade, technological development, agriculture, environmental issues, and all our everyday concerns to ensure the adequate sustenance of our world for the benefit of this generation and future generations. Within sustainability, the concept of a GSC is necessary to enable coordinated actions by all stakeholders to prevent the complex, interconnected socioeconomic, political, and other crises that bedevil our world. It emphasises moving beyond fragmented national interests towards a unified approach to managing the global commons and preventing biodiversity collapse. The GSC is a collective that emphasises protecting the world from harmful, consequential actions while fostering cooperation to secure a viable future for all planetary species. It also incorporates regulated and responsible actions in cyberspace, space, and outer space exploration and exploitation (Ugbo, 2025).

2.1. Key Principles and Components

2.1.1. *The concept of GSC is founded on the following core ideas*

Surpass Crises and Break Boundaries Threats: The GSC recognises that modern crises, including climate change, pandemics, trade disputes, technological rivalry, and resource conflicts, are fluid and go beyond national borders. Such crises should not be confined to traditional, state-focused, and realist paradigms. This is because such conventional security approaches are inadequate, as they often promote competition and short-term benefits rather than long-term collective survival. Consequently, collective action through the GSC is advocated for the benefit of all stakeholders, the environment, people of this generation, and, indeed, future generations. The core idea is for stakeholders to always appreciate the bigger picture of all existential threats and to seek solutions that impact humanity and our universe rather than themselves. Doing so would ensure the survival of this generation and future generations and also become of great consequential value to humanity.

Unified and Comprehensive Approach: The concept of GSC explicitly advocates for all stakeholders to coordinate their efforts in tackling humanity's existential threats and challenges with a united front. Bearing in mind that most of these threats and challenges transcend boundaries, all stakeholders must approach the solutions without setting difficult 'no-go's'; thus, every viable remedy should be considered. This comprehensive approach would enhance the likelihood of finding workable remedies to the problems and challenges of our world. The core idea here is that GSC moves beyond 'realism' (where states compete for power) towards a 'constructivist' or 'liberal' cooperative stance. The

GSC asserts that because a crisis in one region (such as the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine or the COVID-19 pandemic) inevitably spills over into others, the 'collective' must view a threat to one as a threat to the survival of all. Unlike traditional crisis-resolution mechanisms, the GSC is not limited to states and international organisations (such as the UN); it includes a wider range of actors, including non-state actors, civil society organisations, the private sector, and academia, all working towards a common goal. Here, the shared aim is the sustainable survival of everyone involved, so that this generation survives while future generations are not adversely affected.

Sustainable Development as the Ultimate Goal: The concept of GSC, unlike traditional security cooperation or collective security models (which focus on preventing war and maintaining national stability), links security directly to sustainable development. It views global stability as an essential precondition for achieving the three dimensions of sustainability: the imperative for economic viability, the need for social progress and equity in human societies, and the requirements for environmental protection and resilience to preserve our world. Additionally, the GSC aims to establish a framework that not only resolves current conflicts and provides projections but also provides actionable insights for all stakeholders to ensure a sustainable global future. The ultimate goal of GSC is the survival of this and future generations, as well as the preservation of the world, for the benefit of humanity and our universe.

Theoretical Foundations: The study that introduced the GSC (Ugbo, 2025) utilises well-established international relations theories—realism, liberalism, and constructivism—to analyse state behaviour and global interactions. This indicates that the GSC aims to balance the self-interest emphasised by realism with the cooperation and interdependence stressed by liberalism, whilst also recognising that shared ideas and norms (constructivism) are essential to foster a collective mindset for global survival. In fact, the GSC incorporates several core concepts, such as collective security, human security, and the broader notion of humanitarian survival and intervention. Here, survival must be sustainable while interventions become necessary to avert consequential and existential threats to global peace, security and survivability.

2.2. Important Aspects and Strengths of GSC

The concept of GSC elevates 'survival' as a fundamental global aim that guides all actions. By viewing global challenges through the lens of survivability, the GSC highlights the urgent, existential risks facing humanity. This perspective acts as a strong incentive for immediate, coordinated responses to any issue threatening human survival, including economic, social, political, security, environmental, and other global governance concerns (Ugbo, 2025). The concept of GSC aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals in several ways, especially in relation to the survival and sustainability of our world (UN, 2015). It considers key survival issues—such as economic growth, social progress, and environmental protection—as the primary objectives. It promotes a united effort by all stakeholders, including non-state actors, to address cross-border geopolitical crises in pursuit of a sustainable future. These are imperatives for the continued survival of our world, the present generation and future generations (UN, 2015; Ugbo, 2025).

One of the distinctive features of the GSC concept is its promotion of collective action and shared responsibility in tackling existential threats to daily survival. The GSC is therefore based on the idea that many modern threats, such as health pandemics, environmental crises, and geopolitical instability, cross national borders and can only be addressed through a united, collective effort (Ugbo, 2025). This marks a clear departure from nationalistic or fragmented approaches. Such an approach emphasises the importance of empowering regional and international organisations and agencies to undertake coordinated action and to earn the respect of all stakeholders for the benefit of our world. The GSC opposes nation-states that depend on unilateral actions that could jeopardise global survival and peaceful coexistence (Ugbo, 2025).

The concept of GSC is based on interconnectedness. It recognises that a sustainable world can only be achieved if all stakeholders participate in promoting peace and security. It understands the complex interactions among environmental damage, resource shortages, and social issues, and advocates for holistic solutions that involve all stakeholders. Therefore, there must be mutual understanding among all individuals, organisations and states involved in realising the ideals of the GSC concept. The interconnectedness of GSC encourages intergenerational equity because global sustainability and security issues affect people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds in different but significant ways (European Union, 2025; Bernardo, 2025). By focusing on protecting future generations and promoting responsible resource use, the GSC strengthens the principle of intergenerational equity and helps secure the sustainability of future generations. It is the duty of all stakeholders, especially national leaders, to resist the temptation to prioritise short-term political and socioeconomic gains that serve narrow, ego-driven interests and nationalist goals, which often undermine long-term, collective interests that are more enduring for our world.

It is important to emphasise that global challenges are no longer confined to local boundaries, as individual actions in a globalised world lack the scale and impact to bring about significant change. Therefore, GSC amplifies collective resources, voices, and influences to make the impossible possible. Specifically, the GSC, with appropriate mechanisms, can translate high-level global security objectives into practical outcomes that benefit humanity and foster peaceful coexistence. When the GSC concept is well implemented, these actions are distinguished by their ability to manage shared risks while supporting long-term sustainability (Ugbo, 2025). The GSC builds on a decade of thoughts and policies on sustainability and collective resilience. It aligns with the ethos of various other global and regional collective movements and with agreements aimed at sustainable development, collective security, environmental resilience, and other issues vital to the survival of this and future generations. The GSC concept also complements collective resilience strategies.

2.3. Challenges And Critiques of The Concept

The concept of GSC, like other ideas, presents difficulties in defining and enforcing stakeholders' shared responsibility. Several questions remain unanswered regarding the realisation of GSC. How would the GSC concept promote collective action when countries consistently prioritise their own interests over global concerns? How would the sovereign rights of states be protected? Are there mechanisms to address the interests of powerful states? What could countries in the Global South do in the face of overwhelming intimidation by powerful developed states? How do GSC prevent bullying and the hegemonic influence of the world superpower? The concept of GSC faces the same challenge as many existing international agreements and institutions, such as the UN, where the 'collective good' is often compromised by the conflicting interests of powerful nations. However, the realisation is that the collective survival of our world transcends the egoistic and narrow-minded interests of one or a few, in our quest for continued existence and sustainable development (Ugbo, 2025).

The idea of GSC relies on a level of global cooperation that is hard to achieve amid geopolitical tensions, rivalries, and conflicts. The failure of collective security models, such as the League of Nations and other mechanisms that call for collective action, shows how easily such systems can collapse when member states prioritise self-interest (Helal, 2018; The Conversation, 2023; Britannica Editors, 2026). To overcome political divisions, it is believed that the concept of GSC needs specific implementation mechanisms that address stakeholders' differences and consider their concerns (Ugbo, 2025). The GSC lacks an effective mechanism to prevent the 'tragedy of the commons' (Hardin, 1968). Even with the best intentions, collective action can suffer from the 'tragedy of the commons,' where individual actors act in their own short-term interests, collectively depleting shared resources. The GSC must have concrete mechanisms to counter this inherent human tendency (Ugbo, 2025). Developing such mechanisms is challenging, as it is almost impossible to create an agreement that addresses all stakeholders' concerns. Therefore, compromises are necessary, and stakeholders must prioritise reason over ego (Ugbo, 2025).

The GSC aims to strengthen the practical use of 'survivability' as a collective obligation for all stakeholders. While the idea behind the GSC is compelling, its real-world application is intricate. How can policymakers implement 'global survivability' in a manner that is just, equitable, and does not unfairly burden developing nations or marginalised communities? Are there systems to address the needs of all the concerns in developing countries and marginalised communities, as well as in advanced nations? These issues are relevant and vital to ensuring that the GSC concept achieves the desired impact. Although Ugbo (2025) did not explicitly outline specific models or modalities, it nevertheless provided enough context for conscientious members of the world to recognise the importance of survival for both this and future generations. It is evident that our actions, and those of our predecessors, have greatly influenced the universe; consequently, we must act responsibly for the benefit and survival of all.

It is observed that many existing international, regional, and national institutions are slow to adapt and respond to emerging non-traditional threats, such as social and health crises and environmental challenges. In contrast, threats perceived to have a significant impact on national security and sovereignty are addressed more swiftly. The concept of GSC would need to overcome this institutional inertia to be effective in addressing non-traditional threats. Various stakeholders must understand the purpose of the GSC concept and avoid the inertia that often accompanies new ideas and strategies. Institutional inertia poses a significant organisational challenge to the GSC's smooth operation and to nations' and organisations' ability to adapt. It is essential to balance 'top-down' governance with 'bottom-up' action. In this context, Ugbo (2025) calls for action from 'all stakeholders'; therefore, large-scale policy demands top-down coordination, which may conflict with bottom-up, community-led initiatives that are also vital for building resilience. Hence, the GSC, as proposed, is a concept that requires genuine participation from relevant stakeholders in global geopolitical, socio-economic, and security issues and challenges that impact the world, prioritising survivability in all engagements.

2.4. Pillars Of Collective Action Concepts

Besides GSC, several concepts and agreements require collective action by stakeholders, some of which are limited to regional interests and other affiliations. These collective arrangements are coordinated efforts by nations, organisations, and individuals working towards a shared goal that highlights the importance of the common good and benefits such as a controlled climate, clean oceans, or a pandemic-free world, from which everyone benefits regardless of their individual contributions. Therefore, global collective action drives humanity's most vital efforts to tackle systemic threats that no single nation, organisation or individual can resolve alone. It signifies a shift from mere self-interest to global citizenship and universal interest, where coordinated cross-border efforts promote long-term stability and prosperity. As with GSC, all collective arrangements depend on fundamental pillars and principles for success. Some of the key pillars of success in the GSC and other collective action arrangements/concepts are:

Shared Vision: All parties who agree to adopt the core principles and goals of the collective action agreement must share the same vision. This involves moving from voluntary contracts to a unified agreement where data for action is verifiable and authenticated by all. As a result, mechanisms for shared data, intelligence gathering, and verification are usually put in place (Ugbo, 2026). Technologies such as satellite and AI facilitate authentication and verification. Ultimately, collective action agreements are governed by a shared vision among all members of the collective and their commitment to promoting the realisation of their common goal for the good of the members.

Equitable and Fair Burden-Sharing: Not all stakeholders are equally endowed; therefore, the collective must develop fair formulas that ensure privileged and underprivileged stakeholders contribute according to their capacity and historical responsibility. These arrangements help ensure that all stakeholders feel committed and recognised as equal partners within the collective, based on their shared vision, which is consistent with the UN Charter. The emphasis in this pillar is on the need for developed and powerful members of the collective to recognise that developing and less endowed members are equal stakeholders whose participation is vital to achieving the collective goals. Thus, the members, regardless of their overall contributions, must be receptive and respectful of the contributions and existence of unprivileged members (Dowd and McAdam, 2017).

Solidarity: Depending on the issue requiring collective action by stakeholders, there must be a genuine commitment and belief in their shared vision and objectives. Additionally, every member of the collective effort must be prepared to cooperate and collaborate to achieve their shared goals. The members of the collective must be united and supportive of each other in achieving the unifying objectives. It is a critical necessity for members to stand with one another in challenging times to strengthen their bonds in achieving their common goals, as Chapter 2 of the UN Charter states.

3. Some Notable Examples of Collective Action

There are several collective action initiatives worldwide. These collectives have a common vision and objectives. The collective goal could be in terms of security, human rights, animal rights, the environment and so forth. It would be impossible and irrelevant to highlight all collective action arrangements in operation today; however, a few will be discussed to provide context for what could happen when people and nations come together.

3.1. Transboundary Water Management

Water is a primary driver of regional stability. Collective action here moves away from fighting over water volumes toward sharing the prosperity water creates (Ugbo, 2026). Water is available on Earth in the form of groundwater, rivers, seas and oceans. Water can also exist in the gas, liquid, or solid state. Globally, there are numerous collective initiatives to manage, regulate, and coordinate the benefits of transboundary water bodies through benefit-sharing agreements and organisations. A few of these organisations or collective initiatives are discussed below.

The Nile Basin Initiative: The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a partnership among the Nile riparian states that seeks to develop the river in a cooperative manner. The River Nile passes through 11 countries in Africa and is considered the longest river in the world. The importance of this river to the countries has led to tensions among the countries (Nile Basin Initiative, 2026). However, the NBI has provided a vital platform for technical exchange and joint investment within the riparian states. The NBI is a viable case study in "hydro-diplomacy." In the standoff over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) over the River Nile, the NBI was able to douse tensions among members who considered the GERD as inimical to their survival. Thus, NBI, in addition to regulating the management of the River Nile, also helped as a preventive security measure in respect of the GERD, Egypt and Sudan (NBI, 2026). By sharing technical data and agricultural benefits, the nations were able to build a 'security community' where conflict becomes unthinkable because their economies are too integrated. Therefore, the NBI, though an arrangement for transboundary water management, also serves as a collective security mechanism for the riparian states of the River Nile.

Senegal River Basin Development Organisation: The Senegal River Basin Development Organisation (SRBO) is a transboundary water management initiative of the 4 riparian countries that share the Senegal River. The SRBO is usually referred to as the 'gold standard' in collective action organisations (El Ouaamari et al, 2019). This is because the four West African nations co-own all infrastructure on the river (dams and power plants), ensuring that a drought in one country is managed through the collective resources of all.

The Mediterranean Action Plan: The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), established in 1975, is a renewed collective effort by 21 Mediterranean countries to address pollution and rising sea levels in the Mediterranean Sea (Rochette, 2025). The collective recognised that the Mediterranean Sea would trigger economic collapse and mass migration for the entire region; hence, a comprehensive plan of action has been carefully evolved to avert such consequences. Fifty years after the MAP, the EU has launched the Pact for the Mediterranean, which aims to enhance collective cooperation with countries around the Mediterranean to advance their interests (Rocco et al., 2023).

3.2. Environmental and Resource Security

There are several collectives that seek to promote responsibility in environmental preservation and sustainable resource utilisation. These initiatives address threats that exist in international spaces where no single nation has jurisdiction. The common denominator is that whatever affects the environment and resources of the universe affects all of humanity, albeit indirectly. A few of the collective initiatives that dwell on environmental and resource security will be discussed.

The Global Ocean Treaty: The Global Ocean Treaty (TGOT) is a treaty that seeks to establish a network of marine protected areas covering about 30% (two-thirds of the world's oceans) of the high seas by 2030. The TGOT is a legally binding international pact adopted in 2023 and known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (Ugbo, 2026). By establishing marine sanctuaries, TGOT secures global food supplies and prevents arbitrary, irresponsible exploitation of deep-sea resources that could spark maritime conflict.

The First Movers Coalition: The First Movers Coalition is A global coalition of companies leveraging their purchasing power to decarbonise the world's heavy-emitting industrial sectors responsible for 25% of global emissions (World Economic Forum, 2026). It is a private-sector-led collective effort that seeks to reduce the risks associated with transitioning to a sustainable economy. The Coalition aims to enhance the profitability of companies and national industries while protecting the environment and our survivability in a sustainable manner (World Economic Forum, 2026).

The Trillion Trees Initiative: The Trillion Trees Initiative was launched in 2020 at the World Economic Forum as a platform for governments, businesses and civil society to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) (World Economic Forum, 2026). The objective is to grow, restore, and conserve 1 trillion trees worldwide by 2030, in a bid to restore biodiversity and fight climate change. This initiative would therefore mitigate environmental risks (floods and heatwaves) through nature-based solutions and, eventually, protect our world by restoring biodiversity.

The Water, Peace and Security Partnership: The water, peace and security (WPS) partnership is a global consortium founded in 2018 to pioneer innovative tools and services that identify and address water-related security risks. The partnership aims to transform the vicious cycles of water-related conflicts into 'virtuous cycles' of sustainable management and peace (WPS, 2026). WPS requires nations to share their hydrological data through a central hub that uses big data, AI, and remote sensing to generate risk assessments (Ugbo, 2026). The WPS partnership mobilises national leaders, CSOs and other stakeholders to raise awareness of water-related security threats and their urgency. The data collected through the WPS partnership enables the UN to engage in preventive diplomacy before a water shortage escalates into armed conflict. It essentially moves the collective security response from "sending troops" to "sending engineers and mediators" (WPS, 2026).

3.3. Integrated Security and Peacebuilding

The collectives on security and peacebuilding initiatives mainly focus on human security, especially the need to integrate social development into military and security frameworks. The collective actions for integrated security and peacebuilding aim to ensure a conducive environment for socioeconomic activities to thrive. Therefore, stakeholders would have to agree on the issues pursued and concretise the security of their interests and the environment for regional and global peace. Some collective actions on integrated security and peacebuilding are discussed below.

The Yaoundé Architecture: The Yaoundé Architecture is a comprehensive maritime security framework adopted in 2013 by a collective of 25 West and Central African states collaborating to secure the Gulf of Guinea (Maritimafrica, 2020). It integrates naval forces with legal and judicial systems to combat piracy, which is essential for protecting the marine and blue economy. The Yaoundé Architecture fosters cooperation through a hierarchical structure, linking national, zonal and regional centres to improve information sharing, patrols and legal coordination. The collective requires that the focal point in the member countries establish national coordination centres that would be linked to form the multinational maritime coordination centre (MMCC). The MMCC is also linked to the regional coordination centres of West African and Central African countries (Maritimafrica, 2020). The architecture has become a viable framework for reducing seafaring crimes in the Gulf of Guinea while strengthening security in regions of Africa under its sphere of influence.

Regional Security Architecture: Regional security architecture applies to several global regions. It refers to the organised framework of institutions, treaties, alliances, and practices that nations within a specific geographic area establish to manage, maintain and enhance regional peace and security. Based on these arrangements, countries within the region combine viable and agreed frameworks to promote whole-of-region mechanisms for collective action (Ugbo, 2025). These arrangements could include formal defence pacts, collaborative dialogues, trade, and security dialogues to address shared threats, ranging from military conflict to non-traditional security challenges. Such architecture could become a core component for multilateral organisations such as the African Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the European Union. It could also form the basis for bilateral alliances, often a major power and regional states, the US and NATO, minilateral partnerships like the AUKUS (Australia, UK, US) and confidence-building measures (Ugbo, 2025).

The Pact for the Future: The Pact for the Future is an agreement adopted by all 193 UN Member States at the Summit of the Future on 22 September 2024 (UN, 2024). The Pact reaffirms the global commitment to the UN, the international system, and the principles of international law. It envisions a world where the international system delivers on its promises, reflects the diversity of today's global landscape, and harnesses the collective strength of governments, civil society, and other key partners (UN, 2024). It is believed that the Pact, alongside the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, opens new opportunities and untapped potential that would lay a solid foundation for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order for all peoples and nations. The design of the Pact is to update global cooperation for current challenges, focusing on peace, sustainable development, climate action, digital technology, and youth empowerment. It aims to provide developing nations with the "bureaucratic excellence" and funding needed to achieve the SDGs, acknowledging that extreme poverty is a primary root cause of global terrorism and instability.

4. Conclusion

The GSC is a promising and necessary conceptual framework for tackling modern global challenges. It provides a moral and strategic compass, moving beyond narrow national self-interests toward a shared, existential goal. However, the true challenge lies in translating the GSC concept into a functional and equitable reality. Its success would depend not only on the broad acceptance of its principles but also on overcoming deep-seated political, economic, and institutional hurdles that have plagued other forms of international cooperation. The solutions to our existential challenges lie in the cooperation, coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders to achieve shared objectives and goals. The GSC and other collectives are essential to humanity's addressing the numerous challenges across all facets of our existence, for the survival of this generation and future generations, as well as our universe. The actions involved, including those highlighted in the GSC, call for our collective understanding and respect for all stakeholders to achieve success and advance our quest for global peace and security.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

References

- [1] Bernardo, C. (2025, January 14). Is Global Sustainability Achievable in a World Where Women Aren't equal? <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/global-social-challenges/2025/01/14/is-global-sustainability-achievable-in-a-world-where-women-arent-equal/>
- [2] Britannica Editors. (2026, April 18). League of Nations. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/League-of-Nations>

- [3] Dowd, R., and McAdam, J. (2017). International Cooperation and Responsibility-Sharing To Protect Refugees: What, Why and How? *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*. 66(4), 863–892. doi:10.1017/S0020589317000343
- [4] El Ouaamari, S., Garambois, N., Fert, M., and Radzik, L. (2019). Development Assemblages and Collective Farmer-Led Irrigation in the Sahel: A Case Study From the Lower Delta of the Senegal River. *Water Alternatives* 12(1), 68–87.
- [5] European Union. (2025, February 20). Sustainability challenges. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth/sustainability-challenges>
- [6] Hardin, G. (1968). The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* Vol. 162, 1243–1248. doi: 10.1126/science.162.3859.1243
- [7] Helal, M. (2018). The Myth of U.N. Collective Security, 32. *Emory Int'l L. Rev. Recent Dev.*, 1063–1078. <https://scholarlycommons.law.emory.edu/eilr-recent-developments/9/>
- [8] Maritimafrica. (2020, March 4). Focus on the Yaoundé Architecture. <https://maritimafrica.com/en/focus-on-the-yaounde-architecture/>
- [9] National Academy of Sciences (US). (1999). The Origin of the Universe, Earth, and Life. In N. A. (US), *Science and Creationism: A View from the National Academy of Sciences*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK230211/>
- [10] Nile Basin Initiative. (2026, April 10). Cooperative Framework Agreement. <https://nilebasin.org/about-us/cooperative-framework-agreement>
- [11] Rocco, R., Hein, C., and Rooij, R. (2023). An Action Plan for the Mediterranean: A Case of EU Policy Transfer to the Mediterranean Basin. *European Journal of Creative Practices in Cities and Landscapes*, 172–199. doi:10.6092/issn.2612-0496/16910
- [12] Rochette, J. (2025, December 4). 50 years of the Mediterranean Action Plan: Honouring achievements, driving change. <https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/blog-post/50-years-mediterranean-action-plan-honoring-achievements-driving>
- [13] Rothman, T. (2022). *A Little Book About the Big Bang Theory*. Cambridge, London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- [14] The Conversation. (2023, May 24). 60 years of African unity: what's failed and what's succeeded. <https://theconversation.com/60-years-of-african-unity-whats-failed-and-whats-succeeded-203935>
- [15] Tran, L. (2024, February 24). Explore Cosmic History. <https://science.nasa.gov/universe/the-big-bang/>
- [16] Tuttle, R. H. (2026, March 17). human evolution. <https://www.britannica.com/science/human-evolution>.
- [17] Ugbo, N. (2025). Contemporary Geopolitical Dynamics and Global Security: Projections for Sustainable Development. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Analysis*, 5374–5389. doi:10.47191/ijmra/v8-i09-51
- [18] Ugbo, N. (2026). Water and Global Security: The Imperative for Collective Action. *International Journal of African Innovation and Multidisciplinary Research*, 37–52. doi:10.70382/mejaimr.v11i2.097
- [19] UN. (2015, October 21). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/70/1>
- [20] UN. (2024, September 22). About the Pact. <https://www.un.org/pact-for-the-future/en/about-pact>
- [21] World Economic Forum. (2026, April 11). First Movers Coalition. <https://initiatives.weforum.org/first-movers-coalition/home>
- [22] WPS. (2026, March 30). waterpeacesecurity.org. <https://waterpeacesecurity.org/info/our-approach>