Explanatory Note on the REV1 of the Declaration on Future Generations

The Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental process for the Declaration on Future Generations prepared the present document to assist Member States and Observers in their consideration of the REV1, in advance of the informal consultations on 10th June 2024.

The REV1 builds on the written inputs to the zero draft of the Declaration on Future Generations, submitted on 19th April 2024, which provided a diverse array of general comments and recommendations, textual amendments, and new language proposals. Additionally, the oral interventions made during the first reading of the zero-draft held on 14th and 17th May, allowed for greater understanding of the critical priorities and concerns of delegations, and have been instrumental in shaping this document.

Following member states’ guidance, in preparing the REV1 of the Declaration on Future Generations, the Co-Facilitators continued to aim for a succinct, action-oriented document following a three-pronged approach.

First, following suggestions by member states, adjustments were made to the text to reflect language and phraseology common to the UN system. As an example, words used in the zero draft such as “the elderly” were replaced by “older persons” and “the principles and purposes of” were added to references to “the UN Charter”. In addition, new language was introduced by the Co-Facilitators as a factual correction in paragraph 3.

Second, in relation to proposed amendments to the text in the zero draft, the co-facilitators prioritized identifying areas of clear consensus among delegations regarding priorities, actions and language, ensuring that these shared viewpoints were well represented in the REV1. In addition, to adequately address the specific interests and rights of persons with disabilities, and based on the written inputs and oral interventions by Member States, paragraph 16bis was introduced in the Guiding Principles. Where minimal divergences existed, we endeavored to balance wording to promote unified language within the revised text. Areas of clear divergence were not included in the REV1.

Third, with respect to new language proposals, including those presented during the first reading, proposals which included elements that are already being negotiated in detail within the context of the Pact for the Future and/or the Global Digital Compact were not brought forward into the REV1 to avoid duplication with these ongoing processes.

In the REV1, changes in line with the first and second paragraphs of the approach set out above are reflected throughout the document in bold. Consistent with the established approach, new language proposals by Member States are reflected in blue as paragraphs 5bis in the Preamble and 22bis in the Commitments.

Finally, in light of the suggestions made by delegations to clearly differentiate the Commitments from the Actions for implementation of the Declaration on Future Generations, a fourth heading “Actions” has been included below paragraph 27. This change is also reflected in blue.