

REV2 Declaration on Future Generations

Preamble

1. We, the Heads of State and Government **and high representatives, having met** at the Summit of the Future, at the United Nations Headquarters on 22 and 23 September 2024,
2. Reaffirming our commitments **to the purposes and principles of** the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as our respective obligations under international law,
3. **Guided by our commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration, and our pledge to future generations in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,**
4. Cognizant that future generations are all those generations that do not yet exist, and who will inherit this planet,
5. **Observing that many existing national legal systems, as well as social and cultural practices and religions, seek to safeguard the needs and interests of** future generations and promote intergenerational solidarity, **justice and equity,**
6. Recognizing that **the** decisions, actions, and inactions **of present generations,** have an intergenerational multiplier effect, such that our conduct today will impact future generations exponentially, **and therefore resolving to ensure that present generations act with responsibility towards safeguarding the needs and interests of future generations,**
7. **Acknowledging that we must learn from our past achievements, mistakes and their consequences in order to ensure a more sustainable, just and equitable world for present and future generations, and understanding the interconnectedness of past, present and future,**
8. Recognizing **children and youth as agents of change** and the need for intergenerational dialogue and engagement, including **with and** among children, youth and older persons, **to be taken into consideration** in our **policy and** decision-making processes in order to safeguard the **needs and** interests of future generations,
9. Acknowledging that investing in building a strong foundation for **lasting international peace and security, sustainable development, the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and the observance of the rule of law** is the most effective way to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations,
10. Recognizing the complex and interrelated **opportunities,** challenges and risks faced by present generations, **as well as the implications of projected global demographic trends,**
11. Further **committing to build** a stronger, more **effective and** resilient multilateral system **based on international law, with the United Nations at its core,** underpinned by **transparency,** confidence and trust, for the benefit of **present and** future generations.

REV2 Declaration on Future Generations

Guiding Principles

In order to seize the opportunity that present generations possess to leave a better future for generations to come and to fulfill our commitment to meet the demands of the present in a way that safeguards the needs and interests of future generations, **while leaving no one behind**, we will **observe** the following principles:

12. The maintenance of international peace and security, and the full respect for international law, must be promoted in line with the **purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter**,
13. The right to pursue and enjoy all human rights, encompassing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and fundamental freedoms for all, must be **promoted and protected**, respected **and fulfilled**, without distinction or discrimination of any kind,
14. The **opportunity for** future generations to thrive in prosperity and achieve sustainable development must be **ensured**, including by addressing the intergenerational transmission of poverty and hunger, inequality and injustice, **and the particular circumstances of persons in vulnerable situations**,
15. **The promotion of** intergenerational solidarity, as well as intergenerational dialogue and social cohesion, **is** an indispensable part of the foundation for the prosperity of future generations and, in this regard, the role of families as contributors to sustainable development **must be recognized**,
16. A **clean**, healthy, and sustainable environment, **where humanity lives in harmony with nature**, must be created and maintained by **urgently** addressing the **adverse impacts and consequences of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss**,
17. Safe, secure, **ethical** and trustworthy technology and innovation are necessary to promote **an inclusive** digital transformation, while bridging digital divides, **within and among countries** by ensuring equitable access to advances in **existing**, new and emerging technologies **as well as capacity building initiatives, [PLACEHOLDER]**
18. The achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, **and the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind** are **necessary requirements** for a sustainable future,
19. **The** full and equal participation of persons with disabilities of present and future generations in society and all decision-making processes **is critical to** ensuring that no one is left behind,
20. **The elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance, and the empowerment of all people, as well as the achievement of racial equality, are required for a prosperous and sustainable future,**
21. **An inclusive, transparent and** effective multilateral system is essential to enhance **international solidarity and** cooperation, rebuild trust and create a world that is sustainable, **just and equitable, and where human dignity is ensured.**

REV2 Declaration on Future Generations

Commitments

Guided by these principles, we hereby pledge to:

22. **Ensure** peaceful, inclusive and just societies, while **addressing** inequalities within and **among** nations and the special needs of developing countries, as well as those of systemically marginalized communities and **persons** in vulnerable situations,
23. Implement policies **and programmes** to **achieve gender equality** and the empowerment of **all** women and girls, eliminate **all forms of** discrimination **and violence, harassment and abuse against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, and provide** equitable **social,** economic and leadership opportunities for women in all spheres of society,
24. Eliminate all forms of persistent historical and structural inequalities, **including by acknowledging, addressing and remedying past tragedies and their consequences, and eradicate all forms of** discrimination,
25. Honor, promote **and preserve** cultural diversity **and heritage, as well as** languages, knowledge systems and traditions, **and** foster intercultural **and interreligious** dialogue to ensure **mutual understanding, tolerance and inclusion,**
26. **Promote and protect** the **rights of Indigenous Peoples, their territories, land and eco-systems,** while safeguarding their traditions, spiritual **beliefs** and ancestral **knowledge,** and ensuring their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making,
27. Undertake comprehensive and targeted strategies to achieve **inclusive economic growth and** sustainable development, **food security,** and the **eradication of** poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, **and to combat the feminization of poverty,** to meet the needs of the present generations, achieve global resilience **and establish a more prosperous foundation for future generations,**
28. Prioritize urgent action on climate change **and its manifestations, noting the importance of the concept of “climate justice” for some, and address critical environmental challenges, including by implementing measures to promote resilience and reduce disaster risks, in order to safeguard communities and persons in vulnerable situations, reverse the degradation of eco-systems and ensure a** **clean,** healthy, and sustainable environment,
29. Harness the benefits of new and emerging technologies and mitigate the associated risks in a constructive and safe manner through effective and equitable governance at the global and regional levels, including through building capacity and promoting the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms to eliminate the digital and innovation divide, as outlined in the Pact for the Future and the annexed Global Digital Compact, **[PLACEHOLDER]**
30. Strengthen cooperation among States in their response to demographic trends and realities, **including rapid population growth, declining birthrates and aging populations,** as well as in **addressing the** interlinkages between population issues and development, to safeguard the **needs and** interests of present and future generations, **including children, youth and older persons,** across all regions,
31. Strengthen cooperation among States to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration between countries of origin, transit and destination, **including through expanding pathways for regular**

REV2 Declaration on Future Generations

migration, while recognizing the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development,

32. Invest in **accessible, safe,** inclusive and equitable quality education **for all, and promote** opportunities for lifelong learning, **technical and vocational training, and digital literacy,** allowing for the intergenerational acquisition and transfer of knowledge and skills to advance the prospects of future generations,
33. **Protect the right of future generations to the enjoyment of** the highest **attainable** standard of **physical and mental** health, through universal health **coverage, and strengthened and resilient health systems,** as well as **equitable access to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines, therapeutics and other health products,** to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all **across generations.**

Actions

Acknowledging the primary role and responsibility of governments, at all levels, in line with their constitutional framework, towards safeguarding the needs and interests of future generations, we will implement, institutionalize and monitor the above commitments, in national, regional and global policy-making by:

34. Leveraging science, data, **statistics** and strategic foresight to ensure long-term thinking and planning, **and to** develop and implement sustainable practices and the institutional reforms necessary **to ensure evidence-based** decision-making, while making governance more anticipatory, adaptive and responsive to future **opportunities,** risks and challenges,
35. Ensuring **inclusive and equitable access to knowledge, science and information,** while promoting **innovation,** critical thinking and life-skills to create generations of citizens that are agents of positive change and transformation,
36. Transforming our systems of national and global accounting, **including** by promoting the use of **forward-looking, evidence-based** impact assessments, developing stronger anticipatory risk analyses and **using measures of progress on sustainable development that complement and go beyond gross domestic product,**
37. Investing in capacity to better prepare for and respond to future global shocks **and crises, and** using **evidence-based planning** and foresight to avoid and mitigate risks, while ensuring that **the poorest and most vulnerable** do not bear disproportionate costs and burdens of mitigation, **adaptation,** restoration and resilience building,
38. Undertaking a **whole-of-government** approach to coordination, including at the local level, on the assessment, development, implementation **and evaluation** of policies that safeguard the **needs and** interests of future generations,
39. **Enhancing cooperation** with stakeholders, including civil society, academia, the scientific and technological community and the private sector, **and encouraging** intergenerational partnerships, **by promoting a whole-of-society approach,** to share best practices and develop innovative, long-term and forward-thinking ideas in order to **safeguard** the needs **and** interests of future generations,
40. Equipping the multilateral system, including the United Nations, to support States, **upon their request,** in their efforts to **implement this Declaration and embed the needs and interests of**

REV2 Declaration on Future Generations

future generations and long-term thinking in policy-making processes by fostering **cooperation** and facilitating greater use of **anticipatory planning and** foresight, **based on** science, data **and statistics**, and raising awareness of and advising on the likely intergenerational or future impacts of policies and programmes,

41. **Fostering** a future-oriented organizational culture **that is mainstreamed** across the United Nations system to facilitate science- **and evidence** based decision-making by developing diverse capabilities, including **anticipatory planning**, foresight and futures literacy, and systematically promoting long-term and intergenerational thinking at all levels,
42. Recognizing the important advisory and advocacy role **that** the United Nations **should play** with respect to future generations, we:

Request the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Envoy for Future Generations;

[and/or]

Decide to establish a facilitative, inclusive, high-level meeting on future generations that will review **the implementation of** this Declaration every five years and **provide updates on the actions taken** to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations;

[and/or]

Decide to include the question of future generations as an agenda item of the General Assembly **on a [periodic] basis**;

[and/or]

Request the Secretary-General to submit a **[periodic]** report on the implementation of **the** commitments and the embedding of long-term thinking within the United Nations system **to safeguard the needs and** interest of future generations for consideration **[at a high-level meeting or by the General Assembly]**.