

# Building Hopeful Futures - Implementing the Declaration on Future Generations

## 1. The DFG and the African Union

**Date:** Thursday, 13th February 2025

**Location:** Kenyan Mission to the UN, 866 UN Plaza, Suite 304, New York, NY 10017 + Hybrid

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The Dialogue Session on “The DFG and the African Union” was the first of a series of dialogues titled “The DFG Dialogue Series.” The series is a strategic initiative led by the **Permanent Missions of Kenya, Jamaica, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the School of International Futures (SOIF)**. The dialogues are designed to advance the principles enshrined in the Declaration on Future Generations (DFG), specifically recognizing **Article 28**, which acknowledges the **primary role and responsibility of governments at all levels in safeguarding the needs and interests of future generations through the whole policy cycle**. By convening policymakers, civil society representatives, and experts, these dialogues will address multilateral opportunities for DFG implementation and the adoption of long-term governance strategies within key global policy discussions across geographic and thematic areas.

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### The DFG and the African Union: Summary of Discussions

This first session of the **DFG Dialogue Series** focused on the Future Generations agenda in Africa, bringing to the table a set of initiatives from Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, and South Africa that demonstrated clear examples of the pathways for implementing the DFG commitments that are currently being deployed at the local levels. In an open and interactive discussion, participants reflected on how these **tangible actions and pockets of innovation<sup>1</sup> across the foresight governance prism<sup>2</sup> are already transforming governance from intergenerationally fair perspectives that serve as valuable models for learning and scaling**. Conducted under **Chatham House Rules**, the session provided a platform to:

- Explore the potential of integrating the **Future Generations framework** into African governance, particularly in alignment with **Agenda 2063**.
- Identify key **policy areas** where long-term approaches could drive substantive change, including **debt sustainability, economic diversification, climate resilience, youth engagement, and governance innovation**.
- Leverage African **Indigenous governance traditions and community-led initiatives** to strengthen intergenerational fairness in policymaking.
- Position Africa’s leadership in upcoming global conversations, including, among others, the **2025 G20 Summit, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), and the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)**.

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<sup>1</sup> See **Annex 2 and 3** for further information on innovations globally and in Africa.

<sup>2</sup> See **Annex 1** for further reference.



This session addressed the crucial question raised by co-facilitators: “What do we do now?” and explored practical ways to embed DFG principles into legislative processes in tangible, bipartisan ways. The discussion allowed participants to engage in candid, solution-oriented dialogue that addressed the following:

1. **Trust in the Future Generations Agenda:** The global community has moved past skepticism regarding intergenerational governance. There is now a broad recognition that **long-term governance mechanisms are essential**, and the DFG serves as a key framework to build trust and accountability in policy-making.
2. **The discussion about the 'future' is an urgent debate:** There is a **small window of opportunity**, and decisive action is needed now to ensure effective implementation.
3. **Whole-of-government leadership & support:** Institutionalizing **foresight-driven decision-making** requires bi-partisan parliamentary engagement and **leadership at the executive level** to ensure cross-sectoral coordination.
4. **Leveraging existing mechanisms instead of creating new ones:** There is an opportunity to **fully utilize underused governance structures**, ensuring that intergenerational fairness is embedded within **legislative, budgetary, and policy-making processes**.
5. **Engaging indigenous leadership & regional approaches:** Contributions emphasized the **role of indigenous leaders**, particularly in the **Three Basins Initiative**, as well as the potential of **regional dialogues to strengthen Intergenerational Fairness (IGF) implementation across Africa and beyond**.
6. **Youth-led Future of Africa conversations:** Ensuring that **youth voices are central** to IGF discussions will be a **key factor for success**, helping to shape governance frameworks that reflect both present and future needs.
7. **Ensuring scrutiny, accountability & action:** Participants highlighted the necessity of **clear indicators, ongoing support, and monitoring mechanisms** to ensure that commitments translate into measurable impact. IGF assessments should not be treated as an **add-on** but rather a **fundamental policy tool** that includes **youth perspectives in discussions about future generations**.
8. **Balancing present and future needs:** There is a **latent tension between addressing current youth concerns and safeguarding future generations**. The **IGFLens** can help **prioritize action today while ensuring sustainability for the future**.
9. **Effective responses require ecosystemic action:** Countries need senior leadership commitment, citizen engagement, and technocratic system interventions, including capability building.
10. **Connecting to financial decisions is critical:** Ensuring that IGF is embedded in **economic frameworks and budgetary processes** is key to long-term success.



## Words to Action

To translate these discussions into action, the following actions were suggested:

- **Embedding Future Generations Principles in AU and Regional Processes:**  
Strengthening Africa's long-term governance infrastructure by institutionalizing foresight mechanisms within national policies and AU frameworks, and expanding these initiatives to other regional processes.
- **Developing Financial Strategies for Intergenerational Governance:**  
Engaging with regional and international financial actors to explore sustainable financing options for governance innovation.
- **Enhancing Africa's Role in Global Governance Discussions:**  
Advancing African perspectives in global deliberations and inter-governmental processes, including the upcoming G20 Summit and FfD4, and other multilateral platforms to ensure that the future generations agenda remains a priority.
- **Elevating Intergenerational Fairness assessment as a Governance Tool:**  
Ensuring that IGF assessments are used not just as a technical tool but as a means to build the sense of solidarity and urgency that is needed to address current challenges without compromising the rights and ambitions of future generations.
- **Strengthening Knowledge-Sharing and Collaboration:**  
Facilitating ongoing regional dialogues, research partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives to support the institutionalization of future governance approaches. Including some member states keen to map and share what is happening in their countries



**Representatives from the following were represented at the event:**

Permanent Mission of Canada  
Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Permanent Mission of Ethiopia  
Permanent Mission of Ghana  
Permanent Mission of Italy  
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco  
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa  
Permanent Mission of Germany  
Permanent Mission of Portugal  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland  
Permanent Mission of the United States of America  
Permanent Mission of France  
UN Executive Office of the Secretary General  
UN Youth Office  
UN Population Fund  
Global Partnership for Education  
Save the Children  
Stimson Center  
Baha'i International Community  
Future of Climate Cooperation  
UN University  
Project Starling

For further information on [in-country innovations, technical advice on national level mapping and implementation or opportunities for engagement](#), please contact:

School of International Futures (SOIF) – Diyana West, [diyana@soif.org.uk](mailto:diyana@soif.org.uk)



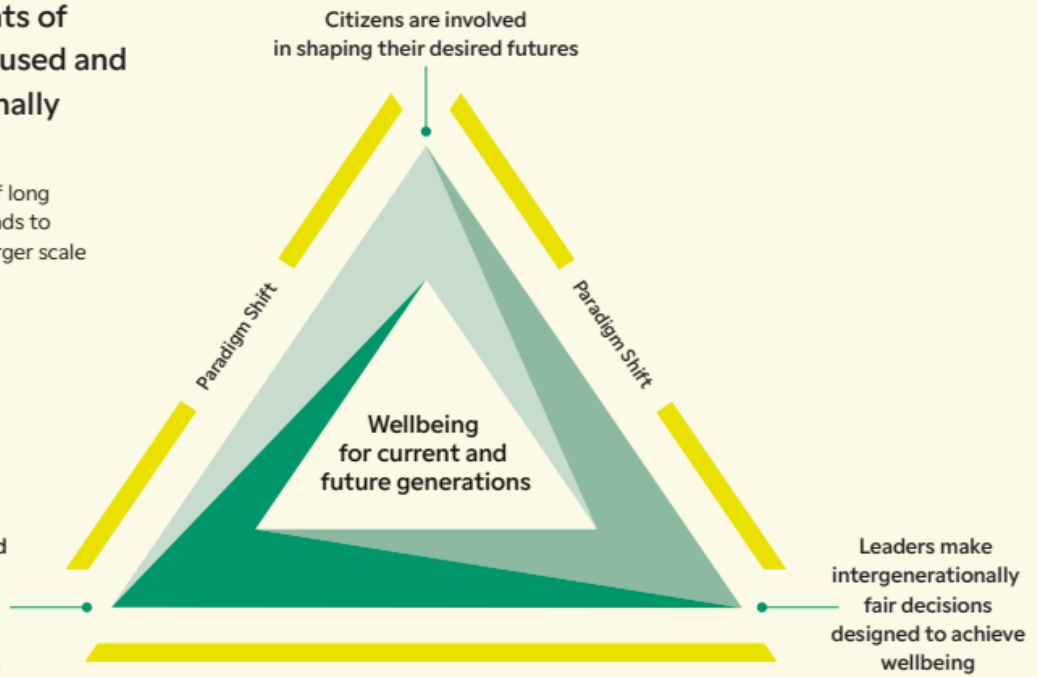
Annex 1. The Foresight Governance Prism, from the [Working for Current and Future Generations: Handbook on DFG Implementation](#) (SOIF, 2024).

Figure 1: The Foresight Governance Prism

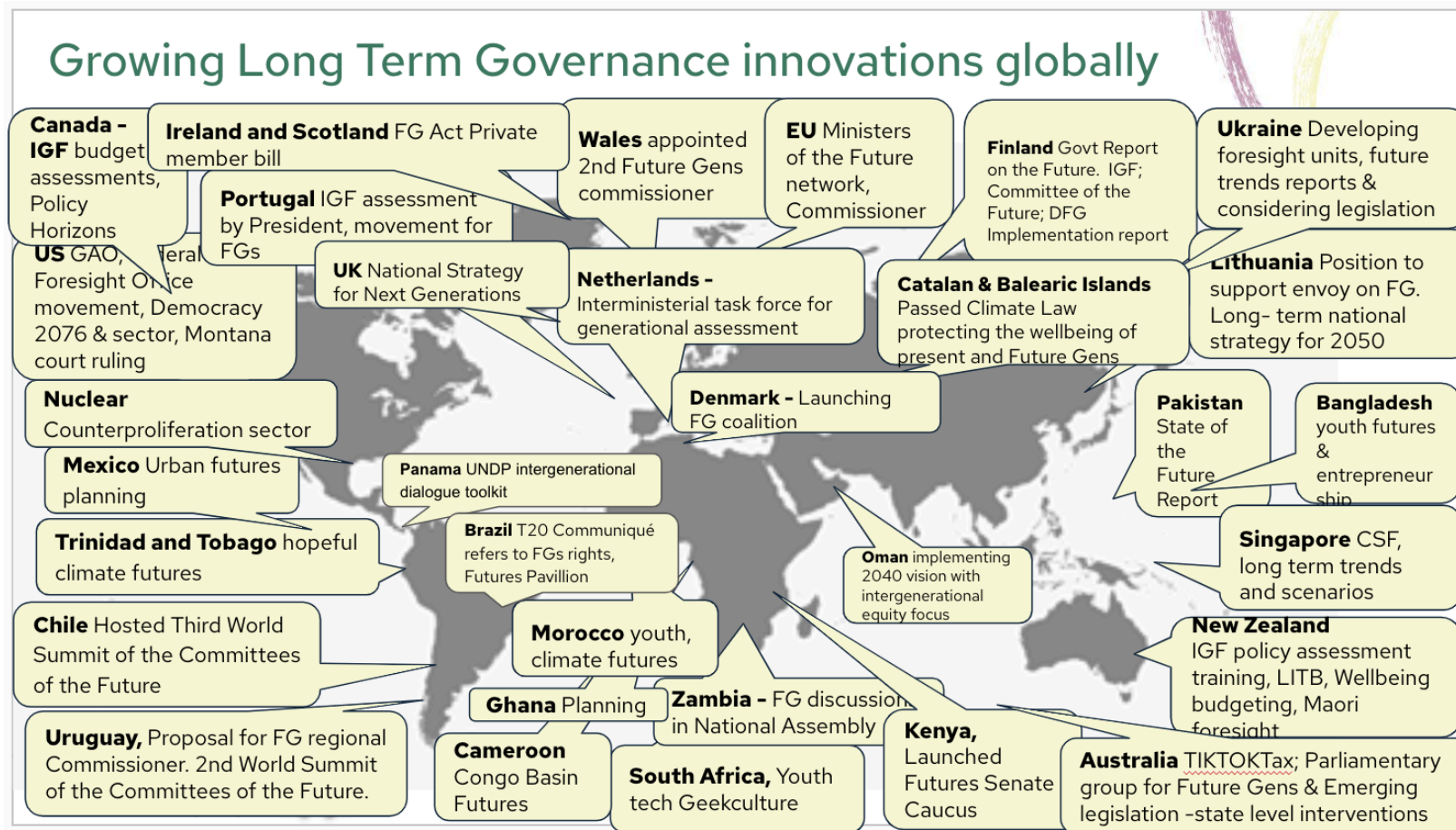
### The Components of a wellbeing focused and intergenerationally fair system

Systems show signs of long term change which leads to paradigm shift on a larger scale

Organisations and sectors are prepared for the future and can design and implement policy based on wellbeing



## Annex 2. Long-Term Governance Innovations Across the World.



## Africa: Innovations across the continent

