



Blavatnik School of Government (University of Oxford), Future of Climate Cooperation, Simon Institute for Longterm Governance, United Nations Foundation Next Generation Fellows, Institute for Future Studies, Uppsala University, Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies, International Chamber of Commerce, José Jaime Villalobos

<https://www.futureclimatecooperation.org/>

Point of contact: Claudette Salinas Leyva, Future of Climate Cooperation Project Assistant, info@futureclimatecooperation.org

Chapeau

1. Define future generations as distinct from youth.

Suggested Text: Recognizing the Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations, which define future generations as “those generations that do not yet exist but will exist and who will inherit the Earth.”

Acknowledging that decisions being taken by those currently living can affect the lives and rights of those born years, decades, or many centuries in the future, and that present generations have a collective responsibility to ensure that future generations live and thrive.

Acknowledging that younger generations deserve recognition and representation in their own right, but are distinct from future generations.

Actions proposed:

The [Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations](#) will be acknowledged as a key milestone and integrated at a UN level.

2. Ensure that future generations' interests are well-represented in the multilateral system.

Suggested Text: Embracing the commitment to future generations beyond youth groups, Member States establish a multi-stakeholder task force to recognize diverse constituencies as essential partners in shaping a sustainable, representative future.

Actions proposed: Collaborative efforts with civil society, the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders will be fostered to craft an inclusive strategy that effectively addresses the varied needs of future generations. A multi-stakeholder task force is proposed, serving to elevate collective endeavors by identifying and prioritizing cross-cutting issues that affect future generations across domains.

3. Integrate the Pact for the Future outcomes in the 2030 Agenda implementation.

Suggested Text: Highlighting the intrinsic connection between the Pact for the Future and the 2030 Agenda, Member States commit to integrating Pact principles into the ongoing implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This integration ensures a cohesive approach to addressing present urgencies while safeguarding future interests.

Actions proposed: A strong emphasis on future generations within the Summit of the Future is proposed, ensuring not only consistency and follow-up but also building on the momentum generated by past transformative milestones, such as the 1986 Brundtland Commission, the 1997 UNESCO Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations and the 2013 report of the Secretary-General, "Intergenerational solidarity and the needs of future generations".

4. Strengthen governance infrastructures to better respond to today's and tomorrow's crises.

Suggested Text: Underlining the unpredictable nature of unforeseen global shocks, Member States emphasize the importance of cultivating agile and future-oriented governance infrastructures to protect future generations.

Actions proposed: The proposal suggests strengthening and modernizing existing governance structures, incorporating foresight mechanisms for rapid adaptation to emerging challenges, such as risks derived from emerging technologies, to foster long-term resilience.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

1. Reinforce the principle of intergenerational equity at every level of governance.

Suggested Text: Affirming the significance of intergenerational equity as a well-established general principle of law present in numerous international agreements and in the practice of international treaty bodies and courts, as well as in nearly half of the Member States' national constitutions, Member States reinforce that this principle should permeate all facets of the Summit of the Future and other processes at every level of governance.

Actions proposed: Practical steps derived from the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes' [UN Common Principles for Future Generations](#) will be incorporated at all levels of governance, starting in the Pact, ensuring the tangible application of intergenerational fairness in policymaking and decision-making.

2. Embed foresight capacities and future generations research in the United Nations.

Suggested Text: Desiring to create a United Nations fit for the future, Member States advocate for well-resourced and integrated foresight capabilities and future generations research in the United Nations system.

Actions proposed: A publication of a future generations report every five years will be shared with Member States providing valuable insights to inform and guide policies. Additionally, integrating foresight guidance within the UN system will enhance its ability to anticipate and address emerging challenges, fostering a proactive and future-oriented approach to global governance.

3. Call for national policies for future generations.

Suggested Text: Aware that broader reforms are needed at all levels for more effective long-term governance, Member States commit to promoting initiatives and policies to embed future generations at the national and regional levels.

Actions proposed: Dedicated national offices or positions for Future Generations Advocates will be encouraged within each Member State. These national offices will serve as national contact points for international coordination and cooperation on matters related to the protection of future generations. Sharing knowledge and best practices among nations will be facilitated to enhance the role and impact of national advocacy for future generations.

Some best practices for national action include the establishment of an ombudsperson for future generations, reserved seats in parliament for designated (elected) representatives of future generations; the creation of a publicly funded expert council for the future, with members from

universities and other research centers; and changing the law to facilitate legal challenges on behalf of future generations, such that governments can be held to account if their actions are likely to cause unjustifiable harm to future generations.

4. Call for accountability by creating key institutions and fora for future generations.

Suggested Text: Convinced that accountability is pivotal to ensuring the recognition and protection of future generations, Member States and the UN Secretary-General should work together to designate a Special Envoy for Future Generations and a Forum for Future Generations.

Actions proposed: A Special Envoy for Future Generations will be established with a mandate to advocate for intergenerational equity within the UN system and beyond. The Forum for Future Generations will be formulated as a dedicated platform for dialogue, policy formulation, and consensus-building on issues impacting future generations identified during the Summit of the Future 2024. Measurable accountability mechanisms, such as periodic reporting and reviews, will be implemented to assess Member States' adherence to the principle of intergenerational equity.

About the contribution

*This submission has been **endorsed** by: Thomas Hale from the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, Claudette Salinas Leyva and Jacob Ellis from the UN Foundation Next Generation Fellows, Malcolm Fairbrother from Uppsala University and the Institute for Future Studies, Malou Estier from the Simon Institute for Long-term Governance, Jonas G. Mikkelsen from the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies, Daouia Chalali from the Future of Climate Cooperation initiative, Abdullahi Alim from the International Chamber of Commerce, and José Jaime Villalobos.*