FUTURE GENERATIONS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Parents' advantages in income, health and education shape their children's path over time, often leading to persistent "hoarding" of opportunities across generations. The greater the inequality in human development, the lower the intergenerational social mobility in income—and vice versa.



Hunger at a young age undermines well-being throughout one's life, with intergenerational impacts. Future generations face food insecurity due to climate change, biodiversity loss and unsustainable agricultural practices.



Parents' advantages in health lead to persistent "hoarding" of opportunities across generations. Inadequate health care and health systems in the present, in particular for women's and maternal health, impair the life chances of children and their children.



Gaps in learning can become a trap with lifetime and even intergenerational implications. Investments in education systems have demonstrated intergenerational impacts.



Empowering women leads to greater equality and life chances in the next generation, with children more likely to attend school. Women's participation in the workforce contributes to economic growth that will benefit future generations.



Investment in resilient infrastructure to guarantee access for all to clean and safe water prevents long-term diseases and epidemics, while contributing to sustainable urban and rural environments.



Accessible, affordable and clean energy will lift present generations out of poverty, contribute to climate action and zero pollution, while creating green employment opportunities.



Preparing people and youth for the economy of the future, and enabling inclusive economic growth, requires investments in decent job creation, including in the green, care and digital economies, and in skills development.



Digital inclusion and equality will contribute to more equitable benefits from digital connectivity through the generations. Lack of infrastructure hinders development and perpetuates poverty.



Inequality begins at birth, defines the freedom and opportunities of children, adults and older persons, and permeates those of the next generation. Policies to prevent inequalities can follow the life cycle. Reducing horizontal inequalities is key to breaking socioenvironmental traps for future generations.



Sustainable cities can unlock economic opportunities for a green urban transition, shifting urban social development towards new lifestyle choices and behaviours that are environmentally sustainable, just, inclusive and prosperous for all.



Promoting the circular economy, boosting zero waste initiatives with adequate infrastructure in support of responsible consumption and enforcing sustainable production measures for efficient resource use and reuse for future generations.



Climate change will expose future generations to multiple, unequal and life-long health problems, an increase in natural disasters, food and water disruptions and the irreversible destruction of natural ecosystems, impacting people's livelihoods and well-being.



Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources will benefit future generations who will predominantly live in coastal, urban areas in the global South



Human well-being is intrinsically related to nature and a healthy planet. Reduced biodiversity erodes nature's resilience to climate change and natural hazards, and exposes zoonotic and health risks, while affecting agriculture and freshwater systems and future opportunities for green job creation.



Meaningful participation, access to justice, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions prepare the ground for governance for future generations. Effective institutions are more likely to adopt a long-term perspective.



By developing and strengthening multi-stakeholder partnership and sharing of skills, resources and perspectives, we can collectively contribute to improving life chances for future generations.