

Future Generations Global Ambassadors

Focal Point: Jacob Ellis, Co-ordinator, jacob.ellis@futuregenerations.wales

In partnership with [Foundations for Tomorrow](#), in 2022, the [Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](#) convened a [group of individuals, identified as Future Generations Ambassadors](#), to represent the aspirations, concerns, and creative solutions of their generation in support of an ambitious [Summit of the Future](#).

This collaborative endeavour acknowledges the reality that the decisions and policies of today are shaping the world of tomorrow, and hence, while young people and future generations are distinct groups, young people offer the closest proxy to the voice of future generations due to their overlapping interests in the future.

Given the Ambassadors' emphasis on promoting the needs of future generations, this submission is dedicated to informing the chapter on youth and future generations.

The following submission has been produced and endorsed by:

Daniel Ajudeonu (Nigeria), Sofía Bermúdez (Argentina), Diandra Ni Bhuachalla (Ireland), Marcela Capaja (England), Jacob Ellis (Wales), Ricardo Andres Pineda Guzma (Honduras), Najma Hashi (Wales), Erina Imai (Japan), Samer Karrar (England), Ijun Kim (Republic of Korea), Moritz Von Knebel (Germany), Claudette Salinas Leyva (Mexico), Philip Jillesjö Löf (Wales), Divya Sharma (India), Falit Sijariya (India), Sumaya Nur Adan (Kenya), Jacob Odur (Uganda), Ishaan Shah (The United Kingdom), Grayce Slobodian (Canada), Rona Tobolsky (Israel)

Chapeau

The future is unpredictable and will look distinctly different for each individual, country, and generation. Not only this, but future peoples' intentions, aspirations, hopes and fears are similarly beyond our grasp. Herein lies the complexity of designing for our future, a reality that, requires the United Nations system to embrace approaches that foster anticipation, adaptation and sustainability, including by investing in participatory foresight and future-focused planning that allow for flexibility and adaptability.

There is a long history at the United Nations of acknowledging the importance of future generations, which dates back to the Charter of the United Nations and has a unique history and a mandate to promote global, long-term governance, and this focus can help to anchor long-term thinking as a guiding principle for policy choices, programming and at all United Nations system entities so they can move forward in a context of multiple crises and heightened risks.

We encourage the use of the following as key resources:

- The Publication of the [Policy Brief](#) on Future Generations by the UN Secretary-General as a useful output in communicating the need and solutions for protecting the interests of those not yet born.
- The work done by the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes which recently published the [UN Common Principles for Future Generations](#). This is a useful resource for Member States in identifying the practical steps they can take. They also offer useful insight into the framing of the Declaration for Future Generations.

Actions required:

- **An intergenerational approach and intergenerational solidarity are required to secure well-being for current and future generations:** Intergenerational collaboration is vital for reinvigorating the UN to address current and future challenges effectively. Serving as the central global platform for the 21st century, the UN relies on diverse voices to shape policies and programmes, ensuring relevance and responsiveness.
- **A re-balanced and diverse multilateral system:** A system that recognises and meaningfully engages Indigenous voices and enables intergenerational diversity to lead and inform decision-making. This system should further seek to avoid prescribing one method of the future and work with various voices to ensure the UN is meaningfully representative, including necessary changes to the UN Charter.
- **Establish a Future Generations Commission:** The key to a successful Pact for the Future is a successful implementation plan for Member States. A Commission would be dedicated to identifying choices and actions that Member States can take to institutionalize future generations into governance, policy and practice, drawing on

established learning.

Chapter IV: Youth and Future Generations

We welcome the attention given by co-facilitators and other Member States in providing space in the Pact for the Future dedicated to these distinct constituencies. We further recognise that future generations are “all those generations that do not yet exist, are yet to come and who will eventually inherit this planet”.¹

Please note that *youth* and *young people* are used interchangeably throughout this submission.

We further call for the meaningful inclusion of youth and children in decision-making processes at all levels, recognizing them as valuable partners to shaping a sustainable and just future. We propose the establishment of dedicated multilateral platforms for youth engagement and the integration of young people’s input into policy development, with the support of the UN Youth Office. We further advocate for educational reforms that equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and capacity needed for the future.

Action required:

- **1. Involve youth and children, in all their diversity, in the preparatory processes and delivery of the Summit of the Future and its Pact:** We place the responsibility on Member States to meaningfully engage young people and children at all moments and during negotiations building on best practices. UNICEF Innocenti and other partners in calling on the Pact for the Future “to explicitly mention ‘children’ as a group of distinct rights holders under international law. In this regard, we propose for Chapter IV of the Pact to be renamed to “Children, Youth, and Future Generations”.

Suggested Text: Member States endorse the definition of future generations as “all those generations that do not yet exist, are yet to come and who will eventually inherit this planet”.²

Suggested Text: Member States commit to meaningfully involve youth and children in the planning, consultation, decision-making and implementation of the Pact for the Future.

- **2. Establish meaningful intergenerational involvement at the UN:** We welcome the recently appointed ASG for Youth Affairs and look forward to a renewed focus on strengthening meaningful youth engagement across the system.

¹ Permanent Missions of the Fiji and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, “Elements paper for the Declaration for Future Generations” (2022).

² Permanent Missions of the Fiji and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, “Elements paper for the Declaration for Future Generations” (2022).

Suggested Text: Member States commit to establishing and promoting meaningful intergenerational dialogues by including young people in their national delegations through the expansion of the UN Youth Delegates programme and appointing a youth representative to the UN Security Council, as well as to UN processes beyond New York.

Suggested Text: Member States commit to establishing an Intergenerational Commission to identify steps to strengthen input received from civil society, academia, private sector, indigenous communities, people with disabilities, women, youth and children into the multilateral system.

- **3. Publish a Future Trends Report:** Looking to Member States for global examples, Wales publishes a five yearly [Future Trends Report](#) to highlight the intergenerational challenges that they will need to respond to and the areas it can shape for a more sustainable future.

Suggested Text: Request the United Nations Secretary-General to produce a Future Generations Report every five years, highlighting the latest future trends and innovations to aid policymaking.

Suggested Text: Member States commit to publish their national future trends annually at the High-Level Political Forum, Member States further commit to set out how they plan to respond to these trends.

Suggested Text: Member States commit to meaningfully involve children and youth in identifying and analyzing future trends, specifically those that impact youth and children.

- **4. A robust UN Declaration for Future Generations:**

Suggested Text: Member States commit to act as guardians for future generations and recognise their collective responsibility to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- **5. UN Futures:** Foster a positive culture and build capability around foresight within the United Nations, building on the established work of the UN Futures Lab.

Suggested Text: Member States requests the UN Secretary-General to:

- Appoint an Assistant Secretary-General for Foresight.
- Publish foresight and futures guidance (in risk, asset management, workforce planning, financial planning and procurement etc).
- **6. Establish an Intergovernmental Body for Future Generations:** We request the President of the General Assembly to conduct open, transparent, and inclusive

negotiations, to be completed as soon as possible during the seventy ninth session, with the aim of establishing the mandate, modalities, functions, size, composition, membership, working methods and procedures of the proposed body.

Suggested Text: Pursuant to the commitment of Member States to future generations and further strengthen the United Nations work on strategic foresight, Member States resolve to create an intergovernmental body on Future Generations.

The proposed body will be responsible for ensuring and monitoring the use of strategic foresight across the United Nations system, reviewing and appraising progress achieved.

The proposed body shall mainstream, integrate, and institutionalize strategic foresight and make recommendations thereon. It should also promote effective coordination and the mainstreaming of strategic foresight, futures thinking, and the centering of future generations-oriented approaches within and across the United Nations system.

- **7. Create a new UN Awareness Day for future generations. (Future Generations Day)**
- **8. Appoint a Special Envoy for Future Generations:**

Suggested Text: Member States welcome the Secretary-General of the United Nations' intent to appoint a global representative for future generations within the UN system, to advocate for their interests, facilitate collaboration and best practices sharing, and to support Member States in embedding long-term thinking in policymaking.

The following is proposed as the remit and functions for the UN Special Envoy for Future Generations:

1. Represent the rights, needs and interests of future generations at the United Nations and globally.
2. Stimulate and facilitate dialogue, actions and resource mobilization to address the wide-ranging issues affecting future generations, and raise international awareness and attention to future generations issues;
3. Serve as a global advocate for UN multi-stakeholder partnerships on future generations and UN inter-agency initiatives on future generations;
4. Promote initiatives and policies to embed future generations at the national, regional, and global levels including through advocacy for meaningful youth participation in the work of the UN, with a special focus on the most marginalized and vulnerable youth;

5. Encourage relevant stakeholders to support the realization and full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights including through the identification and sharing of challenges, best practices and lessons learned;
6. Support the EOSG, especially the Deputy Secretary-General's efforts in UN system support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Reduction, with special focus on future generations issues.
7. Support the United Nations Secretary-General in mobilizing the commitments to advance UN system initiatives for future generations, such as the implementation of the UN Declaration for Future Generations and the outcomes of the Summit for the Future.
8. Support Member States to take greater account of the long-term impact of the things that it does, and support increasing foresight and futures capacity.
9. Report on findings, assessments and progress to the General Assembly
10. Convene and resource the UN Future Generations Intergovernmental Forum.
11. To produce a UN Future Generations Report every 5 years.
12. Drive the rising of standards on reporting on SDG progress.

It is imperative that there is close collaboration between the United Nations Youth Office and the proposed UN Special Envoy for Future Generations.

- **9. The Future Pack:** Every UN Summit and High-Level meeting should be accompanied by a *Future Pack* - a resource that will enable a richer discussion on policy themes, produced by the UN. This will enable discussions to be framed with long-term thinking and future generations in mind.

Suggested Text: Member States request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to produce a *Future Pack*, to accompany decision-making documents across the work of the UN General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council, as well as their subsidiary bodies, to include key future trends, data, science and stories.

- **10. Institutionalize intergenerational fairness across the multilateral system and within Member States:** These could include a) producing a global future generations progress matrix allowing Member States to track their progress implementation of future generations mechanisms. See Wales' Maturity Matrix, [here](#). b) producing Integrated Impact Assessments alongside UN Resolutions on how decisions will meet current and future generation's needs. Further inspiration can be found [here](#).



Suggested Text: Member States commit to present their national plans to institutionalize intergenerational fairness, drawing on established good practice, at the UN General Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration