

# YOUTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

## → BACKGROUND

Young people will have to live with the consequences of today's action - or inaction. They are demanding more meaningful opportunities to participate in shaping their own future. The Pact for the Future aims to commit to the inclusion of young people at all levels, invest in quality education and life learning, and expand and strengthen youth participation in UN decision-making processes.

We are neither living up to the promise of the UN Charter, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, nor to the definition of sustainable development, which obliges us to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. We are knowingly harming those yet to be born with many of the decisions we take. A **Declaration on Future Generations**, to be developed as an annex to the Pact for the Future, is to ensure that data, foresight

and science are used to assess the impact of today's actions for the ten billion people yet to be borne in this century.

## → HIGHLIGHTS

**WITH MORE THAN 1.9 BILLION** young people alive today, it is imperative that youth are at the forefront of our efforts to restore hope and rebuild trust in multilateral institutions.

**THIS WAS RECOGNIZED** by all member countries of the United Nations, who agreed recently to create a Youth Office in the Organization. Members of the United Nations also recognized the responsibility of the leaders of today to leave behind a healthy and prosperous world for future generations.

**AS FUTURE CUSTODIANS OF THE PLANET**, young people stand to lose the most if societies become

more insecure and unequal and if the triple planetary crisis continues to persist.

**PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING** is identified as one of the top priorities for young people. They have increasingly become a driving force for societal change through social mobilization — pushing for climate action, seeking racial justice, promoting gender equality and demanding dignity for all. Yet, when it comes to participation in public policymaking and decision-making, youth remain almost invisible.

**TO TRULY DELIVER** transformational change, a global standard for meaningful youth engagement could strengthen the effectiveness and inclusiveness of youth engagement at all levels.

**HOWEVER, YOUNG PEOPLE MUST ALSO** be equipped with the proper skills and knowledge to shape a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future. One in every five children and young people

remains out of school. Hundreds of millions of those in school are not even acquiring basic education skills. Quality education for all is a must for our common future.

**THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE** will be a pivotal opportunity for governments to demonstrate their commitment to working with young people in a more meaningful and systematic way, leveraging their expertise, innovation and creativity in tackling current and future crises facing our world.

**IT WILL ALSO BE AN OPPORTUNITY** to put in place practical mechanisms to ensure that decision-making is guided by science, data, foresight, and a better understanding of the future impact of our actions today.

**THE DECLARATION ON FUTURE GENERATIONS** will set out key principles and practical actions in this regard.