

REV1 Declaration on Future Generations

Preamble

1. We, the Heads of State and Government at the Summit of the Future, at the United Nations Headquarters on 22 and 23 September 2024,
2. Reaffirming our commitments **to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and guided by our commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration**, as well as **our respective obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.**
3. **Reaffirming our obligations to future generations in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and our determination to safeguard their needs and interests,**

3bis. Cognizant that future generations are all those generations that do not yet exist, and who will inherit this planet, **[Former paragraph 10]**

4. Observing that many social, cultural and religious practices, as well as numerous national constitutions and legal systems, seek to safeguard future generations and promote intergenerational solidarity and responsibility,
5. **Understanding the interconnectedness of past, present and future**, and recognizing that **the decisions, actions, and inactions of present generations**, have an intergenerational multiplier effect, such that our conduct **in the past as well as actions** today will impact future generations exponentially,

5bis. Resolved to ensure that present generations act with responsibility towards safeguarding the needs and interests of future generations to ensure a better, more just and equitable world,

6. Recognizing **children and youth as critical agents of change** and the need for intergenerational dialogue and engagement, including among **children, youth and older persons**, in our **policy and decision-making processes** in order to safeguard the **needs and interests** of future generations,
7. Acknowledging that investing in building a strong foundation for **lasting international peace and security, sustainable development, the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights for all and the observance of the rule of law** is the most effective way to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations,
8. Recognizing the complex and interrelated challenges and risks faced by present generations, **as well as the projected changes to global demographics,**
9. Further **committing to build** a stronger, more resilient and **rules-based** multilateral system, **with the United Nations at its core**, underpinned by confidence and trust, for the benefit of **present and future generations,**

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Guiding Principles

In order to seize the opportunity that present generations possess to leave a better future for generations to come and to fulfill our **commitment** to meet the demands of the present in a way that safeguards the **needs and** interests of future generations, we will adhere to the following principles:

11. The maintenance of international peace and security, and the full respect for the international rule of law, must be promoted in line with the **purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter** and the principles of sovereign **equality of states** and territorial integrity,
12. **The promotion and protection of all** human rights, encompassing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and fundamental freedoms for all, and of the right to pursue and enjoy them, must be respected, **protected and fulfilled** without distinction or discrimination of any kind,
13. The **ability** of future generations to thrive in prosperity and achieve sustainable development must be guaranteed, including by addressing intergenerational transmission of poverty and hunger, inequality and injustice,
14. A **clean**, healthy, and sustainable environment, **where humanity lives in harmony with nature**, must be created and maintained by addressing the **urgent and adverse impacts** of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, **desertification and water scarcity** as well as other environmental concerns,
15. Safe, secure, **ethical** and trustworthy technology and innovation are necessary to promote **an inclusive** digital transformation, while bridging digital divides, **within and among countries** by ensuring equitable access to advances in **existing**, new and emerging technologies **as well as capacity building initiatives**,
16. The achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, **and the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind** are **necessary requirements** for a sustainable future,

16bis. Full and equal participation of persons with disabilities of present and future generations in society and all decision-making processes to ensure that no one is left behind,
17. A strong, efficient, **inclusive, transparent**, effective and robust multilateral system is essential to enhance **international solidarity and** cooperation, and rebuild trust among countries and other **relevant** stakeholders, and create a world that is equal, resilient, sustainable and **humane**.

Commitments

Guided by these principles, we hereby pledge to:

18. **Ensure** peaceful, inclusive, **resilient** and just societies while **addressing** inequalities within and **among** nations and the special needs of developing countries, as well as those of systemically marginalized communities and **persons** in vulnerable situations,

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19. Implement policies **and programmes** to achieve gender equality, eliminate **all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence**, and promote the empowerment of **women and girls** by providing equitable **social**, economic and leadership opportunities for all women and, **as appropriate**, girls in all spheres of society,
20. Eliminate all forms of persistent historical and structural inequalities, **including by acknowledging past tragedies and their consequences, as well as eradicating all forms of** discrimination, **including** racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related **forms of** intolerance,
21. Honor, promote **and preserve** cultural diversity **and heritage, including the common heritage of mankind**, foster intercultural dialogue to ensure **mutual understanding**, tolerance **and inclusion**, **conserve and restore** ecosystems and communities, as well as protect languages, knowledge systems and traditions,

21bis. **Value and protect the rights of Indigenous People**, while safeguarding their traditions, as well as spiritual and ancestral beliefs, and ensuring their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making **at all levels**,

22. Undertake comprehensive and targeted strategies to achieve sustainable **growth and** development, global resilience, **food security**, and the **eradication of** poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty **and the feminization of poverty**, to meet the needs of the present generations **and establish a more prosperous foundation for future generations**,

22bis. Promote intergenerational solidarity, as well as intergenerational dialogue and social cohesion, as an indispensable part of the foundation for the prosperity of future generations and, in this regard, recognize the role of families as contributors to sustainable development, [Former 10quater]

23. Prioritize urgent action on climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, water scarcity, and other environmental challenges, **including measures to promote resilience and reduce disaster risks, in order** to safeguard vulnerable communities **and fragile eco-systems** and ensure a **clean**, healthy, and sustainable environment, **and noting the importance of the concept of “climate justice” when taking action to address climate change**,
24. Harness the benefits of new and emerging technologies and mitigate the associated risks in a constructive and safe manner through effective and equitable governance at the global and regional levels, including through building capacity and promoting the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms to eliminate the digital and innovation divide, as outlined in the Pact for the Future and the annexed Global Digital Compact,
25. Strengthen cooperation among states in their response to demographic trends and realities, including on safe, orderly and regular migration between countries of origin, transit and destination, **as well as interlinkages between population issues and development, such as labour market needs**, to ensure that the **needs and** interests of both present and future generations across all regions will be fully safeguarded,
26. Invest in **accessible**, inclusive, **safe**, and equitable quality education **for all**, as well as opportunities for lifelong learning **and digital literacy**, allowing for the intergenerational acquisition and transfer of knowledge and skills to advance the prospects of future generations,

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27. Guarantee **that** future generations **will enjoy the same right** to the highest **attainable** standard of **physical and mental** health, through universal health **coverage, and strengthened and resilient health systems**, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all **across generations**.

Actions

Acknowledging the primary role and responsibility of governments, at all levels, towards safeguarding the needs and interests of future generations, we will implement, institutionalize and monitor the above commitments, in national, regional and global policy-making by:

28. Leveraging science, data, **statistics** and strategic foresight to ensure long-term thinking and planning, develop and implement sustainable practices and the institutional reforms necessary **to ensure evidence-based and** future-proof decision-making while making governance more anticipatory, adaptive and responsive to future **opportunities**, risks and challenges,
29. Ensuring **inclusive and equitable access to knowledge, science and information**, while promoting **innovation**, critical thinking and life-skills to create generations of citizens that are agents of positive change and transformation,
30. Transforming our systems of national and global accounting, **including** by promoting the use of **forward-looking** impact assessments, developing stronger anticipatory risk analyses and **a framework on measures of progress on sustainable development that complement and go beyond gross domestic product**,
31. Investing in capacity to better prepare for and respond to future global shocks by avoiding and mitigating risks, **and** using forecasting and foresight, while ensuring that **persons and countries in the most vulnerable situations** do not bear disproportionate costs and burdens of mitigation, restoration and resilience building,
32. Undertaking a **whole-of-government** approach to coordination, including at the local level, on the development, assessment, implementation **and evaluation** of policies that safeguard the **needs and** interests of future generations,
33. Developing partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia, the scientific and technological community and the private sector, as well as intergenerational partnerships, **by promoting a whole-of-society approach**, to share best practices and develop innovative, long-term and forward-thinking ideas in order to fulfill the needs **and** interests of future generations,
34. Equipping the multilateral system, including the United Nations, to support Member States in their efforts to **implement this Declaration and** embed future generations and long-term thinking in policy-making processes by fostering **cooperation** and facilitating greater use of foresight, science and data, and raising awareness of and advising on the likely intergenerational or future impacts of policies and programmes,
35. Adopting a future-oriented organizational culture **that is mainstreamed** across the United Nations system to facilitate science- **and evidence** based decision-making **and working methods** by

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developing diverse capabilities, including foresight and futures literacy, and systematically promoting long-term and intergenerational thinking at all levels.

36. Recognizing the important advisory and advocacy role of the United Nations with respect to future generations, we:

Encourage the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Envoy for Future Generations;

[and/or]

Decide to establish a facilitative, inclusive annual forum or high-level meeting on future generations that will review this Declaration every [five years] to reaffirm and update the responsibility of present generations to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations, creating a living compact between past, present, and future;

[and/or]

Decide to include the question of future generations as an agenda item of the General Assembly;

[and/or]

Request the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on the implementation of commitments and the embedding of long-term thinking in the interest of future generations within the United Nations system for consideration by the General Assembly.