

Inputs on Chapter 4 – Youth and Future Generations

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On emphasising the place of children as well as youth:

- Insert mention of children alongside youth in this chapter and throughout - e.g. “children, youth and youth led” in (xv).
- As per the [Maastricht Principles](#) on the human rights of future generations (Rights of Future Generations), chapter 4 could recognise that

“Children and youth are closest in time to generations still to come and thus occupy a unique position, and have an important role to play, within this transition to long-term, multigenerational thinking. Accordingly, their perspectives and participation in decision-making with respect to long-term and intergenerational risks must be accorded special weight.”

On the Envoy for Future Generations:

- The draft should support creation of a UN envoy for future generations as outlined in [our-common-agenda-policy-brief-future-generations-en.pdf \(un.org\)](#) as a governance innovation to promote thinking and acting in the interests of Future Generations.
- The draft for Chapter 4 should consider how the Envoy would operate effectively within and across the UN system. The organisational format of the Envoy should respond to the particular difficulties of representing future generations (e.g. considering how, and to who, the Envoy is accountable).

Linking the SDGs to the Summit for the Future:

- Chapter 4 should emphasise and reaffirm the urgent need for countries to implement SDG targets that reflect elements of intergenerational justice (i) through long-term, multigenerational policymaking - e.g. target 3.d; (ii) preserving and restoring ecosystems for future generations - e.g. target 11.4 on safeguarding the world’s natural and cultural heritage for future generations, and target 15.9 on integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into policymaking and accounts; (iii) solving problems that burden generations long into the future - long-term debt sustainability (17.4)
- Chapter 4 should emphasise and reaffirm the urgent need for countries to realise SDG targets concerning children and youth, e.g. on education, child poverty and hunger; on exploitation of children (16.2) child labour (8.7), safe and accessible green space (11.7) and transport (11.2) for children, and youth employment (8.b).
- Chapter 4 should encourage countries to report in the context of the summit for the future on the status of SDG targets that specifically address children, youth, and future generations in their country contexts.
- Chapter 4 should accord and re-emphasise special priority to achieving SDG outcomes for vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged populations in line with the commitment to “leave no one behind” - aiming to ensure no-one is left behind in future generations.