

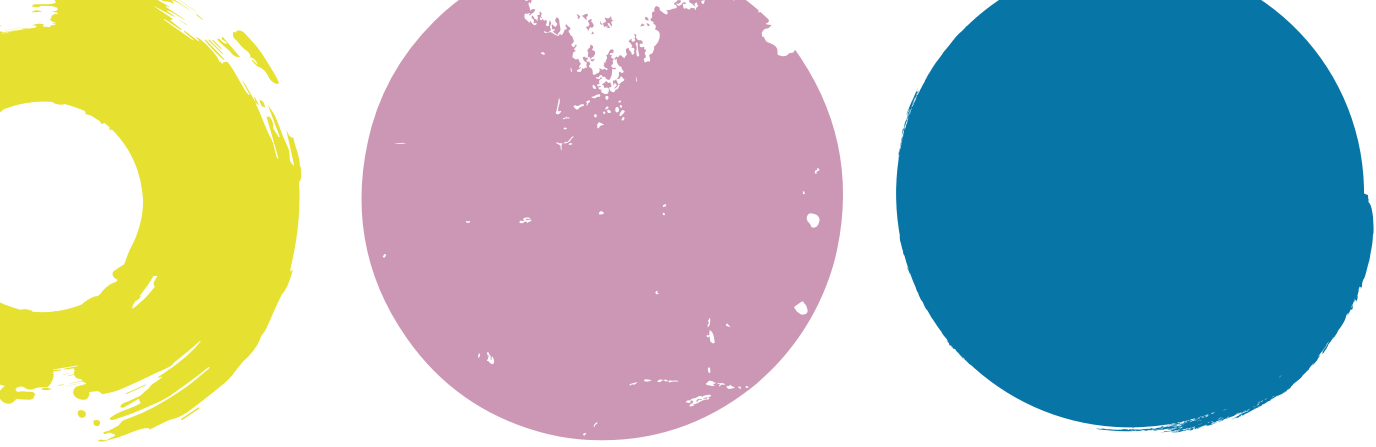
From Promise to Practice: The Road to 2028 for Future Generations

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A Mid-Point Review of the
Implementation of the UN
Declaration on Future Generations



School of
International
Futures



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The Permanent Missions of Jamaica, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Kenya to the UN and co-hosts of the Declaration on Future Generations Dialogue Series for their global leadership and commitment to the wellbeing of future generations.

The global community of steadfast champions working on long-term governance and the wellbeing of future generations, including members of SOIF's Long-Term Governance (LTG) Networks, national hubs and Next Generation Foresight Practitioner community, as well as our partners across the ImpACT Coalition for Future Generations, the Network of Institutions and Leaders for Future Generations, the Coalition for the UN We Need, UN University Centre for Policy Research, UN Foundation, UNICEF Youth Foresight Fellowship and Network, Teach the Future and the Young Voices community, the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and Earth for All who have all inspired, supported and contributed direct text submissions and insights from our survey.

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Foreword

By the Permanent Missions of Jamaica,
the Kingdom of the Netherlands and
Kenya to the UN



The need for long-term governance has never been more urgent. At a time when the world faces increasingly complex and interconnected challenges that no country can address alone, the UN Declaration on Future Generations (DFG) offers a unifying framework for strengthening governance, renewing confidence in multilateral cooperation, and ensuring that the decisions we make today better reflect the interests of both current and future generations.



For all those who recognise that something fundamental needs to change in how we govern, the Declaration offers a framework and a movement to get behind – one that gives assurance that this shift is possible and confidence that it is already underway. Halfway to the 2028 review of the UN DFG, there is growing evidence that this shared vision is moving from commitment to action. This midpoint is an inflection point and the choices made now will determine the level of success we will achieve. As members of the Group of Friends for Future Generations, we have been encouraged by this momentum and by the growing commitment of Member States and partners to translate the Declaration's principles into practice.

Across the multilateral system, the Declaration is beginning to influence conversations on institutional renewal, including through the work of the Group of Friends for Future Generations, the UN80 process, and wider discussions on the future of international cooperation. At the national level, governments are adapting its principles in ways that reflect their own constitutional, political and institutional contexts. Legislatures are strengthening scrutiny and accountability, public institutions are embedding longer-term thinking into policymaking, and civil society, academia, businesses, cities and young people are forging new partnerships and approaches. Together, these efforts demonstrate that the Declaration does not serve as a stand-alone agenda. It provides a common framework that can connect and strengthen existing efforts towards more anticipatory, inclusive and resilient governance.

At the midpoint between the Declaration's adoption and its mandated 2028 review, it is becoming clear that there is no single pathway to implement the Declaration. Countries are advancing long-term governance in ways that reflect their own priorities, institutions and governing traditions. Parliamentary innovation in Argentina, accountability mechanisms within the Netherlands' public service, citizen engagement in Nigeria and whole-of-society coalition building in Ireland demonstrate different approaches to a shared ambition. What unites these experiences is a recognition that governing for future generations is strongest when it is embedded across institutions and supported by partnerships between governments, legislatures, local authorities, civil society, academia, the private sectors and communities.

This progress gives us reason for optimism, but it also underscores the work that lies ahead. Across regions and sectors, promising approaches continue to emerge, yet many remain disconnected or dependent on individual champions. In this next phase, it is crucial to strengthen the connections between existing efforts, sharing practical experience and building the institutional foundations that allow long-term governance to endure beyond electoral cycles and political transitions. By learning from one another and working together, we can accelerate progress far beyond what any one institution or country could achieve alone.

The years ahead present an important opportunity to build on this momentum. As Member States continue discussions on the future of the United Nations, advance the Beyond GDP agenda and prepare for the post-2030 framework, the principles of the Declaration can help strengthen intergenerational fairness and institutionalise future-generations thinking. Additionally, we expect that the next Secretary-General will carry this agenda forward, championing its principles as a core part of the UN's ongoing renewal. At the same time, countries are increasingly seeking practical tools, stronger partnerships and opportunities to learn from one another's experiences. Responding to that demand will require sustained political leadership, continued collaboration across regions and sectors, and investment in the institutions and capabilities that can not only make long-term governance possible, but make it the standard of good governance.

This independent midpoint review is offered in support of that shared endeavour. It brings together evidence and experiences from across regions and levels of governance to assess progress since the Declaration's adoption, identify emerging opportunities and highlight practical approaches that can inform action elsewhere. While implementation will always reflect different national contexts and priorities, the lessons emerging from one country, institution or community can help strengthen progress in another. We hope this review contributes to the continued exchange of knowledge, experience and practical solutions as the pace of implementation continues to accelerate.



The Declaration on Future Generations calls on us to govern with greater foresight, responsibility and solidarity. Halfway to the 2028 review, we have an opportunity to turn early momentum into lasting institutional change. By the time Member States come together again in 2028, our success should be measured not only by the commitments we have reaffirmed, but by the extent to which the principles of the Declaration have become embedded in the institutions we strengthen, the policies we shape and the partnerships we build. We hope to encourage governments, parliamentarians, international organisations, local authorities, civil society, academia, businesses, philanthropies and young people to continue learning from one another, deepen collaboration across sectors and regions, and strengthen the broad coalition needed to ensure that governance is better equipped to serve both present and future generations.



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Executive Summary



September 2026 is a critical moment for the Declaration on Future Generations. We are halfway between its adoption in September 2024 and its formal review in 2028. In these two years, much has been achieved, and much has changed.

We are operating in an extraordinarily difficult global context, making the Declaration's ambition both more challenging and more necessary. If the Declaration is to fulfil its transformative potential, the next two years must demonstrate in practical ways how it can move beyond being a normative anchor to become a driver of change: relevant to the realities governments and communities face today, while helping them make better decisions for tomorrow.

Since 2024, building on the Declaration and the [Implementation Handbook¹](#) we developed alongside it, and last year's update, [One Year in Practice²](#), we have been connecting with, learning from and supporting a growing community of innovators using long-term and intergenerational governance to drive change. This stocktake brings those experiences together – drawing on coalitions, networks, governments, institutions and individual innovators across countries and sectors – to celebrate what is working, identify where the gaps remain, and ask what needs to happen for the Declaration to have real impact by 2028. We hope it can help us ruthlessly prioritise impact and resources: moving from words and commitments towards evidence, action and measurable progress.

The Declaration is, by design, a generational mission. We cannot expect its full transformation to be visible within four years. But by 2028, we should be able to see compelling evidence that it is enabling transformative change in specific areas, that its principles are relevant across very different national contexts, and that it is particularly serving the generations and countries whose futures are most at stake.

This report has been brought together by the Long-Term Governance practice at SOIF, but it is ultimately a reflection of the extraordinary work of thousands of people around the world who are experimenting, organising, building institutions, forming

- 1 SOIF (2024), Working for the Wellbeing of Current and Future Generations.
https://soif.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/09/SOIF_DFG_Implementation_Handbook_Sept-2024.pdf
- 2 SOIF (2025), One Year in Practice: Stories of Global Action for Future Generations.
https://soif.org.uk/app/uploads/2025/09/25.09.18_SOIF_Implementation_Handbook_Digital.pdf

networks and creating coalitions for change. We pay tribute to them – and to the many people working, often with limited resources and in difficult circumstances, to make governance more capable of serving both current and future generations. The opportunity now is to connect and activate that potential at greater scale. The next two years should be about doing exactly that, so that the 2028 review can mark not simply another moment of commitment, but a powerful demonstration that long-term governance can deliver meaningful change.

1. Long-term governance matters now more than ever

Economic, technological, environmental and security transitions are creating choices whose consequences will extend across decades and generations. Questions about debt, pensions, AI, employment, infrastructure, energy, climate resilience and security are increasingly also questions about how risks, costs and opportunities are distributed over time.

2026 has brought this into sharp relief. Many challenges that once felt distant or long term are now being experienced in people's everyday lives: extreme heat, drought and threats to food security; rapid technological change and fears about the future of jobs; pressures on housing, migration and public services; and growing geopolitical and economic uncertainty. People are increasingly asking whether today's institutions are capable of responding to these challenges, contributing to declining trust and legitimacy. The message is becoming harder to ignore: the systems and approaches that brought society to this point will not be sufficient for what lies ahead. This demands a reimagining of how societies govern for a very different future – and how that can translate into changes that make a tangible difference to people's lives today.

So long-term governance is not an abstract aspiration. It is increasingly a practical requirement for governing well today. The challenge is not simply to think further ahead, but to build institutions capable of anticipating change, managing trade-offs fairly, drawing on different forms of evidence and knowledge, and involving people in decisions whose consequences will outlast current political cycles.

The DFG provides a shared normative framework for doing this. Its relevance will ultimately depend not on how often it is referenced, but on whether it helps societies make better decisions under conditions of uncertainty and rapid change.



2. There is much to celebrate two years after the Declaration

Two years is too short to expect governance systems to have transformed. But there are important signs of momentum.

The Declaration is providing **shared language, legitimacy and a common point of reference** for people and institutions already advancing strategic foresight, anticipatory and wellbeing governance, intergenerational impact assessment, parliamentary scrutiny, citizen participation, Indigenous governance and long-term planning.

The DFG should therefore not be judged simply by the number of institutions or programmes created in its name. Its contribution also lies in helping dispersed communities recognise a common endeavour, strengthening the legitimacy of existing innovation and creating opportunities for ideas and practice to travel.

3. Highlights are emerging across a wider movement

Long-term governance is developing across multilateral processes, countries, regions, cities, communities and policy sectors.

This review captures examples ranging from the UN Group of Friends for Future Generations and wider work on Beyond GDP and Financing for Development, to developments in Australia, Brazil, Chile, India, Italy, Kenya and elsewhere. Other contributions explore how intergenerational thinking is entering health, culture and finance, and how law, audit, foresight, participation and communication can give long-term considerations greater influence over decisions.

These examples are **illustrative, not comprehensive or a ranking of “best practice.”** Some explicitly use the DFG; others predate it or use different language. Together they demonstrate the diversity of routes through which a shared global commitment can take root and reinforce a central lesson: no single institution, country or professional community owns this agenda. The Declaration should not be judged by whether it directly created new institutions or programmes.

Rather, it should be judged by whether it has helped connect, legitimise and accelerate the many people and organisations already innovating around long-term governance.

4. Progress is real, but implementation remains difficult

Governance transformation is inherently difficult and takes time. The 2026 stocktake captures the tension clearly. Experts rated global progress at an average of **2.43 out of 5**, while rating the Declaration's **unrealised potential at 4.18 out of 5**. More than four in five respondents assessed that remaining potential as high or transformative.

The gap is not primarily one of ideas. It is one of **embedding and implementation**. The Declaration provides an important framework, but implementation requires much deeper institutional change. We have identified four areas that need urgent attention in 2027 to help ensure the 2028 review is a success.

- A Awareness remains uneven.** Progress is fragmented and often dependent on individual champions. Practical capability and implementation support remain limited. Long-term thinking too rarely reaches the institutions controlling budgets, planning, legislation and investment. Evidence about what changes decisions remains weak, while investment has not matched ambition, particularly across the Global Majority.
- B Implementation is inherently complex.** Governments are attempting simultaneously to apply intergenerational approaches across AI, finance, climate, security, health and economic policy. This requires whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. It must be both cross-cutting and sufficiently concrete to influence real decisions.
- C Institutional support remains weak.** There is still no sustained multilateral implementation architecture. Challenges include: the absence of a Special Envoy; limited institutional ownership; weak peer learning; limited measurement; and fragmented support.
- D Funding remains inadequate.** Long-term governance remains significantly underfunded. This is particularly acute in Global Majority countries, despite these countries often demonstrating some of the most innovative practice and facing the greatest long-term governance challenges. Funding is needed not only for technical capability but also for: movement building; network weaving; peer learning; supporting Horizon 2 and Horizon 3 innovators.

5. From momentum to transformation: the road to 2028

The next two years should focus on embedding long-term governance rather than simply expanding commitments.

Success in 2028 should be judged by whether countries have become better able to govern for both current and future generations: with clear evidence of new governing approaches – from legislation to scrutiny and foresight – that are unlocking tangible progress on the issues people care about, from housing and secure livelihoods to their children's prospects and the ability of communities to thrive in a changing climate.

A high-ambition 2028 review should not expect governance systems everywhere to have transformed. But it should find compelling evidence that a transition is underway across four dimensions:

Global relevance: practical examples across different political, economic, demographic and cultural contexts.

Governance reform leading to policy impact: evidence that new capabilities and mechanisms are influencing real choices about budgets, legislation, planning, investment and policy.

Better multilateral governance: greater use of intergenerational thinking in addressing shared global challenges rather than treating future generations as a standalone agenda.

Stronger implementation architecture: better access to practical tools, technical assistance, evidence, peer learning, networks and resources.



The priorities for the next two years should respond to the question: *How do we measure progress on – and support the implementation and resourcing of – commitments around long-termism, intergenerational fairness and sustainable development?* This could include:

1. Strengthening political and multilateral leadership, while embedding long-term thinking where decisions carry authority.
2. Investing in implementation, particularly locally led innovation and leadership across the Global Majority.
3. Building practical capability across governments and wider society.
4. Strengthening evidence, measurement and accountability around what changes decisions.
5. Investing in the infrastructure of change: the networks, relationships, hubs and peer learning through which practice can connect, spread and endure.

Two years after its adoption, the Declaration on Future Generations has helped catalyse a growing global movement for long-term governance.

The challenge now is to move beyond emerging momentum and build the institutions, capabilities, partnerships and implementation architecture needed to embed long-term governance in everyday decision-making.

The 2028 review should therefore judge success not simply by the number of commitments made, but by how positive citizens around the world feel about their own and their children's futures, and whether societies have become better equipped to improve the wellbeing of both current and future generations.

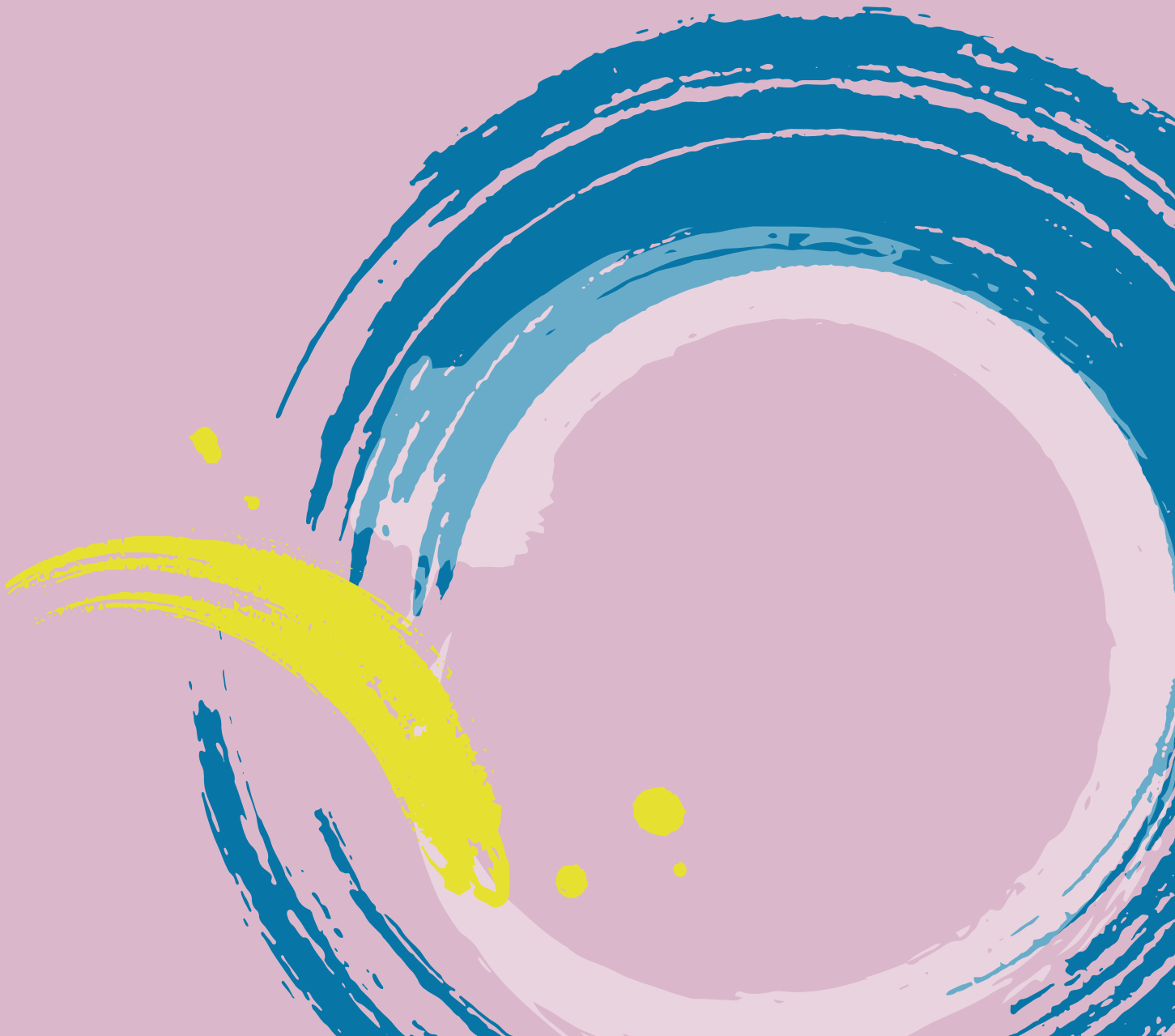


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What is the Declaration on Future Generations?



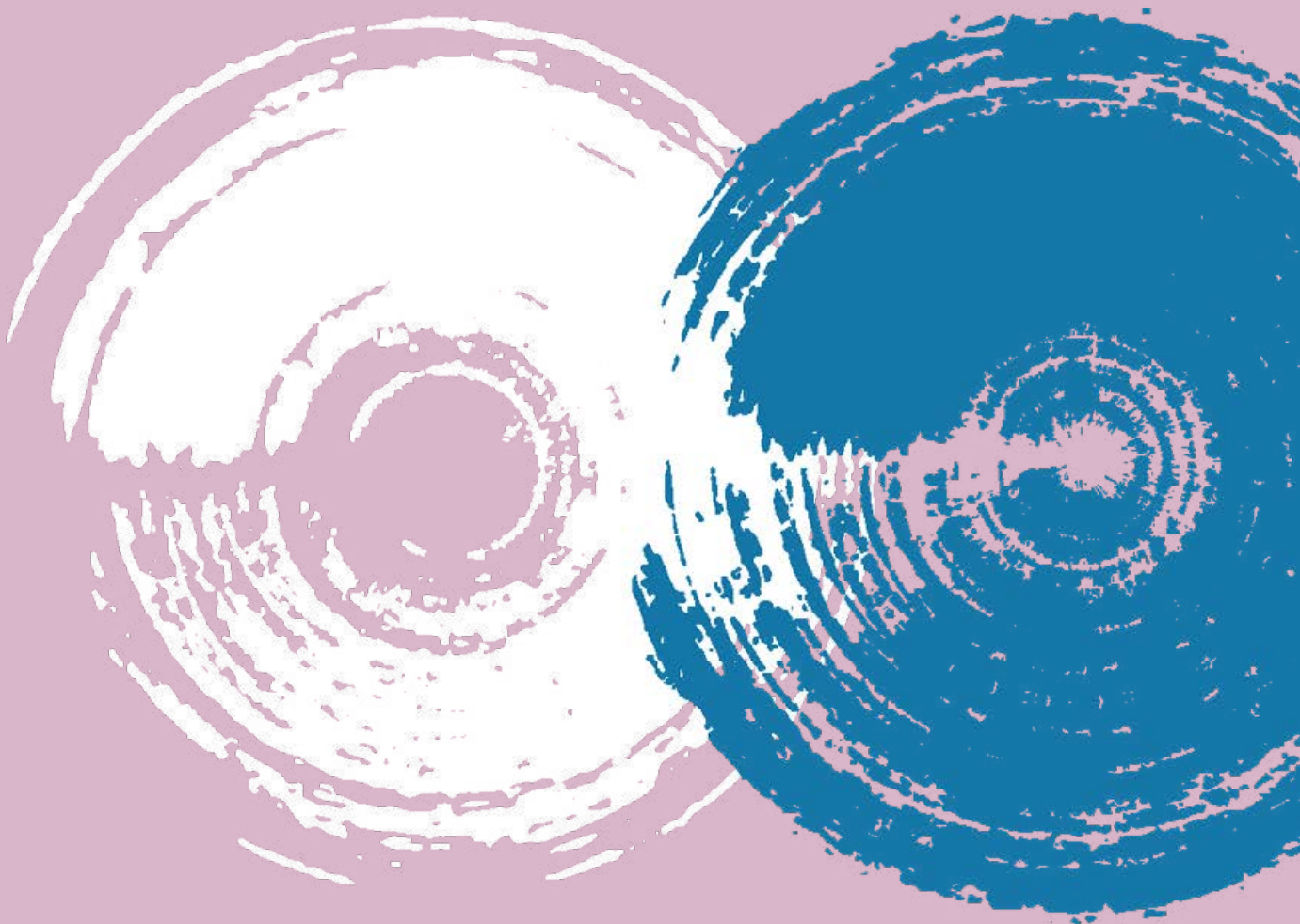
Adopted by all UN Member States at the 2024 Summit of the Future as an annex to the Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations (DFG) is a global commitment to better account for the needs and interests of future generations in decisions made today.

The principles underpinning the Declaration are not new. Responsibilities to future generations have deep roots across cultures and Indigenous traditions and have long been reflected in national institutions, international agreements and approaches to sustainable development. What the DFG provides is a **shared global framework** that brings these traditions and practices together around a common commitment to more anticipatory, inclusive and long-term decision-making.

The Declaration calls for stronger use of foresight, science, data and evidence; greater capacity to anticipate and respond to risks and shocks; meaningful participation and intergenerational dialogue; and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. It also recognises that safeguarding the interests of future generations requires action across the UN system and at national and local levels.

Our 2024 Implementation Handbook explored what ambitious implementation of these commitments could look like in practice and introduced approaches already being used around the world. The 2025 update, *One Year in Practice*, documented the first wave of action following adoption and the lessons beginning to emerge.

About the 2026 Mid-Point Review



This update takes stock of progress at the midpoint between the Declaration’s adoption in 2024 and its mandated review by Member States in 2028. It asks not only what has happened, but what the first two years are teaching us about how long-term governance takes root, where implementation is stalling, and what is needed for more durable change by 2028.

As part of this update, we surveyed **28 experts** drawn from our global network in long-term governance, foresight and intergenerational policy to gather their perspectives on progress since the Declaration’s adoption, its unrealised potential and priorities for the next phase. The names of experts consulted are listed in the Appendix.

Alongside the stocktake, this update deliberately includes direct contributions from practitioners, public institutions, researchers and community leaders working across different regions, sectors and levels of governance. These perspectives are not presented as a uniform evidence base or a single SOIF voice. They provide windows into how long-term governance is being understood, adapted and, at times, contested in practice.

The examples included throughout the update are **illustrative rather than comprehensive**. They are not intended as a representative global sample, ranking or collection of “best practice.” They have been selected to show the diversity of routes through which long-term governance is developing: across geographies and income contexts; from multilateral to national, subnational and community levels; through different institutional and civic entry points; and across different policy challenges and governance mechanisms. Some explicitly use the Declaration; others reflect longstanding or emerging practice that the Declaration can help connect and legitimise.

There is no single model for governing for future generations, and progress cannot be understood through one institution, geography or pathway alone. The aim of bringing these different forms of evidence and experience together is to identify **what they can teach us about the conditions that allow long-term governance to take root, influence decisions and endure.**

Halfway to 2028: Assessing Progress



Two years after the adoption of the UN Declaration on Future Generations, the pressures that make long-term governance necessary have only intensified. Geopolitical instability, rapid technological change, environmental pressures, economic inequality and demographic shifts are forcing governments to navigate increasingly difficult trade-offs whose consequences extend well beyond current political and planning cycles.

At the midpoint between adoption in 2024 and the mandated review in 2028, the question is therefore not simply whether the Declaration is being implemented. This update is concerned more broadly with whether **long-term governance is becoming a stronger and more practical response to the challenges societies already face**, and with the role the Declaration can play in supporting that shift: providing shared language and legitimacy, connecting existing practice and creating space for new approaches to develop.

The 2026 stocktake presents a mixed picture. Progress is real, but remains early and uneven. Innovation is emerging across geographies, levels of governance and sectors, while awareness, institutional capacity, resources and connections between initiatives remain limited. At the same time, experts see considerable unrealised potential in the Declaration. The next two years will be critical in determining whether this emerging momentum becomes more durable practice.

Why long-term governance matters now more than ever

Every generation inherits the consequences of decisions made before it. Today's societies live with infrastructure built decades ago, institutions designed for different realities, and the accumulated effects of past choices about public finances, natural resources, technology and security. The decisions being made now about infrastructure, artificial intelligence, housing, education, energy and health will similarly shape the opportunities and constraints inherited by generations to come.

What distinguishes the present moment is the **speed, scale and interconnectedness of change**. Governments increasingly face decisions whose consequences extend far beyond an electoral cycle, while many risks once framed as future challenges are already affecting people today. Four major transitions make this particularly visible:

1. **Economic transition.** Public debt, taxation, pensions, housing, employment, infrastructure and social care raise fundamental questions about how opportunities, assets and obligations are distributed across time. Decisions about what to invest in, defer or protect today can expand or constrain the choices available to both current and future generations.
2. **Technological transition.** Artificial intelligence, automation and other emerging technologies are changing employment, education, public administration, information systems and economic competitiveness at a pace that often exceeds governments' ability to anticipate their effects. Their benefits and risks will also be distributed unevenly across societies and generations.
3. **Environmental, energy and resource transition.** Climate change and biodiversity loss interact with energy security, food and water systems, land use, infrastructure and access to critical resources. Choices about mitigation, adaptation and investment will shape both the resilience of communities experiencing these pressures today and the risks inherited tomorrow.
4. **Security transition.** Conflict, geopolitical competition and systemic risks create pressure to prioritise immediate security needs. Yet long-term security also depends on societal resilience: the ability to anticipate shocks, protect critical systems, maintain social cohesion and prevent vulnerabilities from accumulating.

These transitions are deeply interconnected. Technological change affects energy demand and employment; climate pressures influence migration, food security and conflict; demographic change affects public finances and labour markets; and inequality shapes who is most exposed to these pressures. Decisions in one area can therefore create consequences across many others and over very different timescales.

Long-term governance is about developing the institutions, capabilities and cultures needed to navigate this complexity: **anticipating change; understanding long-term and systemic effects; managing trade-offs fairly; drawing on different forms of evidence and knowledge; engaging citizens in difficult choices; and retaining the capacity to adapt.**

The intergenerational social contract is changing

Demographic change is reshaping relationships between generations and challenging assumptions on which many institutions and public policies were built. Longer lives and ageing populations in some countries are changing the demands placed on pensions, healthcare, social care and labour markets. Elsewhere, exceptionally youthful populations create different pressures and opportunities around education, employment, housing and political participation.

These very different demographic realities raise a common set of questions about the **intergenerational social contract**: who benefits from decisions made today, who bears their costs, whose interests are represented, and how responsibilities and opportunities are shared across generations.

Intergenerational governance does not require choosing between people living today and those who will live tomorrow. It requires institutions capable of recognising their interdependence and **meeting present needs without unnecessarily diminishing the choices and wellbeing available to future generations.**

The DFG provides a shared global framework that can help connect and strengthen this wider shift towards long-term governance. It asks governments and societies to consider the consequences of today's decisions, who will bear them, whose interests and knowledge are represented, and what capabilities institutions need to respond. **Its significance will ultimately depend less on whether activity is explicitly labelled as DFG implementation than on whether it helps long-term thinking gain greater legitimacy and influence in the places where consequential decisions are made.**

What does successful implementation look like?

Two years after the Declaration's adoption, successful implementation cannot be measured only by the number of institutions, strategies, policies or programmes explicitly created in its name. Many of the approaches needed to govern with future generations in mind already exist across different contexts: from strategic foresight and wellbeing governance to citizens' assemblies, youth participation, commissioners and ombudspersons, long-term planning and intergenerational impact assessments.

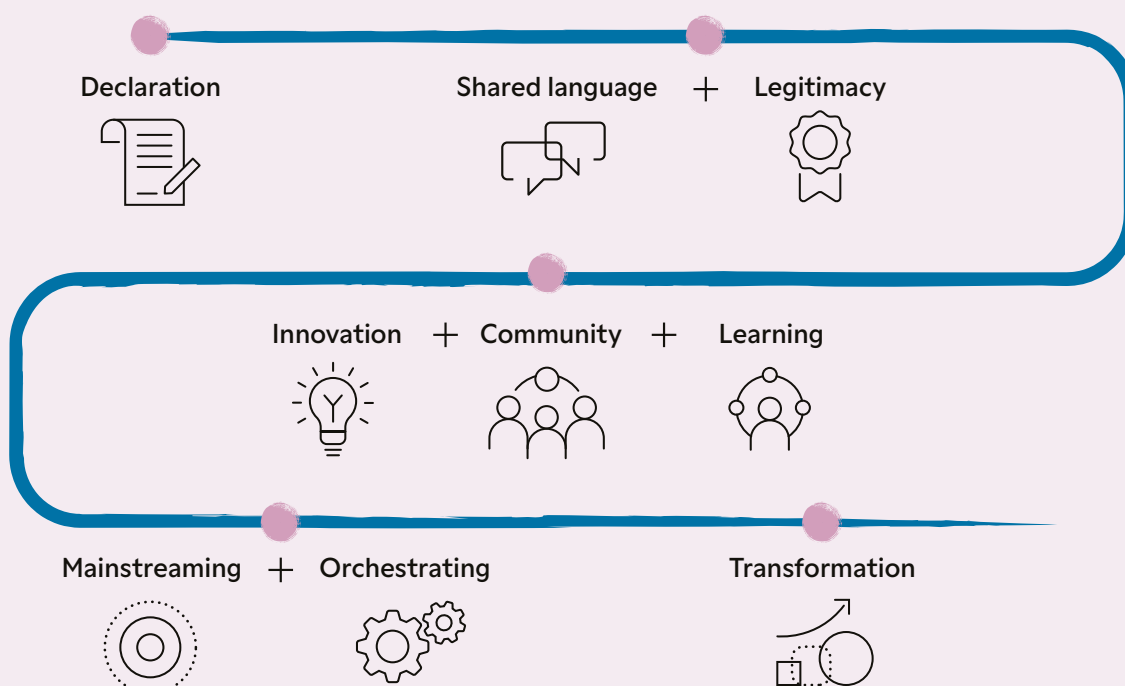
The question is not simply **what has been created because of the Declaration, but whether it is helping existing and emerging practice become more connected, legitimate and influential.**

The DFG can contribute to this process by providing **shared language, legitimacy and a common framework** for people and institutions working to strengthen long-term governance. This matters because innovation has often developed across different geographies, traditions, sectors and professional communities without necessarily being understood as part of a common endeavour. A globally agreed framework can make these connections more visible, strengthen the position of reformers working within their own contexts and create opportunities for ideas and learning to travel.

The 2026 stocktake suggests that this legitimising function matters. One expert described the Declaration as **“a legitimating reference that lets domestic reformers make claims they could not otherwise make.”** Another pointed to the distinction between an international commitment and the institutional change that must follow: its transformative effect will ultimately be visible in the **“mandates, duties and capabilities”** built around it.

This suggests a broader way of understanding how the Declaration can support change:

How the Declaration can support change



This is not a rigid or linear pathway. Governance change can move in different directions, and different elements can reinforce one another. But it helps distinguish **early signs of movement from deeper changes in how governance works**. Two years after adoption, we should expect to see stronger connections, greater legitimacy, shared learning and emerging innovation. Over time, the test becomes whether these developments begin to influence institutions and routine decision-making.

The stocktake reflects this early stage of change. Experts rated global progress at an average of **2.43 out of 5**. Nearly two-thirds rated progress as very limited or showing only some early progress, while only three of the 28 respondents considered progress significant or exceptional.

Qualitative responses nevertheless pointed to developments in areas including foresight, legislation, institutional design, youth engagement and national and local coalitions. At the same time, respondents repeatedly described progress as fragmented, uneven and often reliant on individual champions. **Promising activity is emerging, but it has not yet translated into widespread institutional change.**

That distinction matters. An initiative can demonstrate what is possible without changing the wider system around it. Conversely, relatively modest reforms can become consequential when they begin to change how decisions are routinely made.

The Long-Term Governance Prism: Change is systemic

The **Long-Term Governance Prism**, introduced in the earlier Handbooks, provides a way of understanding this next stage of implementation. It starts from the recognition that there is no single institutional solution or pathway for governing with future generations in mind. Durable change depends on the interaction between **political leadership, institutions and organisations, and citizens and wider society**.

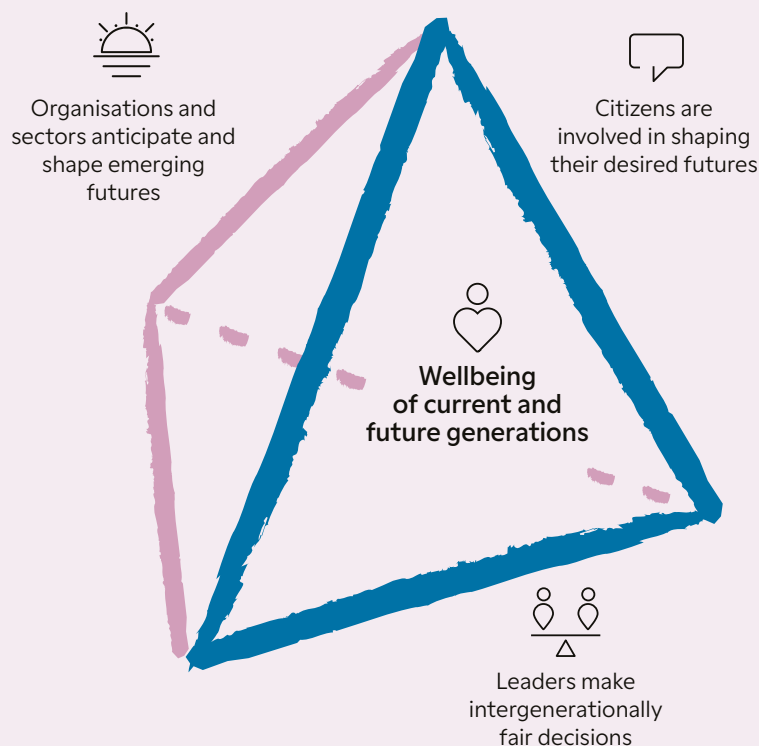
Experience since 2024 helps sharpen what this means in practice. Political leadership can create permission and momentum for reform, but commitments may disappear when administrations change. Institutional anchors can provide continuity, but formal structures have limited effect without the capability, resources and authority to influence decisions. Foresight can improve understanding of what lies ahead, but its value is limited if it remains disconnected from policy choices. Citizen participation can strengthen collective knowledge and legitimacy, but only when people have meaningful routes into decision-making.

The value of the Prism therefore lies not simply in the presence of its individual elements, but in **how they interact and reinforce one another**. Political leadership can create space for institutional reform; institutions can create durable routes for participation, evidence and accountability; and citizen demand can help sustain political commitment. Weakness in one part of the system can constrain otherwise promising reforms.

Two years of implementation also sharpen a further question: **where does long-term thinking acquire authority?** As one expert put it, this is critical to understanding whether emerging innovations are beginning to matter.

A foresight function can produce excellent analysis without influencing policy. A participatory process can generate valuable public insight without affecting a decision. A political champion can advance ambitious reform that disappears after an election. A legal duty can exist without being meaningfully applied. Successful implementation therefore requires more than creating mechanisms. It requires long-term thinking to gain influence within the **structures, processes and behaviours through which consequential choices are made**.

The Long-Term Governance Prism



How this happens will differ across contexts. Political systems, administrative cultures, socio-cultural values, demographic and development contexts, and existing institutional capacity all create different entry points for change. In one setting, parliament may provide the strongest anchor; elsewhere it may be a foresight function, legal duty, citizen-led process, accountability institution or local coalition. **There is no single model of successful implementation.** What matters is whether these approaches strengthen the wider governance system's ability to anticipate change, manage trade-offs across time, draw on different forms of knowledge and involve people in decisions that shape their futures.

The same principle applies across levels of governance. Multilateral commitments can establish common principles and create political space; the UN system can support implementation, learning and capability; and national, subnational and community actors can adapt long-term governance to the institutions and decisions that shape people's lives. **Progress across these levels is mutually reinforcing rather than sequential.**

From Declaration to implementation: What have we learned since 2024?

Two years is too short to expect systemic governance transformation. It is long enough, however, to identify what the first wave of implementation is teaching us about **where long-term governance gains traction, what helps it endure, and where promising approaches risk stalling.**

Four lessons stand out.

1. Innovation is broader than established future-generations institutions.

Long-term governance is developing through a much wider range of entry points than commissioners, dedicated institutions or policies explicitly framed around future generations. The evidence gathered for this update points to activity across different sectors and levels of governance, including foresight, parliamentary scrutiny, citizen participation, local coalitions, legal duties, impact assessment, public finance and planning.

This matters because progress can be easy to overlook if implementation is measured only through mechanisms carrying the language of the DFG. The examples in the sections that follow show how long-term governance can develop through very different governing traditions, institutions and policy challenges.

2. The Declaration is most useful when it connects and strengthens existing practice.

The global movement for long-term governance did not begin in September 2024. It builds on decades of practice, including Indigenous traditions of stewardship, established future-generations institutions, strategic foresight, participatory democracy, wellbeing governance and other approaches to anticipatory and intergenerational decision-making.

The experience since adoption suggests that the DFG can add value by giving these efforts a common point of reference and helping actors working through different policy, professional and cultural traditions recognise connections between their work. In some contexts, the language of future generations has also created political space for reforms already being pursued through sustainability, wellbeing, foresight or intergenerational fairness.

The opportunity is therefore not to replace this diversity with a single model of implementation, but to **make existing and emerging practice more visible, connected and capable of learning across contexts.**

3. Long-term governance gains traction when it connects to problems people are experiencing now.

One expert described the transformative potential of long-term thinking as strongest when grounded in **“concrete issues of the present while pointing out future implications.”** Housing, employment, public finances, health, climate resilience, education, energy and local development all provide tangible entry points through which intergenerational considerations become relevant to choices being made today.

This is more than a communications challenge. If long-term governance is presented primarily through specialist language about futures and foresight, it risks remaining concentrated among those already familiar with the field. Implementation becomes more meaningful when an intergenerational lens changes how a government or community understands and responds to an actual policy problem.

4. Institutions matter, but institutions alone are not enough.

Commissioners, parliamentary structures, foresight functions, legal duties and other institutional anchors can give long-term governance continuity and authority. But establishing a mechanism does not by itself change how decisions are made.

The experience of impact assessments illustrates the distinction. A generational test can become a procedural exercise if it is disconnected from the institutions, capabilities, participation and accountability needed to give its findings weight. The same principle applies more broadly: **the value of a governance mechanism depends on how it connects to the wider system in which decisions are made.**

An intergenerational fairness assessment framework

Co-developed by the School of International Futures (SOIF) and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation³, drawing on the contributions of more than 400 experts, this open-source framework treats intergenerational impact assessment as part of a wider process of institutional change rather than a standalone policy test. It brings together three components:

Institutional ownership: An independent institutional anchor designed to support legitimacy, political neutrality and civil society oversight.

National dialogue: Inclusive civic engagement to define societal values, consider cross-generational trade-offs and develop a shared understanding of fairness.

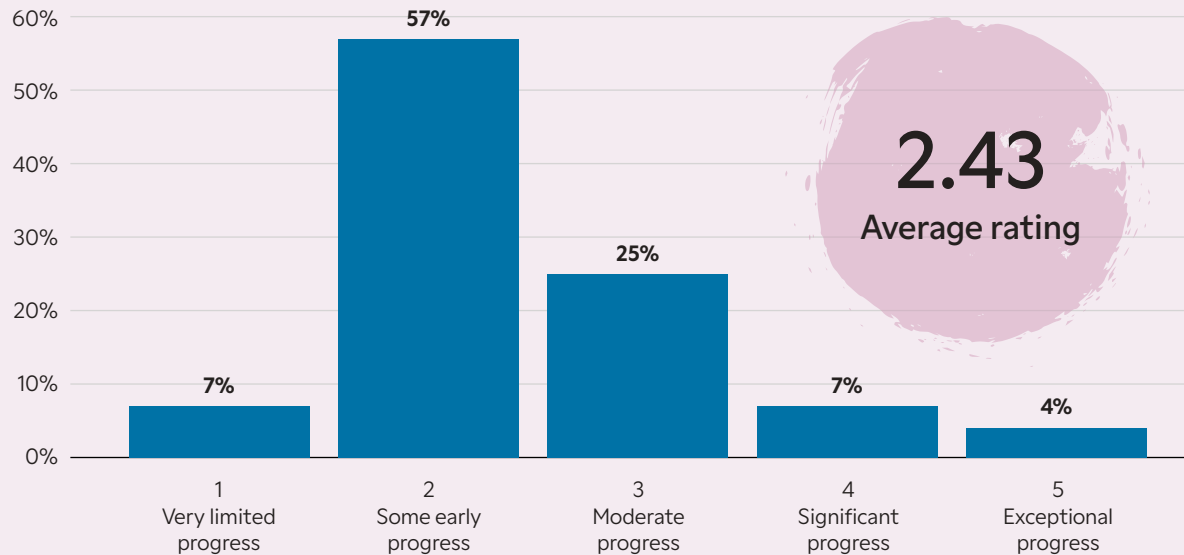
Assessment tool: A practical, criteria-based mechanism for assessing policy impacts, piloted on live policy questions including Portuguese pension reform and UK parliamentary legislation.

SOIF is currently updating the framework to support flexible, phased implementation across different governance contexts.

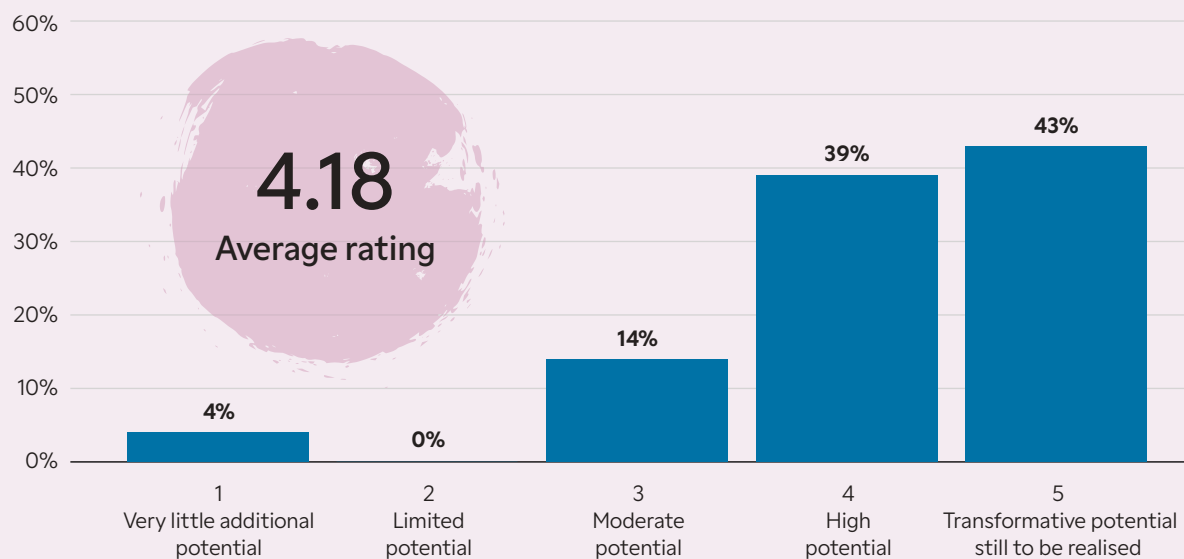
3 Learn more about the framework here: <https://soif.org.uk/igf/>

Expert Panel Insight: Progress is emerging, but remains early

Overall, how would you rate global progress in implementing the Declaration on Future Generations since its adoption?

**Expert Panel Insight: The potential remains far greater than the progress achieved so far**

How much unrealised potential does the Declaration still have to transform governance and decision-making?



The contrast with experts' assessment of progress is striking. While global progress was rated at an average of **2.43 out of 5**, the Declaration's unrealised potential was rated **4.18 out of 5**, with more than four in five respondents assessing that potential as high or transformative.

This gap is one of the clearest findings of the 2026 stocktake. It suggests not that the Declaration's opportunity has passed, but that **its potential remains substantially greater than the extent to which long-term governance has yet gained influence within institutions and decision-making**. The question for the next two years is therefore how to close that gap.

From emergence to embedding: The challenge for 2026–2028

The evidence at the midpoint suggests that the next phase will require a different emphasis from the first. The first two years have demonstrated a growing constituency for long-term governance and a diverse body of practice from which to learn. **The task between now and 2028 is to turn that momentum into more durable, connected and influential practice.**

Four challenges stand out.

1. Awareness remains limited

The Declaration cannot provide a useful common framework if policymakers and practitioners do not know it exists or understand its relevance to their work. Experts identified limited awareness not only among the public, but across government systems and even within some foreign ministries.

This does not mean every official needs to become an expert on the DFG, or that implementation must carry its label. What matters is translating its principles into the decisions policymakers already face. **What does a long-term or intergenerational lens change about housing, infrastructure, AI regulation, public debt, health or energy?** Connecting the agenda to these practical choices will be essential to broadening its relevance beyond specialist communities.

2. Implementation is systemic

As the previous sections have shown, no single institution or ministry can deliver long-term governance alone. Implementation cuts across executive functions and policy

domains while also involving parliaments, regional and local authorities, civil society, citizens, academia and the private sector.

The challenge now is therefore less about demonstrating that innovation exists and more about **connecting practice across institutions, sectors and geographies so that successful approaches can be adapted, reinforced and sustained.**

3. Implementation support remains weak

The Declaration calls on the multilateral system, including the UN, to support Member States that request assistance in strengthening future-generations and long-term thinking in policymaking. Yet the infrastructure needed to translate this commitment into practical support remains incomplete. The proposed Special Envoy for Future Generations has not yet been appointed, while respondents identified continuing needs for visible leadership, technical assistance, peer learning, evidence, measurement and institutional coordination.

Implementation does not, however, depend solely on the UN. Coalitions of governments, regional organisations, the G20, city networks, professional bodies and other partnerships can provide complementary routes for learning and action. The priority should be to **strengthen and connect the institutions and networks capable of supporting implementation**, rather than create parallel structures for their own sake.

4. Investment has not caught up with ambition

Long-term governance requires resources as well as political commitment. Respondents highlighted this particularly in relation to the Global Majority, where significant innovation can coexist with limited resources to sustain, evaluate and expand it.

Investment is needed not only for technical capability, but for the infrastructure through which change happens: local experimentation, peer learning, relationships, networks, convening and the people who connect ideas across institutions. One respondent described the problem as the gap **“between commitment and financed mandate”**: governments may be willing to sign, convene and plan, but reforms remain vulnerable without budgets, staff or durable institutional homes.

This is also an equity question. By 2028, the evidence base for long-term governance should not be dominated by countries that already possess substantial institutional and financial capacity. Countries and communities facing profound long-term risks need the resources to develop and demonstrate approaches suited to their own contexts.

Expert Panel Insight: What would unlock the next phase?

The qualitative responses to the 2026 stocktake point towards five enabling conditions for the period to 2028:

Institutionalise long-term thinking.

Move beyond reliance on individual projects and champions by developing durable institutional anchors and integrating long-term thinking into national and subnational governance.

Translate commitment into policy and implementation.

Bring future-generations considerations into the processes through which governments make consequential choices, including budgets, public investment, appraisal, planning and policy evaluation.

Strengthen accountability and evidence.

Develop stronger evidence, indicators and mechanisms for understanding whether and how long-term governance is changing decisions.

Invest in capability and implementation.

Build futures literacy and practical long-term-governance capability while providing resources for national and local implementation, particularly where demand exists but capacity is constrained.

Build the infrastructure for collective action.

Strengthen political leadership, peer learning, regional cooperation and connections between governments, citizens, civil society, academia, business and the wider long-term-governance community.

The mid-point assessment: Real momentum, fragile foundations

Taken together, the evidence tells neither a story of transformation achieved nor one of ambition unrealised. **It is a story of emergence.**

Long-term governance is becoming a more recognisable field of practice, with innovation across different levels, sectors and contexts. But the foundations remain fragile. Awareness is uneven, implementation support and investment remain limited, and promising approaches do not yet consistently influence the institutions and processes through which consequential decisions are made.

The 2028 review should not expect governance systems everywhere to have transformed within four years. But four years is sufficient to expect **compelling evidence that a transition is underway**: long-term governance becoming institutional practice across different contexts; governance reforms influencing tangible policy choices; stronger participation by communities whose futures are being shaped; better evidence about what works; and stronger international support for countries seeking to act.

The next two years are therefore about moving **from emergence to embedding**. The sections that follow examine where this transition is already beginning to take shape across multilateral and UN processes, national and subnational action, policy challenges and practical governance mechanisms. The examples are diverse by design. Together, they help illuminate the different routes through which long-term governance can take root, influence decisions and endure.



Progress and Highlights: Windows into an Emerging Global Practice



How to read these examples

The contributions that follow show long-term governance taking shape through different levels, policy challenges and institutional entry points. They are organised around three lenses.

Multilateral action looks at how future-generations and long-term-governance principles are entering international and regional processes, from the UN and G20 to financing, measurement and regional cooperation.

Implementation at the national and local level looks at how governments, legislatures, cities, communities and civil-society actors are adapting these principles to their own political, institutional and cultural contexts.

Cross-cutting themes: Issues, institutions and instruments looks across policy applications and governance mechanisms: what changes when an intergenerational lens is applied to issues such as health, climate, culture, security and economic wellbeing, and how law, audit, finance, foresight, participation and communication can give long-term considerations greater influence over decisions.

Read together, these contributions show not a single pathway to implementation, but a field developing through different combinations of political leadership, institutional reform and civic action. They also allow us to ask a more practical question: **where is long-term governance beginning to influence how decisions are actually made, and what can we learn from the different routes through which that is happening?**

Multilateral action

The contributions in this section explore how a universal commitment can travel through very different international and regional processes.

Some focus directly on implementation of the Declaration; others examine political platforms, financing, measurement or institutional reform through which long-term and intergenerational considerations can shape wider agendas.

Together, they test whether future-generations thinking can operate as a **lens within processes that already shape national and international choices**, rather than developing as a standalone multilateral track.



United Nations Group of Friends for Future Generations: Activity and Commitments to Date

— Nudhara Yusuf (Coalition for the UN We Need)

The United Nations Group of Friends for Future Generations was established on **13 November 2025**, following the adoption of the Declaration on Future Generations at the 2024 Summit of the Future, to sustain political momentum and support the transition from agreement to implementation. Co-chaired by **Jamaica and the Kingdom of the Netherlands**, its core membership comprises **Portugal, Kenya, Egypt, Senegal, the European Union, Morocco and the Republic of Korea**. The Group serves as a cross-regional, Member State-led platform for exchanging implementation experiences and good practices, encouraging alignment across the UN system, and connecting governments with civil society, experts and other actors advancing intergenerational equity.

At its **November 2025 launch**, the Group brought together Member States, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of the President of the General Assembly and civil society partners. Members exchanged national experiences and identified priorities including integrating future-generations considerations into UN processes and the UN80 reform agenda; sharing national practices, legal and institutional innovations and foresight tools; strengthening the science-policy interface and evidence base; and maintaining regular, multi-stakeholder engagement. The Group also agreed on the importance of maintaining visibility for the Declaration across relevant intergovernmental processes and working towards the **2028 high-level review**.

In **March 2026**, the Group convened a strategic dialogue focused specifically on implementation of the Declaration in the context of **UN80**. The discussion identified opportunities to integrate future-generations considerations into mandate review, institutional reform and other General Assembly processes, while emphasising that the Declaration should operate as a lens for improving existing decision-making rather than creating new mandates. Members committed to more active engagement across relevant UN80 workstreams; closer engagement with co-chairs and facilitators of intergovernmental processes; tracking priority reform areas and sharing information among members; strategic use of platforms including the HLPF and ECOSOC Youth Forum; and stronger engagement with civil society and academic institutions.

On **30 April 2026**, the Group held its first strategy retreat at The Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York, bringing together Member States, UN officials, experts and civil society representatives to consider a practical pathway for implementation through 2028. The retreat identified three complementary areas for progress: embedding future-generations principles in UN and intergovernmental processes; strengthening connections with national, regional and other practitioners already advancing long-term governance; and broadening the visibility and application of the Declaration beyond New York. Priority entry points identified included UN80 and mandate review, Pact implementation and its 2028 review, Beyond GDP, financing for development, the 2027 SDG Summit, the UN Water Conference and leadership transitions within the UN. The Group also identified the need to build an evidence base for the 2028 review by documenting where the Declaration is being referenced and where it is influencing policy and decision-making.

Following the retreat, the **Co-Chairs developed an input to the President of the General Assembly** aimed at integrating the Declaration into ongoing General Assembly processes and the transition between PGA presidencies. This included a practical framework for co-facilitators encouraging early application of a future-generations lens; use of evidence, data, foresight and forward-looking impact assessment; consideration of long-term trade-offs and resource implications; connection of outcomes to implementation and review; and greater linkage between UN negotiations and national and regional practice.

Across these activities, the Group has increasingly focused on translating the Declaration from an agreed political text into a practical framework for decision-making, while maintaining Member State leadership, protecting political momentum, connecting implementation across the UN and national levels, and building towards measurable progress at the **2028 high-level review**.



UN Implementation and the Future Generations Agenda

Since the adoption of the Declaration on Future Generations, the United Nations (UN) has focused on strengthening its mechanisms to support Member States, where requested, on implementation. In this context, one of the most significant opportunities ahead is the development of practical tools that can help policymakers translate the Declaration's principles into day-to-day governance.

The forthcoming *UN Handbook on Long-Term Governance*, developed under the co-leadership of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and UN University – Centre for Policy Research, seeks to respond to this need. Rather than prescribing specific policy choices, it provides a flexible toolbox of governance instruments, legal frameworks, institutional options, and practical examples that can help governments and international institutions embed intergenerational equity and long-term thinking into decision-making.

The Handbook is designed to support policymakers, diplomats, and other implementing partners. It brings together emerging practices from across regions and governance systems, highlighting approaches that have been tested in different contexts and explaining the conditions under which they are most effective. Its objective is not to identify a single model for implementation, but to make practical knowledge more accessible, transferable, and actionable.

Progress since the adoption of the Declaration demonstrates growing recognition that today's global challenges require institutions capable of thinking and acting beyond short-term political and budgetary cycles. Across national, regional, and international settings, governments and institutions are increasingly experimenting with foresight capacities, long-term strategies, anticipatory governance approaches, and mechanisms designed to represent the interests of future generations. These developments reflect an important shift from commitment to institutional practice.

Important challenges nevertheless remain. Many governance systems continue to incentivise short-term decision-making, while practical guidance on implementation remains fragmented. Capacity constraints, competing near-term priorities, and the difficulty of translating broad principles into operational tools continue to slow progress.

Looking ahead to the 2028 review of the Declaration on Future Generations, priorities should include strengthening implementation capacity, supporting peer learning across countries and institutions, expanding the use of foresight and anticipatory governance tools, and building a stronger evidence base on effective practices. The growing body of innovation emerging around the world provides grounds for optimism. The challenge now is to connect these experiences, scale what works, and ensure intergenerational equity becomes an integral feature of governance rather than an aspirational principle. Ultimately, protecting the interests of future generations is not a separate policy objective, but a necessary condition for building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies.



The Future of Multilateralism

— **Jane Kinninmont (United Nations Association – UK)**

The deep changes underway in international geopolitics have intensified the need to adapt and develop multilateralism, but are also making it harder for the UN to find the bandwidth for big picture strategic change. Civil society, academics and diplomats are increasingly using futures methodologies to consider what needs to happen next. Organisations like the UN Associations around the world, the Starling Institute, the Coalition for the UN We Need, Article 109 and others have used the 80th anniversary of the United Nations to move beyond eulogies for the multilateralism of the past, to build creative consultations on how multilateralism can and should change and adapt for the future.

The key issues in organising and designing the multilateralism of the future include identifying what architecture can provide effective decision-making and equitable representation in an organisation launched by 50 states that now includes 193; how to move beyond the frequent paralysis of the Security Council by big-power vetoes, how the Security Council should reflect global power shifts and how the financing of the UN may also need to be redistributed as the role of the US changes; how an organisation representing states adapts to a world where power is less state-centric, and trust in governments is in question, yet many governments place more and more emphasis on national sovereignty; what may follow the Sustainable Development Goals; and how to govern emerging areas from new technology to deep sea mining and the militarisation of space, in a world where it is becoming more difficult to reach global agreement or pursue international likemindedness.

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, has set out a concept of networked multilateralism in which the UN is part of a web of international organisations interacting with each other in more constructive and agile ways. He has emphasised the need for the UN to have a role in the governance of new technologies including AI and lethal autonomous weapons.

Yet there is a gap between the scale of the need to reimagine multilateralism and the pressures on the UN to reorganise immediately to cut costs. The UN has been reviewing its mandates and budgets as part of the UN80 process launched around its 80th anniversary in 2025. Rather than representing a new vision for the future of multilateralism, the process has been shaped by the immediate need to cut budgets and to cut nearly one in five staff. There is a sense that since the Summit of the Future

the need to manage immediate crises has reduced the senior leadership's bandwidth for developing long term strategy and vision.

The selection process for the next Secretary General, which began in 2026, has also opened space for discussion of different visions for the UN's future. The candidates are seeking office until at least 2032, and perhaps 2037, so need to think beyond the current political situation. All eight candidates emphasise a need for UN reform, but have different views on whether this means deep transformation for a radically different world, or incremental change at a time when political consensus often seems elusive. A creative coalition-builder is needed.



G20: From Norm-Setting to Implementation

- **Senator Ledama Olekina** (Parliament of Kenya),
Genaro Godoy González (Global Youth Coalition) and
Cat Zuzarte Tully (School of International Futures)

Authored together as Co-Chairs of the Intergenerational Justice and Solidarity Working Group, T20 New Alignment initiative, University College London

Since the UN Declaration on Future Generations was adopted, plurilateral forums have emerged as one of the most promising spaces for translating its principles into practice.

Unlike the universal but often slower-moving UN system, groupings like the G20 combine political convening power with technical capacity and rotating leadership, allowing successive presidencies to build and pass on momentum rather than relying on any single government to sustain it. Brazil's 2024 presidency began embedding long-term thinking and intergenerational considerations into its G20 communiqué and proposals, an early signal that this thinking is moving from the margins of multilateral diplomacy towards its core.

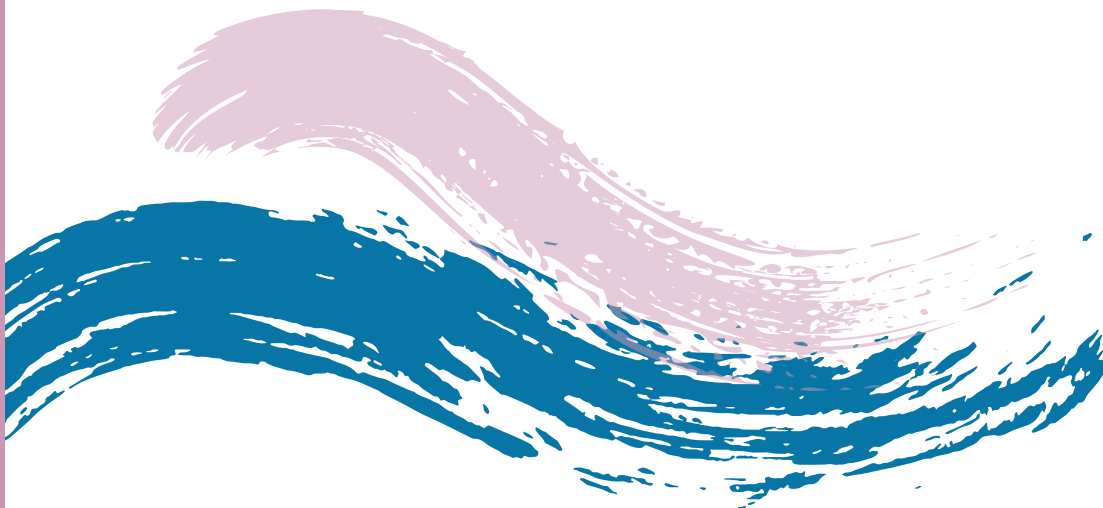
That trajectory points to a broader opportunity for the G20 as a forum for activating implementation – and the timing is not incidental. Multilateralism is under real strain: rising geopolitical fragmentation, contested trade and security architecture, and growing public scepticism about whether international cooperation delivers for ordinary people are all testing the credibility of global governance. In this context, intergenerational fairness is not simply a future-facing or technical agenda – it speaks directly to questions of democratic and economic resilience. Whether governments can deliver decent jobs, housing, growth and security today, while also planning credibly for tomorrow, is increasingly the test by which citizens judge their institutions. The same pressures that undermine long-term policymaking domestically – short political cycles, fiscal constraints, eroding public trust – are also what drive instability, crisis migration and reduced appetite for climate and development finance internationally. The G20 sits at the intersection of these dynamics in a way few other forums do.

Successive presidencies – reflecting the growing weight and distinct values of “middle powers” within the group – are increasingly well placed to connect strands of work that

have so far developed largely in parallel: the DFG itself, the Beyond GDP agenda, and the emerging post-2030 development framework. The G20 has historically shown an ability to take ambitious normative commitments from elsewhere in the multilateral system and translate them into practical, technical implementation – precisely the gap that now needs closing if intergenerational fairness is to move from declaration to delivery, and if long-termism is to be seen as strengthening rather than competing with resilience and delivery in the present.

A concrete proposition is emerging: *could measuring progress on – and resourcing – commitments around long-termism, intergenerational fairness and sustainable development become a recurring framing question across G20 presidencies?* Track Two work through current T20 working groups on intergenerational fairness – spanning the social contract, energy and resource security, debt sovereignty and the economics of the state, AI and jobs, and the evidence base for embedding these approaches in multilateral processes – is beginning to generate the practical material successive presidencies could draw on.

2027 is shaping up as a critical agenda-setting year as work begins to shape the post-2030 agenda alongside the DFG's 2028 review. The G20 can provide an important proving ground for implementation: a space where coalitions of the willing can develop and stress-test practical approaches that link long-term governance to democratic and economic resilience, before bringing what works into broader multilateral processes. This can help ensure that plurilateral and multilateral tracks reinforce one another and build momentum towards wider adoption.



Financing for Development: Operationalising Intergenerational Fairness through Integrated National Financing Frameworks

— **Felipe Bosch** (School of International Futures)

Building directly on the UN Pact for the Future, the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville (June 30 – July 3, 2025) provided a turning point for aligning global and domestic financial architectures with the needs of future generations.

The Seville Compromise and Long-Term Resilience

While the outcome document – the *Sevilla Commitment* – did not explicitly cite “future generations,” its foundational provisions implicitly code intergenerational fairness into global governance:

- Article 7 commits to reforming the international financial architecture to enhance resilience against current and future systemic shocks.
- Article 10 reaffirms the mandate to place humanity and a “bright future” at the centre of financial decision-making.
- Article 36 reaffirms the 0.7% GNI ODA target and urges a shift towards grant-based, non-debt-creating finance and direct budget support to prevent unsustainable debt.
- Article 44 mandates country-owned indicators that complement GDP, shifting economic accounting away from short-term extraction and paving the way towards intergenerational wealth and stability.

Integrated National Financing Frameworks and Upstream Governance Machinery

Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) serve as an operational engine to consolidate domestic revenues, international aid, climate finance, and private investment into a single strategy. However, INFFs are not inherently futures-oriented. If anchored in short-term planning cycles, they risk institutionalising legacy decisions.

Their transformative potential depends on whether long-term thinking, anticipatory capacities, intergenerational trade-offs, and civic deliberation are explicitly hardcoded upstream into development planning and downstream into capital allocation discussions.

- **Country spotlight:** At the 2026 FfD Forum, the Dominican Republic demonstrated how it leverages its INFF to translate its national development vision into bankable, concrete financing strategies that safeguard sustainable growth.
- **Ecosystemic governance in the EU:** Current negotiations over the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the potential behind national and regional partnership plans present an 18-month window. If commitments from the EU Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness like the Future-Oriented Policymaking Package, the Intergenerational Fairness Index, and the *Voices of the Future* initiative are embedded into these financial frameworks as part of a broader governance transformation effort, the EU can transition from checklist compliance to a model that reinforces democratic resilience and long-term competitiveness while addressing the systemic transformations behind demographic and technological trends, among others.

Financial Paradigms and the Path Forward

Critics argue that FfD4 relies heavily on market-based models that privatise returns while socialising risks, advocating instead for public-money-centred paradigms. However, regardless of funding sources, the structural challenge remains identical: without transforming planning machineries, any framework risks channeling global public resources into short-sighted outcomes.

To advance the Declaration on Future Generations before its 2028 review, implementation must focus on three operational imperatives:

1. **Systematise transformative foresight:** Institutionalise mandatory intergenerational impact assessments, scenario planning, and civic deliberation within planning and budgeting processes at all levels of governance.

2. **Standardise “Beyond GDP” metrics:** Integrate multidimensional indicators into country credit evaluations and multilateral lending criteria.
3. **Pilot IGF-driven frameworks:** Launch targeted pilot projects across governance tiers – from local investment plans to INFFs and EU MFF national and regional partnership plans – to pilot what needs to change in real-world administrative settings to implement IGF-driven investment frameworks.

Spotlight

Genaro Godoy, SOIF’s Next Generation Foresight Practitioner (NGFP) Fellow, Global Focal Point of the FfD Youth Constituency (Major Group for Children and Youth) and Head of Research and Policy at the Global Youth Coalition, co-led the organisation of the inaugural FfD Children and Youth Conference. There, his NGFP co-led project Futures of Intergenerational Equity, Fairness and Justice reached a key milestone by conducting dedicated foresight workshops to explore emerging signals and visions for Financing for Development. The project asserts that intergenerational equity must move beyond abstract legal principles to become a measurable, co-created goal driving financial allocation, directly bridging the gap where traditional policy impact assessments ignore current youth lived realities.



Beyond GDP: Redefining Progress for Current and Future Generations

— **Calder Tsuyuki-Tomlinson** (United Nations University Centre for Policy Research)

The Pact for the Future and the annexed Declaration on Future Generations committed the United Nations to develop a new universal and country-owned measure for progress that complements or goes beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This commitment marked the growing recognition that GDP-centric economic policymaking may not produce the inclusive and sustainable prosperity envisioned within the Sustainable Development Goals. GDP growth indicates flows of value creation; factoring in the capacity for environmental sustainability over time requires measures of stocks, which means that GDP obscures environmental externalities affecting long-term sustainability. Similarly, GDP often omits distributive factors, including inequality, unpaid labour or international impacts of domestic economic activities.

The Pact commitment established two interconnected processes. The first was a high-level expert group on Beyond GDP convened by the UN Secretary-General to produce a report recommending measures and actions for going beyond GDP. The second was initiating an international process to take forward those recommendations. In their final report the expert group recommended a new dashboard of 31 indicators, with measuring inclusive and sustainable wellbeing as its foundational principle. Additional elements – such as developing headline index indicators, or measures for cross-border spillover effects – were included as recommendations for immediate or future work to be taken forward across relevant UN bodies and processes.

The intergovernmental process is now in motion, and offers a critical opportunity for establishing the political contours for this multi-year agenda. Because moving beyond GDP towards new frameworks of progress, in shifting decision-making across budgetary, modelling and planning processes, is as much a political exercise as a technical one. While national governments may experiment on new frameworks – as many have, such as New Zealand's Living Standards Framework or Bhutan's Gross National Happiness – a UN-wide shift can help set the enabling conditions

for governments to enact beyond GDP policies that are otherwise sidelined within an international system that rewards GDP growth over other considerations, such as healthcare, education or environmental stewardship.

Furthermore, as discussions begin in the near future on a possible post-2030 framework to succeed the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN's beyond GDP process may serve as an economic foundation to set the new statistical framework for development: one where trade-offs across social, economic and environmental registers – across time, as well as at planetary scales – can be adequately integrated within a holistic framework.

However, implementing any new frameworks and statistical measures will require capacity-building, resource mobilisation and technical exchange. International initiatives have already emerged to support this effort, such as the Global Alliance for Beyond GDP, launched in 2025 by Spain and a coalition of countries and organisations such as the OECD and UNCTAD. The Wellbeing Economy Governments coalition of Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Scotland, Wales and Canada is also a similar kind of initiative. As these coalitions work to facilitate support and experiment with new measures in pilot countries, they will be critical vehicles to streamline and accelerate dissemination of new frameworks that work to ensure long-term prosperity of people and planet.



The EU Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness: From Political Vision to Systemic Governance Infrastructure

— Felipe Bosch (School of International Futures)

The EU Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness (IGF) represents a decisive shift from viewing the future as an abstract, technocratic foresight-linked capability to establishing it as a core, unifying political language for European governance.

Building on a long-standing legacy – from the Forward Studies Unit under Jacques Delors to Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič embedding strategic foresight into the Secretariat-General and the Better Regulation agenda – the strategy marks an unprecedented political leap. Spearheaded by Glenn Micallef, the first-ever Commissioner responsible for Intergenerational Fairness, and framed by President Ursula von der Leyen’s vision, the EU can yet position intergenerational solidarity and fairness as a strategic asset for democratic resilience, competitiveness, and security.

What’s Behind the Strategy?

The strategy was co-designed through an extensive cross-DG process led by the JRC EU Policy Lab, bringing together Commission services, expert workshops, and a dedicated European Citizens’ Panel. It translates the UN Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations (DFG) into an operational blueprint. Anchored in a new symbolic “Intergenerational Contract,” while inviting for interinstitutional alignment, explicitly asking the Parliament and the Council to assess how intergenerational considerations can be integrated into their respective roles, the strategy commits the Commission to 15 tangible actions across three pillars:

- **Fair Policymaking:** Deploying a multilingual *Future-Oriented Policymaking Package* for Member States, scaling the AI-driven *Futures Balance Tool* with the UN Beyond Lab, embedding systematic *Youth Checks* and Youth Policy Dialogues, or publishing

a 2028 progress report for the UN DFG review, and issuing a comprehensive *Longevity Roadmap*.

- **Fair Opportunities:** Compiling a flagship *Intergenerational Fairness Index* to track generational equity, publishing an age equality best-practice compendium, funding Horizon Europe collaborative research, hosting a European Demography Forum, scaling citizen engagement (including European Youth Week 2026 and Intergenerational Fairness Day on November 16), and integrating IGF into post-2027 youth, sport, and child participation frameworks.
- **Fair Places:** Partnering with the Committee of the Regions to launch the *Voices of the Future* initiative, promoting intergenerational mobility and sport, and regenerating public spaces via the New European Bauhaus.

Moving Beyond Checklist Compliance: The Call for Ecosystemic Courage

While the launch of the strategy is an essential milestone, a blunt critique of its current trajectory is necessary: **the Strategy is in severe danger of being delivered as a fragmented, bureaucratic checklist, missing the opportunities behind enhancing intergenerational fairness as an organising principle of EU governance.**

Currently, implementation risks becoming siloed within individual Directorates-General, treated as an isolated youth or aging file, diluted into procedural paperwork, or as part of a single flagship policy initiative. This approach lacks the systemic courage required for this historical moment. With an 18-month window of political and institutional transformation across the EU, the strategy must be deployed through an ecosystemic approach that links directly into the core machinery of the Union:

- **The Financial Engine (The Next MFF):** Intergenerational fairness must hardcode the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)’s national and regional partnership plans (NRPP). Capital allocation, the European Semester, and public investment must be driven by long-term preventative metrics and alternative discounting rather than short-term fiscal targets.
- **Democratic Security and the “Right to Stay”:** Integrating *Voices of the Future* with the emerging *Right to Stay* agenda links long-term governance to tangible civic hope. By connecting localised participatory foresight to regional chapters of NRPP, but also Global Gateway partnerships, the EU can address the root drivers of migration, socio-economic alienation, and demographic decay and/or growth. The European Democracy Shield and the Council of Europe’s *New Democratic Pact* represent opportunities to reframe democratic security: hard military rearmament

without internal civic trust, social cohesion, and intergenerational solidarity creates an internal democratic timebomb, exacerbating hybrid vulnerabilities.

- **Horizontal Governance Infrastructure:** Delivery requires sustained central coordination through the Secretariat-General (SG REFORM) alongside DG EAC and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The proposed packages, generational tests, the Intergenerational Fairness Index, and interinstitutional alignment must be given genuine teeth across the European Parliament, the Council, and Member States.

The EU has successfully created a global normative appetite and an ambitious policy framework. The urgent task now is to move from political commitments to institutional infrastructure – summoning the political courage to turn intergenerational fairness into a practical, ecosystemic way of governing Europe’s interregnum.



Institutionalising Long-Term Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean: From Fragmentation to Ecosystemic Action

— **Felipe Bosch** (School of International Futures)

With contributions from Moema Freire (UNDP), Patricio Lloret (CLAD), Carolina Santacruz (International Science Council), Javier Vitale (ECLAC/ILPES), and Michelle Volpin (ParlAmericas)

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) enters the global polycrisis and uncertainty complex carrying heavy structural burdens: middle-income development traps, persistent social inequalities, and severe fiscal constraints.

Navigating planetary crises, economic volatility, and eroding public trust – with Latinobarómetro showing that nearly 40% of young people distrust government – demands extra institutional effort and a distinctly regional approach. Amid these headwinds, LAC is rapidly transforming into a dynamic laboratory for long-term governance and intergenerational fairness.

Rather than operating through isolated silos, regional partners – ParlAmericas, the International Science Council (ISC), UNDP, ECLAC (through ILPES), and CLAD – in collaboration with the School of International Futures (SOIF), are uniting to transform fragmented interventions and partnerships into an orchestrated ecosystem. Structuring this collective work through the SOIF Long-Term Governance Prism allows us to outline how regional capabilities are deployed across three core dimensions.

1. Machinery of Government: Future-Ready Institutions, Processes, and Cultures

Embedding anticipatory capacities into the State's engine and routine requires tailored strategies across different actors and levels of governance:

- Legislative Action:** Parliaments are pioneering diverse pathways. Legislative committees have served as structural entry points, supported by ECLAC's Regional Network of Future Committees. Building on Chile's Senate Future Challenges Committee and Uruguay's Bicameral Committee for the Future – guided by political pioneers like Sergio Bitar and Rodrigo Goñi, alongside technical pioneers such as Paola Aceituno and Lydia Garrido – the ISC is actively collaborating with regional actors to establish a legislative commission dedicated to future studies in the Congress of the Republic of Colombia. Translating advances into binding law presents both progress and systemic bottlenecks: while Chile's Boletín N° 16.441-19 (a government bill establishing a new foresight and sustainable development architecture) remains under discussion, Uruguay's Proyecto de Ley de Bienestar de las Generaciones Futuras (introduced in late 2025 and progressing through committee in 2026), if passed, would legally mandate 10-, 20-, and 30-year social, economic, and environmental impact assessments. Complementing these legislative shifts, ParlAmericas and Uruguay co-hosted a hemispheric parliamentary assembly "Legislating for the Future: Harnessing Anticipatory Governance in Parliamentary Action" during which the 2025 Montevideo Declaration was signed.
- Planning Processes & Territorial Foresight:** UN ECLAC/ILPES has historically offered technical assistance to embed multi-decadal foresight directly into executive planning. Colombia's *Vision 2050* and Guanajuato's *2050 State Plan* in Mexico are only a few examples of such Foresight-informed executive planning. From October 2025, ECLAC's Technical, Operational, Political, and Prospective (TOPP) is the new institutional capabilities framework to overcome the regional trap of low institutional capacity and political fragmentation, backed by a foundational regional guide on anticipatory governance. TOPP shifts focus from what must be transformed to how to manage transformation – treating these four capabilities as a dynamic, living system that strengthens policy continuity, underpins legitimacy, and translates strategic foresight into resilient public investment.
- Administrative Culture & Capacities:** CLAD, alongside CAF, is transforming civil service culture through initiatives like the International MOOC on Future Government: Foresight, Data, and AI. Building on this offer, CLAD is institutionalising these capacities through a dedicated Academy of Foresight and Governance of the Future within its Ibero-American School (EIAPP), whose course portfolio studies the future from a Latin American perspective and builds a permanent pipeline of anticipatory talent across the region's public sector. The ECLAC also offers dedicated courses on Anticipatory Governance and Legislative Foresight and Foresight for Sustainable Territorial Transformation (next cohort: November 2026).

2. Political Leadership: Intergenerationally Just Decisions

Long-term governance relies on political leaders adopting a stewardship mindset that balances immediate trade-offs with future equity:

- Diagnostic Frameworks for Leaders:** The UNDP *Future-Ready Democratic Institutions* initiative allows leaders to deploy the Strategic Capabilities Radar and Institutional Acceleration Plans across six cross-cutting accelerators (anticipatory, collaborative, communicational, integrity-focused, digital, and intergenerational). This model links directly to the *Future-Ready Democratic Institutions Portal*, featuring a digital repository of over 150 regional experiences – including 33 benchmark cases spanning national, subnational, and municipal levels (such as the Dominican Republic Judiciary’s 10-Year Strategic Plan, Brazil’s *Justiça Plural*, and Uruguay’s 2050 Strategy).
- Regional Normative Anchoring:** CLAD, together with ECLAC/ILPES and UNESCO, is leading the co-creation of the Ibero-American Charter on Foresight and Anticipatory Governance, the region’s first normative instrument to establish foresight as a permanent, democratic, and technical State function. Structured around guiding principles, five pillars of action, and a graduated implementation pathway adaptable to each country’s institutional maturity, the Charter gives political leaders a shared regional mandate for long-term, intergenerationally just decision-making. Currently under regional consultation, it is expected to be adopted at the XXIX CLAD Congress (Santo Domingo, November 2026).
- Futures Literacy & Intergenerational Tools:** Building on UNDP’s *The Use of Futures in Parliaments*, ParlAmericas has created a practical, sharp checklist on incorporating an Intergenerational Perspective in Parliamentary Work. This tool guides parliamentarians across four operational functions: legislative review, budget evaluation, oversight function, and constituency representation.
- Global Leadership Alignment:** The G20 under Brazil’s presidency served as a vital international anchor. The 2024 G20 Leaders’ Declaration reflected a historic commitment to reform global governance for both current and future generations, pledging a reinvigorated multilateral system rooted in international law, equity, and reformed institutions capable of addressing climate change, gender inequality, and racial discrimination. Jamaica played a decisive role as co-facilitator of the UN Declaration on Future Generations, with Permanent Representative Ambassador Brian Wallace playing a leading and convening role within the Group of Friends of Future Generations in New York.

3. Citizens' Participation: Democratising Futures & Peacebuilding Traditions

Latin America and the Caribbean leverage a rich heritage of participatory and futures-oriented methodologies during social transitions to rebuild the social contract:

- **Post-Conflict Resilience:** Initiatives like Colombia's *Juventudes Transformadoras* (supported by UNDP/UNFPA) have deployed foresight to empower youth in historically conflict-affected territories as active peacebuilders. Building on the Next Generation Foresight Practitioners (NGFP) network, Miguel Bello's initiative *Entre Voces y Relatos* has extended this peacebuilding lens into the future – empowering Colombian children impacted by armed conflict to move beyond historical memory and co-create preferable scenarios for sustainable peace and ecosocial transitions.
- **Co-Creating Local Social Pacts:** Using the UNDP guide *Democratizing Futures: Tools to Anticipate and Co-Create Public Policies with Youth*, participatory foresight is scaled locally – such as San Pedro Sula's Youth, Peace, and Security Plan in Honduras – with active mentorship pilots underway in Chile, Uruguay, and Peru. At the community level, NGFP fellows and partners have driven ground-level conversations: in Rio de Janeiro's Manguinhos favela, economist Rodrigo Mendes and community leader Paloma da Silva Gomes led *Tomorrowlands*, piloting foresight workshops that enable marginalised youth to challenge urban precarity and build alternative local futures, demonstrating that democratic renewal is ultimately driven from the ground up.
- **Parliamentary Conduits for National Visioning:** Parliaments could act as vital agoras where citizen engagement is coupled with long-term visioning. Trinidad and Tobago's Parliament convened for instance a Joint Select Committee on the Vision 2030 National Development Strategy to review, analyse, and debate the draft policy prior to its approval, creating a formal democratic space to shape national priorities around climate resilience, economic equity, and high-quality education.
- **Intergenerational Foresight & Youth Leadership:** Through its CLAD Ñemongeta initiative, the School (EIAPP) positions youth as co-authors of public-sector transformation rather than mere beneficiaries. Applying the French foresight approach, more than 50 young Ibero-Americans, paired with 50 expert mentors, are building a prospective mapping of the public servant of the future, spanning territorial diagnosis, probable and preferable ten-year scenarios, and a set of strategic competencies grounded in an analysis of the region's public-management curricula. Results will be defended before an international jury in September 2026, with the twelve strongest teams presenting at the XXIX CLAD Congress (Santo Domingo, November 2026), consolidating a high-impact intergenerational dialogue on the future of public administration.

The Path Forward: Moving from Anticipatory to Intergenerational Governance

The ultimate frontier for Latin America and the Caribbean is bridging technocratic foresight with deep citizen deliberation on futures as the primary lever to rebuild democratic trust. Connecting foresight units directly with participation mechanisms transforms intergenerational dialogue from an isolated consultative exercise into a permanent, structural component of regional decision-making.

To “scale deep” before the 2028 Declaration review, the regional coalition is exploring a focus on three strategic coordination pillars:

1. **Establish a Regional Financing Mechanism:** Mobilise pooled international resources to fund joint action research, regional network weaving, and peer-to-peer institutional exchanges.
2. **Consolidate a Latin American and Caribbean Perspective:** Discuss and adapt foresight methodologies to ensure scientific frameworks reflect regional ontologies, territories, structural constraints, and socio-political realities, as well as the specificities of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – or Big Ocean States – including through partnerships with futures practitioners networks such as the *Red Latinoamericana de Futuros*, *ALAF – Associação Latina de Futuros*, and the Caribbean Futures Forum.
3. **Interoperable Governance Hubs:** Build a collaborative regional platform to actively leverage parliamentary networks, administrative academies, multilateral technical assistance, and scientific knowledge in service of coordinated, foresight-driven interventions at national and subnational levels towards democratic and development renewal through long-term governance hubs.



What we are seeing

Across these contributions, several patterns emerge. **Existing multilateral processes and organisations provide important routes for implementation.** The DFG does not necessarily require a separate track: financing, measurement, institutional reform and political cooperation can all become vehicles for applying an intergenerational lens.

Different forums offer different forms of leverage. Universal processes can establish shared norms and legitimacy; plurilateral and regional coalitions can create political momentum, experimentation and peer learning; and technical processes around finance and measurement can influence how priorities are translated into national choices.

At the same time, the contributions expose the distance between **norm-setting and implementation.** Political commitment matters, but so do practical tools, technical capability, institutional ownership and the ability to connect multilateral commitments with national and local practice.



Implementation at the national and local level

There is no single national or local pathway to long-term governance. The contributions that follow deliberately span different political systems, institutional starting points and combinations of government, civic and community leadership.

Some show efforts to establish formal structures or integrate long-term thinking into planning, legislation and public investment. Others begin with parliamentary leadership, cities, civil society, Indigenous governance or citizen mobilisation. Some demonstrate significant institutional progress; others reveal how quickly momentum can stall or reverse when reforms remain politically or institutionally fragile.

Their value lies in their **difference**. Together, they show how long-term governance can take root through multiple entry points and the importance of a whole-of-society approach in moving from an initiative or commitment towards more durable influence over decisions.

Australia: Building the Political and Public Foundations for Future-Generations Governance

— **Clare Beaton-Wells** (Foundations for Tomorrow)
and **Di Bowles** (Wellbeing Economy Alliance Australia),
members of SOIF LTG Australia Hub

Australia's most significant milestone since the Declaration has been the introduction of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill 2025. Introduced by Dr Sophie Scamps MP and seconded across the political divide by Liberal MP Bridget Archer on 10 February 2025, it proposed a positive duty on leaders to consider long-term impacts, an independent Future Generations Commissioner and a national conversation to build a public mandate for reform.

Its introduction just prior to a federal election enabled it to function as a highly effective exercise in awareness-raising, with its policy concepts gaining sustained recognition in political and media discourse on intergenerational fairness.

The Bill's fourth element, a national conversation, is now taking shape. The National Conversation Development Lab, convened by civil society organisation Foundations for Tomorrow, brings together 240+ partners and organisations to design a distinctly Australian model for large-scale public deliberation, drawing on international lessons from a wide array of contexts, including Wales, Singapore and Taiwan. The Australian Parliamentary Group for Future Generations has also been re-established, surviving two parliaments and growing its membership from 12 to 28 parliamentarians, a 133% increase since its establishment in 2023. The Group provides a standing, cross-partisan forum for intergenerational dialogue inside Australia's national parliament, and a platform for collaboration between decision-makers and civil society to help implement the Declaration.

Momentum is also building on the economic side of the agenda. In December 2025, the Productivity Commission recommended a National Prevention Investment Framework,

offering independent validation for upstream, long-term investment. At the state level, Victoria's Treasury has embedded an Early Intervention Investment Framework into its budget process since 2021, quantifying avoidable costs in funding proposals, while the ACT's six-year-old wellbeing budgeting process embeds public consultation and a Wellbeing Impact Assessment into every Cabinet and Budget submission.

As new national research mapping Australia's long-term governance landscape has found, the challenge for Australia is not building new infrastructure. It is activation: extending, integrating and connecting what already exists. This is true of the wellbeing economy movement itself, where pockets of civil society momentum, from the Centre for Policy Development and The Next Economy to Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Australia, are consolidating but have yet to build the national recognition and legitimacy needed to shape mainstream economic decision-making. It is equally true of long-term governance more broadly. The new research highlights that institutional and civic momentum has outpaced the public knowledge and mandate needed to make reform politically safe and durable, and the agenda remains fragmented across the political divide, with most of its champions concentrated on one side of politics. Stewardship and foresight capability inside government exists, but continues to compete against short-term incentives. Closing these gaps, building the public mandate that makes reform durable and connecting long-term commitments to how decisions actually get made, is where Australia's efforts and priorities should be focused ahead of 2028.



Cameroon: An Emerging Model for Future Generations Practice

— **Nsah Mala** (Mbessa Kingdom Indigenous Commission for Future Generations and Sustainability)

My work on Future Generations in Cameroon is anchored in a simple question: what happens when communities are given the opportunity to think seriously about future generations, rather than treating “the future” as something decided elsewhere? In 2024, this work took a more explicit Future Generations focus, as I deepened my work with traditional authorities, young people, civil society organisations and public institutions to connect foresight with existing community and national knowledge systems and governance institutions.

The response has been remarkable. Five traditional communities – Mbessa, Nkar, Ajung, Din-Noni and Jull – have established Indigenous Commissions for Future Generations and Sustainability, creating new institutional spaces within indigenous governance for thinking beyond immediate political and economic cycles. Over 100 commission and community members have been trained in basic foresight for community action.

The approach has also extended into youth advocacy, entrepreneurship, culture and sport. For instance, we organised an event themed Sports and Culture for Future Generations in Cameroon in February 2026. Through an EU-supported programme on digital youth advocacy, implemented by three local civil society organisations, more than 600 young people have now been introduced to futures and foresight tools. At the national level, I contributed to the government’s Pre-Summit National Consultation ahead of the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, helping bring questions of intergenerational responsibility into a wider policy conversation. And we continue to explore a potential Parliamentary Caucus for Future Generations at the national level.

What interests me most is not simply the number of activities, but what happens when futures thinking becomes locally owned. In Din-Noni, traditional authorities have suspended royal animal hunting, and in Mbessa, discussions around community wellbeing have led to a customary ban on sachet whiskeys. Other conversations are

opening questions around food systems, livelihoods and environmental stewardship, especially in connection to the future of the Congo Basin's vital ecosystems.

Cameroon is therefore demonstrating the potential of a different model of futures practice: one that does not simply transfer methodologies to communities, but allows indigenous institutions, young people and public actors to adapt them to their own priorities. The opportunity now is to learn from, strengthen and connect this emerging ecosystem – and demonstrate how long-term governance and future-generations practice can move from a global policy idea into locally owned institutions and action.



Canada: Making Intergenerational Fairness Durable Beyond Electoral Cycles

— **Paul Kershaw** (University of British Columbia and Generation Squeeze)

When countries around the world adopted the United Nations Declaration on Future Generations in 2024, it affirmed the wellbeing of younger and future generations as a bedrock principle for national and multilateral governance. Canada was among the signatories, elevating to the global stage an earlier national Budget commitment to organise spending around the goal of Fairness for Every Generation. This was a watershed moment for Canadians concerned about growing intergenerational tensions and the deteriorating wellbeing of younger people and the climate on which they will depend.

Two years later, however, Canada's story is one of limited progress. In the face of political and economic headwinds, the critical milestones of the UN Declaration and the 2024 Budget have proven insufficient for sustaining momentum towards a future in which Canadians of all ages can thrive. A change in the national government, escalating trade tensions, and threats to Canadian sovereignty have shifted attention away from the long-term and systemic change required to advance generational fairness, and towards short-term defensive action.

This retreat highlights a key lesson for the pursuit of global and national progress towards restoring a healthy legacy for younger and future generations. Durability depends on more than securing visible commitments at peak moments. Subsequent actions must be anchored in the structures and machinery of governance – the legislation, accountability tools, and public processes likely to endure through political, electoral, economic, and other changes.

Canada's *Fairness for Every Generation* Budget helped legitimise the value of a generational lens in policy and fiscal decision-making. Yet this single document was

not enough to put Canada on course to reverse the deteriorating wellbeing of younger and future generations, or restore the intergenerational solidarity needed to make sure people of all ages can thrive. To live up to our national and international commitments, a key next step is to embed the principle of generational fairness in legislation: An Act to Safeguard the Wellbeing of Present and Future Generations. Legislation will create a legally binding common purpose for Canada's national government: to act as good ancestors to all those who follow us, making sure spending and policy decisions consider the implications of the choices we make now for our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

As nations around the world work to live up to the goals enshrined in the Declaration on Future Generations, Canada's experience over the last two years points to the importance of designing actions to withstand external shocks. That means insulating progress from shifting political cycles, building coalitions to sustain pressure, and bringing the ideas that animate the Declaration to mainstream public and political dialogue. In Canada, Generation Squeeze is doing all three, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration with other leaders around the world.



India: Building a Diverse, Locally Rooted Foresight Movement

— **Kushal Sohal**, (School of International Futures and NGFP South Asia Hub Lead)

India has become a critical geography to watch from a foresight point of view. Alongside growing interest in institutionalising futures literacy and anticipatory governance – from Maharashtra’s legislative progress on future generations, to intergenerational fairness policies around sovereign wealth funds in Goa, and Haryana’s establishment of a futures unit – a powerful citizen-led ecosystem is also taking shape.

Locally-rooted collectives such as the Lagori Collective and organisations like Quest Alliance are reframing the ethics of good foresight work in the context and showcasing diverse imaginaries of Indian futures. There are also movers in the adjacent sphere of innovation such as The Circle who support the efforts of grassroots leaders to reimagine education. Growing numbers of universities like Jindal, CEPT and Manipal are integrating futures literacy in their curricula.

The energy and creativity of Indian practitioners is also evident in the Next Generation Foresight Practitioners fellowship and the broader School of International Futures network. Inclusive of speculative designers, visual artists, storytellers, filmmakers, entrepreneurs, and risk analysts, these young practitioners possess a wide range of thematic knowledge, engaging with diverse stakeholders to address critical issues facing the country, including safety for marginalised communities, youth unemployment, and the climate emergency. In dialogue with counterparts in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, this contingent finds voice in the NGFP South Asia Hub which seeks to build regional solidarities and share best practices. These practitioners also seek to actively connect and convene with futures practitioners across the global majority to shape a transformative culture of imagination and anticipation. SOIF’s work on Futures Methods from Around the World has also highlighted the work of designers and researchers from India. Working closely with fellow researchers in Uganda, Egypt, Mexico and Aotearoa (New Zealand), they have sought to challenge western paradigms that dominate foresight. This work positions indigenous conceptions of time, trust, agency, stewardship and infrastructure as both provocations that disrupt assumptions

and ways of making sense of the world that can inspire a more harmonious future. This research will soon be open for public engagement through an interactive repository and gameplay.

Critical questions facing foresight in India revolve around the ethics of futures work in both formal and informal contexts, and the politics of futuring itself, especially given the cultural dominance of far-right visioning and storytelling in the last decade. Recent GenZ and student-led protests showcase the need to address the very real hopes and fears of young people and recognise the rights of future generations. There is then an evident need for participatory policymaking that engages civil society across long-standing divisions of caste, class, religion and gender, a coalition that can move towards articulating and delivering on a more just vision of an Indian future.



Ireland: Connecting Wellbeing and Economic Reform with Long-Term Planning

— **Caroline Whyte** (Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability (Feasta) and SOIF LTG Ireland Hub)

Concerning employment in Ireland, a distinctive and headline-grabbing innovation by the Irish government – that had been piloted from 2023 – was made permanent in 2026: a Basic Income for the Arts (BIA). The BIA relieves the stress of artists who were previously obliged to compete intensely amongst themselves for access to grants or commissions in order to meet their basic needs, and enables them to focus instead on their creative outputs – or in other words, to undertake meaningful work on fairer terms.

Findings from the pilot have been overwhelmingly positive in terms of both the recipients' wellbeing and benefits to wider society, and have contributed to a growing interest in the possibility of introducing a Universal Basic Income (UBI) in Ireland.

Feasta launched a new discussion paper called “UBI and the Wellbeing Economy: A Proposal for Ireland” in July 2026, in partnership with the Environmental Pillar and with support from the Irish Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, at a well-attended webinar which included representatives of a wide variety of civil society organisations. This paper explores the relationship between a UBI, quality of life, and environmental sustainability in Ireland, with clear implications for long-term planning. It argues that a UBI, if funded in a socially progressive manner and introduced alongside a number of policy ‘guard rails’, could reinforce job quality by giving workers the power to refuse exploitative terms, and improve work-life balance by making voluntary working-time reduction economically viable.

Concerning housing, Feasta – along with the SOIF Long-Term Governance Ireland Hub partners who are members of Wellbeing Economy Alliance Ireland – undertook a project in 2024-25 on Housing Ourselves in a Wellbeing Economy. In February 2025 we co-organised a conference at Ireland's only ecovillage in Cloughjordan, County

Tipperary, which also attracted civil society stakeholders from across Ireland, and in May of that year we published a report which contains recommendations for the government and civil society on housing and includes a long-term perspective, particularly with regard to the relationship between the financial system and housing.

The report's analysis recommended a change in philosophy concerning investment in housing in Ireland. It argued that housing should be considered as a basic need, rather than an object of hyper-competitive financial speculation. Evidence from other countries indicates that the introduction of a Site Value Tax in Ireland could help to rectify this imbalance, while also supporting desirable economic activity and helping to protect the environment by encouraging compact development. However, there is an information gap in Ireland concerning this type of taxation, with many decision-makers still unaware of its nature and potential.

The July 2026 UBI paper argues that introducing a site value tax alongside a UBI could create a positive feedback loop, generating benefits for all of society and contributing to Ireland's longer-term resilience. We therefore recommend a strengthening of civil society and policymaker exploration of both UBI and Site Value Tax in Ireland in the run-up to the 2028 review, with an emphasis on their strong mutual relationship to long-term planning.



Italy: From Future-Generations Rights to Institutional Practice

— **Luca Miggiano** (Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development and SOIF LTG Italy Hub)

Ecosistema Futuro (www.ecosistemafuturo.it) was launched in 2025 to promote long-term policies and future-generations' rights in Italy. Promoted and hosted by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), it currently counts more than 100 participant organisations, ranging from universities, museums, cultural centres, the private sector, NGOs ministries and other public institutions, working around common projects.

Ecosistema Futuro is inspired by and constantly refers to the Art. 9 of the Italian Constitution, which mentions the interest of “future generations”, and the Pact for the Future, including the Declaration on Future Generations, with their emphasis on foresight and anticipatory governance.

In recent months, Italy made significant steps forward on the implementation of the Declaration with the approval of a Law on Generational Impact Assessment (Law No. 167 of 2025, published in November 2025). Article 4 of the Law states: *“The laws of the Republic promote intergenerational equity also in the interests of future generations”*. The law builds on some relevant local experiences with an emphasis on youth checks and has been followed by other similar regional laws more recently. Whilst the law has yet to be realised in practice, it is certainly promising. It is particularly important that implementation:

- will not limit its remit to current generations but actively incorporates “future generations” properly in the methodology;
- promotes a profound cultural change that improves the public policy cycle, not only as a risk mitigation measure, but as a generative infrastructure that creates long-term wellbeing for all;
- promotes citizens' participation in the assessment;

- ensures autonomy of all the bodies that will implement and monitor the impact assessment;
- will involve the Parliament, in a way that the assessment can feed into the policy cycle timely and can make conversations around intergenerational fairness and future-generations' rights publicly relevant.

Ecosistema Futuro will keep promoting the implementation of the Law at national and local level – with research, dialogues, and actions – also to mainstream long-term thinking and anticipatory governance in the country, with the conviction that the challenges of our time require the capacity to imagine, analyse, plan and invest in a desirable future.

A major step in this regard is the launch in 2027 of a National Assembly on the Future, a citizens' assembly of 150 randomly selected people that will discuss with scientists and experts, imagine the futures ahead and develop policy proposals to be presented to MPs and public authorities. The first gathering of the Assembly, promoted by the Italian Alliance of Sustainable Development as a way to incorporate long-term thinking and future-generations' rights in the Italian polity, will be organised together with the Municipality of Parma, which in 2027 will be the European Capital of Youth: a full week of events, discussions, debates and reflections. Civic assemblies to overcome the challenges of national parliaments to think long-term and represent future-generations' interests. Partners are encouraged to participate and contribute to the Assembly.



Kenya: Linking Parliamentary Foresight with Community Action

— **Duncan Koome** (Society for International Development and SOIF LTG Kenya Hub)

Kenya's progress since the adoption of the Declaration on Future Generations can be best understood as an emergence of a Long-Term Governance movement, rather than the conclusion or completion of institutional reform. The key shift has been a growing recognition that responsibility for future generations must be integrated into how public institutions deliberate, plan, legislate, and remain accountable.



Progress

Momentum has been generated through, and is currently being implemented:

1. Nationally through the establishment of the Kenya Senate Futures Caucus:
 - A Following its April 2025 retreat, KSFC created an important Parliamentary entry point. Through engagement with the Caucus and Senate Liaison Office, Society for International Development (SID), working alongside SOIF and other partners, has supported efforts to translate anticipatory governance and intergenerational fairness into practical parliamentary capability. This provides a foundation for connecting foresight with legislative scrutiny, public participation, and oversight beyond electoral and budgetary cycles.
 - B SID has since received enquiries from two ministries [Foreign Affairs and Agriculture] on foresight capability building and Long-Term Governance support within policymaking procedures and implementation.
2. Subnationally, SID collaborated on participatory work focused on the future of food-systems transformation, facilitating the Foresight4Food work in Turkana, Marsabit and Nakuru:
 - A The UNFSS support mechanism on Food Systems Transformation [FoSTr] demonstrated how the DFG can acquire practical meaning within food systems and people's everyday lives. Communities, public officials, and other stakeholders have used systems analysis, scenarios, futures dialogues, and locally grounded knowledge to examine food/seed sovereignty, pastoral livelihoods, nutrition, climate vulnerability, culture, and ecological stewardship.
3. Regionally, SID, in partnership with the Africa Foresight Network (AFN), co-designed and hosted the East African Foresight Convening in Kisumu, Kenya in March 2026,
 - A The convening included a consultative workshop on Advancing Regional Capacity in Foresight focused on Financialisation of Health and Food Systems in East Africa. The workshop brought together actors from across the region to examine how commercial interests, corporate concentration, public debt, technological advances, and privatisation are reshaping access to food and healthcare. Through drivers mapping, critical-uncertainty analysis, scenarios and collaborative agenda-setting, participants explored what these systems might become, for whom they are being transformed, who bears the risks, and where public and community value can be reclaimed. Kisumu also demonstrated the importance of connecting regional foresight with devolved and sub-national governance mechanisms such as the Joint Agricultural Sector Steering Committee.

Lessons

Over the past two years, integrating the DFG into the local policymaking context has surfaced a central lesson: that both anticipatory and participatory governance must advance together when envisioning the wellbeing of current and future generations. Kenya was recently plunged in tensions of civil unrest, illegitimate governance, and distrust within representational seats; where representational anticipation without informed citizen participation (FPIC) risks becoming autocratic, aristocratic, and technocratic; where participation without long-term horizon scanning can remain trapped within immediate needs. Long-Term Governance must therefore enable communities to co-govern, contest assumptions, identify trade-offs and implications, co-design policy pathways and appraise their intergenerational consequences.

Implementation Gaps

Across the continent, current DFG initiatives lack long-term governance and sustainability; they remain fragmented, reliant on individual champions, and not yet sufficiently integrated within legislation, budgeting, or oversight functions and branches of government.

Opportunity

The opportunity to facilitate a regional to subnational strategy is strongly recommended as a priority, and SID seeks to guide and support the Senate Futures Caucus and County Assemblies to include IGF indicators into the subnational County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) and Annual Development Plans (ADP) to ensure future-focused planning is tied to periodic local budget allocations.



New Zealand: Indigenous Approaches to Future Generations

— Thomas Blakie (New Zealand Treasury)

Aotearoa New Zealand's experience since the Declaration's adoption is a two-speed story. Where iwi (tribes) and communities hold the pen, things have moved. Where it has been left to central government alone, progress has stalled or reversed. Governments may last three years if they're lucky; iwi do not have that problem, which is why the durable work keeps coming from the flax-roots level rather than from the top-down. The Declaration's real use has been as a stick communities can point to when holding government to its word, rather than something government has volunteered.

Start with rangatahi (youth). Tokona te Raki's Mō Āpōpō Future-Makers programme brings young people together across schools and iwi to imagine the Aotearoa they want to inherit. It responds to research showing over half of young people are increasingly anxious about their future. Rather than managing that anxiety, Mō Āpōpō centres Māori narratives to move youth from disconnection towards agency. As one participant put it: "Before this, I didn't feel like I was a part of the future, but now I definitely do."

Indigenous health models are already doing intergenerational work. Whānau Ora, Aotearoa's whānau (family)-centred approach to health and social services, is itself a future generations framework built on holistic intergenerational wellbeing. It's a flagship example of devolved, Government-enabled, locally led service delivery, with the results to back it up: early evaluations finding 85% of engaged whānau reporting it had brought their families closer together, with services built and staffed by the community it serves. Despite central government roll-backs of partnerships with Iwi-Māori Partnership Boards, iwi services keep opening anyway.

An indigenous-based model at the local government level. The Porirua Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change shows what genuine iwi-community partnership looks like in deliberative democracy. Built on a commitment to future generations, the

Assembly reached full consensus on its recommendations against an 80% threshold, and has since produced an ongoing Community Leaders Forum to keep local leadership accountable.

The Declaration as domestic leverage. WEAll Aotearoa's Tomorrow Together campaign – a youth-led push for a Future Generations Act – has used the Declaration consistently as a reference point. It is pushing for a mokopuna (descendant)-centred Act, carrying the vision through iwi, communities and rangatahi rather than policy cycles. August 2026 polling found 82% of New Zealanders – four in five – support a law requiring governments to weigh long-term impacts when making laws and policy

Where central government has gone backwards. Against this local momentum, central government has retreated on future-focused governance. Long-term Insights Briefings have been centralised into a single report rather than sector-specific horizon scanning, Iwi-Māori Partnership Boards have been downgraded to advisory status, and the Local Government Act's 'four well-beings', an intergenerational approach to council decision-making, have been stripped out.

Indigenous governance shows a different path. Whānau Ora brings better holistic wellbeing, higher satisfaction, and stronger community resilience. This wellbeing does not disappear when a contract expires or a government changes. The priority to 2028 is to stop treating the success of iwi and communities as a coincidence, and start funding it accordingly. As one whakataukī (proverb) puts it: we are the living faces of those who came before us. One day our mokopuna will be the living faces of us, and they will judge us not only on what we leave behind, but on whether we had the sense to trust, fund, and make space for the people already carrying that responsibility forward.



Nigeria: Institutionalising Anticipatory Governance and Foresight Capacity to Strengthen Long-Term Governance

— **Mohammed Ahmed** (Office of the Vice President of Nigeria)

Since the adoption of the UN Declaration on Future Generations in 2024, Nigeria has been advancing Anticipatory Governance to strengthen its established long-term development planning architecture by mainstreaming strategic foresight and intergenerational equity into policy and decision-making.

This responds to an evolving governance environment characterised by interconnected crises, rapid technological and demographic change, geopolitical and economic volatility, and increasingly systemic risks, which are placing new demands on conventional planning approaches. Anticipatory Governance complements these established approaches by enabling policies, plans and investments to be tested against increasing uncertainty, rapid change and alternative futures, while keeping their implications for future generations in view.

A key vehicle has been the Anticipatory Governance and Foresight Capacity (AGFC) Programme, conceived in the Office of the Vice President. Its foundational anchors are Articles 28, 31 and 33 of the UN Declaration on Future Generations, endorsed at the 2024 Summit of the Future, which call for science, data and strategic foresight to strengthen long-term thinking and planning, alongside the institutional reforms needed for more anticipatory, adaptive and participatory governance. The Programme has put these principles into practice by testing anticipatory approaches through applied foresight, building awareness through dialogues and seminars, and championing reforms to embed these capabilities within government.

A particularly promising example is the Nigeria 2050 Child Foresight Analysis for Futures Literacy and Intergenerational Equity, undertaken through the AGFC Programme with support from UNICEF. Through horizon scanning, scenario development and engagement with children, young people and stakeholders,

the analysis identified seven interconnected levers for a future-ready Nigeria: education and teachers; an inclusive digital economy; institutional trust and governance; comprehensive security; resource management and climate resilience; mental health and social wellbeing; and child and youth livelihoods. The analysis provides an early demonstration of how intergenerational considerations can be translated into a structured foresight process and connected to policy priorities. Its central finding is that children's futures cannot be secured through isolated sectoral interventions, but require coordinated action across the systems that shape opportunity, security, wellbeing and agency.

The next phase is a national demonstration of anticipatory governance, using selected policy and subnational pathways to test how foresight can be incorporated into existing plans, programmes, investment decisions and implementation processes. The demonstration will provide evidence on what works, where institutional changes are required, and how approaches can be adapted and scaled.

Evidence suggests an existing practice of foresight and long-term thinking across Nigeria's academia, research institutions, civil society and professional networks. The immediate opportunity is to connect this dispersed capability into a national commons for foresight and anticipatory governance – a community of practice for sharing evidence, methods, scenarios and lessons. Ongoing conversations with the School of International Futures (SOIF), through its Long-Term Governance Hub, will help connect Nigeria's emerging practice to international peers, enabling shared learning, comparative experience and practical approaches to strengthening long-term governance.

Furthermore, the Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience (OSPRe), Nigeria's National Early Warning Centre, provides a natural institutional platform for taking this work forward. Its existing functions in strategic preparedness, risk intelligence, early warning and resilience provide a foundation for extending government's anticipatory capacity from identifying and preparing for emerging threats to systematically exploring longer-term systemic risks, opportunities and their implications for national development. A proposal to restructure and strengthen OSPRe, including provisions for the development of a National Anticipatory Governance Framework and the establishment of a National Centre for Strategic Foresight, has been developed and is currently awaiting Presidential assent. The proposed restructuring would extend OSPRe's preparedness function upstream, providing an institutional platform for a broader national anticipatory governance function.

Between now and the 2028 review, implementation should focus on three priorities:

1. Capacity building – Develop a cadre of foresight practitioners, preferably beginning at the subnational level, supported by institutional focal points and applied learning

linked to live policy challenges. This should extend to institutions responsible for legislation, national and subnational development planning, and public investment.

2. Mainstreaming application – Test and establish practical mechanisms for integrating foresight and intergenerational equity into legislation, national and subnational development plans, public investment and programme design. The national demonstration should document how these approaches influence actual decisions rather than create parallel planning processes.
3. Community of practice – Establish a national foresight commons connecting government, academia, civil society, business and youth, with shared tools, evidence, scenarios and learning. The emerging relationship with SOIF and its Long-Term Governance Hub can provide an international peer-learning layer to this national network.

By 2028, the objective should be demonstrable institutional change: a restructured OSPRE providing the institutional anchor, visible government-wide adoption, growing foresight capability across levels of government, foresight and intergenerational equity informing actual policy, planning and investment decisions, and a connected national community sustaining and advancing the practice. In this sense, foresight becomes an instrument of national agency. As the Economic Community of West African States' (ECOWAS) President has put it: "Foresight is an expression of sovereignty because it preserves our freedom to act before the future narrows our choices."

A Proposed Long-Term Governance Hub to Build a National Foresight Commons

Nigeria's proposed Long-Term Governance Hub, anchored by the Office of the Vice President's Anticipatory Governance and Foresight Capacity Programme, seeks to address the fragmentation of futures and foresight practice in the country by building a community-governed national commons, as an aggregator of peer learnings, tools, methods, and artefacts. The Hub will provide a shared repository, with members including academia, civil society and the private sector, as well as subnational and sectoral chapters, connecting emerging initiatives such as 'Rivers 2050' and Delta State's proposed 'Directorate for the Future', into a consolidated, self-sustaining national field that shores up the independent practices, practitioners, innovations and research, while routing members' work to government, and the global agenda.

United States: Youth Leadership and Civic Participation as a Pathway to Intergenerational Governance

— **Frieda Edgette** (Futures Commission, San Mateo County, California)

Context

Silicon Valley has always been a place of innovation; however, in August 2025, an intergenerational group of students, educators, public health experts, advocates and foresight practitioners confronted a hard fact: youth suicide was on the rise, Gen Z (ages 14-29) trust in government was at historic lows, 75% of mental health challenges began during the same age range, and youth agency, play and social connection had been declining since the 1990s.

We observed the systems designed to support us were stuck in short-termism and not addressing the root causes of distress: rising temperatures and sea levels, wildfires, active shooter drills, discrimination, lack of affordability.

Youth understand what's happening to them with a clarity that adults – insulated by distance, habit, or power – often don't. Drawing a connection that these struggles begin precisely in the years we've decided young people should be watching, not participating, in making decisions that shape their lives.

We noticed the same pattern everywhere: spaces addressing climate, housing, emerging technologies, work uncertainties – with none linking their impacts to mental health or even asking young people for their perspectives or lived experiences. Programmes and planning were taking place for young people and almost never with them.

So, they asked: What if young people had the skills, community, and standing to become genuine co-creators of the policies they inherit? Could that reach root causes of distress that crisis response alone never could?

Initiative

In response, the Futures Commission seeks to imagine a thriving future across all ages and stages of life through real youth leadership, cross-generational collaboration, and long-term thinking. In December 2025, they championed San Mateo County becoming the first jurisdiction in the United States to support the UN Declaration on Future Generations through a landmark resolution (RES-081556). This historic resolution was then incorporated into the County's Mental Health Month proclamation and similar commendations in cities across San Mateo County. The Futures Commission is now actualising its promises through an innovative multidisciplinary approach that blends futures thinking, leadership development, policy design, storytelling and athletics. What they have accomplished in six months is inspiring and hope-inducing. Ultimately, they are pioneering power shifts and writing a new playbook for intergenerational governance – from the spaces decisions are made to how they are made and who makes them.



Significance

The Futures Commission is rewriting democracy's playbook, its players and its plays – and using sport as a metaphor and a strategy towards intergenerational governance, foresight and ultimately, power shifts: playing the long game, civic life as a sport, gamifying learning and engaging young people where they are. As the original third space and intergenerational space, the Futures Commission harnesses the game to develop a “sports-futures connection” – where sports venues become learning labs, where athletic skills translate to futures resilience skills, and where youth, coaches, educators, athletes and community members imagine and design policy solutions for a thriving future. In its kick-off season, the Futures Commission piloted a powerful “whole-of-society” model that:

- Civil society: Launched a #10K Youth Futures campaign for youth to share visions of the future they want to shape, informing a Wellbeing of the Future Agenda.
- Organisations: Mobilised a coalition of 85+ partner organisations in less than six months, and partnered with 50+ youth and 20+ deeply rooted, community-based organisations and athletic associations to co-design powerful experiences across four historically underrepresented communities to move, connect and design desirable futures.
- Governments: Shares youth visions of the future to support alignment and explore an embedded foresight structure and voting youth seats on all boards and commissions; and recognition of youth leaders through government commendations.

Looking forward, the Futures Commission is currently setting in motion a call for youth voting seats on all boards and commissions, as well as enacting an embedded foresight structure in government, with a view to scaling to new counties.



Localising Long-Term Governance in Cities

— **James Balzer (Resilient Cities Network)**

Since adopting the Declaration on Future Generations, sub-national governments and the IGF Cities Community of Practice no longer view long-term planning as a passive regulatory agenda. Instead, it is an opportunity to implement anticipatory governance to achieve ‘resilience’.

The concept of resilience is now common parlance. It has expanded beyond risk management into deeper systems transformation. In response to 4 major economic shocks since 2020, cities are no longer focused on surface-level risk management, and especially not a parochial focus on economic efficiency. As economic, environmental and cultural nodes, cities must exhibit best-practice resilience in response to a more volatile world and economic system. This has robust intergenerational fairness implications. Municipal institutions in places like the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the United States have developed their own resilience strategies, underpinned by intergenerational fairness principles.

For example, the updated Resilient Sydney Strategy embeds many principles and practices of intergenerational fairness outlined in the DFG.

What are some promising innovations, policies or practical examples that show implementation?

- **The Portfolio Finance approach for long-term urban resilience**, developed by the Resilient Cities Network and Tokio Marine Group. This aims to make systemic resilience in cities bankable and commercially appealing, rather than over-relying on government intervention and finance. Based around ‘6 practices’ of portfolio finance, it argues that by consolidating related projects – such as water supply, stormwater storage, and energy infrastructure – cities reduce reliance on ad hoc funding, achieve measurable returns, and lower climate adaptation risks. This makes long-term infrastructure projects viable for institutional investors, insurers, and private lenders. It has already been implemented by Cape Town, Broward

County and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Resilient Sydney is now implementing it, in collaboration with the Macquarie University Centre for Nature-positive Finance.

- **The application of Evidence-Based Policy Design (EBPM) for Anticipatory Heat Resilience in Filipino Schools** – by the Ateneo Research Institute for the Futures of Education (Ateneo RIFE), the Department of Education (DepEd) and ChildFund Philippines. This collaboration demonstrates anticipatory governance by DepEd – overlaying foresight tools such as Causal Layered Analysis, the Futures Wheel and the Three Horizons Framework – to manage long-term extreme heat resilience of Filipino schools. Currently, Filipino school children are losing many school days each year due to extreme heat, which have resonating social and economic consequences. This provides a systematic way to overcome the ‘weights of history’ and achieve the ‘pulls from the future’ – such as the Learning Continuity in Emergencies Policy and renewed school infrastructure standards and procurement reform for renovations in Filipino schools.

What key gaps, barriers or opportunities are there?

A major structural barrier is the misalignment between municipal regulatory frameworks and private capital markets. Outdated building codes and the existing infrastructure standards – these having been designed with past climatic assumptions in mind – discourage private investment in high-performance resilience assets. The inflexibility of public procurement procedures favours short-term, lowest-cost purchases over multi-decade lifecycle cost assessments, creating obstacles for the uptake of resilient infrastructure standards and materials.

Moreover, mispricing of municipal risks, driven by poor data governance, compounded by the absence of standard frameworks for disclosure and activation, contributes to a growing gap in insurance protection and in the availability of capital. Nevertheless, there are important opportunities in using regulatory measures to send clear market signals. This can be achieved by updating the building codes to require forward-looking climate projections, by incorporating anticipatory resilience criteria into the rules governing municipal procurement, and by making use of market-based approaches (for example, insurance-linked incentives and green bonds), so that local governments can take account of climate externalities and reduce the risks associated with long-term private capital investments.

What priorities or recommendations should guide action until the 2028 review?

- **Embed Portfolio Finance methodologies** – Municipalities should replace the financing of separate, ad hoc projects – focused on quarterly cash flow returns – with integrated financial portfolios that consolidate broader infrastructure systems under a single investment arrangement. This makes long-term infrastructure resilience commercially appealing, attracting long-term private capital for intergenerational resilience. This complements public finance, which is often constrained and misallocated.
- **Local governments should reform procurement and building standards** to reward total lifecycle value instead of lowest cost. This involves incorporating long-term climate projections into regulations, and mandating anticipatory governance criteria in infrastructure tendering arrangements.
- **Cities should establish early-stage** collaboration platforms with private lenders, institutional investors, and insurance underwriters to align risk modelling, reduce capital costs, and secure blended finance before the 2028 review.



What we are seeing

The national and local examples reinforce that **institutionalisation can take many forms**. Long-term governance may enter through legislation, foresight functions, parliamentary scrutiny, public planning, cities, Indigenous institutions or citizen-led processes. The relevant question is less whether countries adopt the same mechanism than whether their chosen approach gains sufficient authority and durability to affect decisions.

They also show the importance of working across the Long-Term Governance Prism and **combining political, institutional and civic routes**. Formal mandates can provide continuity and authority, while participation, public demand and locally grounded knowledge can strengthen legitimacy and help ensure that long-term governance responds to present priorities as well as future risks.

Finally, these cases underline that progress is **not linear**. Political transitions, weak implementation capacity or lack of resources can stall promising reforms, while locally rooted approaches may continue developing even when national momentum slows. What endures depends not only on how reform begins, but on how widely ownership and capability are distributed.



Cross-cutting themes: Issues, institutions and instruments

Long-term governance becomes consequential when it changes how societies understand and respond to real policy challenges, or when practical mechanisms give long-term considerations greater influence over decisions.

The contributions in this section approach that question from two directions. Some begin with **policy applications**, including health, climate, culture, democratic security and economic wellbeing, and ask what changes when these issues are viewed across generations. Others begin with **governance mechanisms and enabling practices**, including institutions and instruments in the areas of law, audit, finance, commissioners, participation and communication, and examine how long-term considerations acquire influence within everyday decision-making.

The distinction is not absolute: many contributions span both. Together, they show why implementation cannot be reduced to a single policy field, institution or tool.

Democratic Security: Bridging Hard Defence and Civic Resilience

— Felipe Bosch (School of International Futures)

European democracies face a structural security rupture. As military spending climbs in response to escalating external threats, public trust in democratic institutions continues a steep decline.

This creates a dangerous vulnerability: total reliance on hard military rearmament ignores the reality that a state whose citizens are alienated, polarised, and distrustful of their own governance remains deeply insecure. Rearmament without a trusted democratic foundation leaves the internal state fabric exposed to hybrid warfare, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), and societal paralysis.

The boundary between hard defence and soft security is obsolete. True democratic security requires integrating military readiness with internal civic resilience through democratic foresight – using futures methodologies as a permanent security discipline to protect and renew democratic infrastructure. As Council of Europe Secretary General Alain Berset emphasised at the 2026 Policy Planning Directors conference, the New Democratic Pact for Europe will send a clear signal of growing political leadership willing to articulate shared strategic narratives, build cross-sectoral capabilities, and drive high-level coordination to address this issue by building on this understanding.

Democratic foresight reinforces security across three core operational pillars:

- **Anticipatory Defence in the Machinery of Government:** Modern security threats are hyper-hybridised, spanning foreign aggression, cyber vulnerabilities, resource scarcity, and climate shocks. Siloed bureaucracies trapped in short-term crisis management cannot anticipate these compounding risks. Anticipatory governance establishes cross-sectoral capability to horizon-scan, early-warn, and stress-test core security strategies against non-linear threats. Governance innovations – such as *Lithuania's Vision for the Future 2050* (linking civic visioning directly to national survival) or Finland's Parliamentary Committee for the Future – demonstrate how foresight can strengthen state readiness alongside conventional defence.

- **Civic Cohesion as Hybrid Defence:** Internal division is a primary entry point for adversarial influence. When the public discussion is trapped in short-term, zero-sum political battles, populations develop severe cognitive vulnerabilities to disinformation and polarisation. Extending deliberative time horizons 20 to 30 years out defuses immediate identity-driven friction, protects citizens' cognitive agency, and rebuilds the social cohesion necessary to withstand external manipulation. Models like Ireland's Citizens' Assemblies, the *Destino Colombia* scenarios linked to the peace process, and the *Cyprus Transformative Scenarios Process (TSP)* show that long-term civic deliberation functions as a vital defence mechanism in fractured environments.
- **Futures-Literate Security Leadership:** National security fails if citizens feel no sense of ownership over the governance model they are asked to protect. Political leadership must move beyond reactive threat-messaging towards generational stewardship and transparent, multi-year strategic capability. Statutory tools like Wales's *Well-being of Future Generations Act* and cross-party leadership initiatives align political incentives to defend long-term democratic integrity against short-term political decay.

Democratic foresight serves two security functions: **resilience** (scanning and stress-testing to anticipate and absorb sudden shocks) and **renewal** (backcasting and visioning to give societies a shared, defensible future). Hard power deters external aggression, but democratic foresight secures the institutional trust, cohesion, and agility needed to survive contemporary turbulence. Democracy is not built for speed; it is built to last.



Giving Future Generations Legal Standing: From Principle to Accountability

— **Manuel Castañón del Valle** (Foundation for the Protection and Defense of Future Generations)

The United Nations Declaration on Future Generations represents a crucial international milestone in the protection and defence of future generations, as its text sets out concrete commitments rather than merely declaratory ones, with specific timelines that require results to be demonstrated.

Since its adoption, there have been some advances at both the legislative and judicial levels. For example, the International Court of Justice's July 2025 advisory opinion on climate change consolidated intergenerational equity as an interpretive criterion for States' climate obligations, marking the first time that an international court of this stature has given operational meaning to this principle enshrined in the Declaration. At the legislative level, I am also witnessing first-hand how one region of Spain, the Canary Islands, is currently drafting legislation towards the protection of future generations in the territory. This still emerging momentum can also be seen in other parts of the world, including Australia and Scotland.

In Latin America, an important movement is beginning to take root within major and prestigious universities, which could pave the way for legislative initiatives to protect future generations. Examples include the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and Argentina's University of Belgrano, which in 2025, together with the Foundation for the Protection and Defense of Future Generations, established a World Centre for the Ombudsperson for Future Generations.

Despite these individual initiatives, there remains a clear gap in States' implementation of the Declaration and its principles. Very few countries have followed, for example, the Welsh model, which is a major international reference point, with binding legislation and an independent Future Generations Commissioner. In this regard, it is important to highlight that most commitments remain aspirational, without enforcement mechanisms or indicators for monitoring progress.

A major obstacle is the weak binding force of the principle of intergenerational equity. There is no clear impetus for States to legislate or even to grant legal personality to future generations, leaving them without their own legal representation to defend their rights in the present and without representation in most national and international forums. Even the International Court of Justice treated the principle of intergenerational equity as an interpretive criterion rather than as an autonomous source of rights.

A priority should be to ensure the appointment and funding of the United Nations Special Envoy for Future Generations, as without this role, the wider implementation architecture lacks leadership and a focal point for accountability. It is equally urgent to encourage the adoption of national legislation inspired by models such as those of Wales or Finland, while adapting institutional design to the context of each country.



Accounting for the Future: Bringing Long-Term Obligations into Fiscal Decision-Making

— **Ana Furtado** (Portuguese Court of Auditors)

Long-term governance requires public policies and their impacts to be considered from a broader, longer-term perspective, including the obligations and consequences that today's decisions create over time.

In Portugal, one of the key areas of focus of the Court of Auditors, particularly through its Opinions on the General State Account, has been to promote more comprehensive and transparent reporting of public finances.

This means looking beyond current revenues and expenditures to capture future obligations and liabilities, and their potential implications for the long-term sustainability of public finances.

Since 2024, the Court has issued a non-compliance Opinion on the General State Account with the requirements of the Budgetary Framework Law. In particular, the Account does not include consolidated budgetary and financial statements for the central administration and Social Security. As a result, it provides an incomplete picture of the public sector's financial position, including with regard to public debt, treasury balances, financial and real estate assets, and contingent liabilities.

This issue is particularly relevant in the case of Social Security. The consolidated balance sheet does not yet provide a true and fair view of its financial position, as it does not recognise the liabilities arising from beneficiaries' entitlements to pensions in payment. This accounting omission limits the completeness and quality of the information available to policymakers, making it more difficult to assess the long-term fiscal implications of existing pension commitments and to support informed decisions on the future design and sustainability of the pension system.

Against this background, the Court recommended that the Minister for Labour, Solidarity and Social Security take the necessary steps to ensure the development and implementation of an accounting policy governing the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of social benefits payable, particularly pensions, in accordance with the applicable international public sector accounting standards.

Effective follow-up of these recommendations is considered essential, not only to promote their implementation, but also to monitor progress in strengthening public financial management and improving the quality, transparency and long-term usefulness of public financial information.

In this sense, the Court's work aims to contribute to a more forward-looking approach to fiscal governance, in which future commitments and their potential impacts are adequately identified, measured and taken into account in today's policy decisions. Portugal's experience illustrates a wider dimension of long-term governance: future-generations considerations need to enter not only strategies and foresight processes, but also the systems through which governments understand their financial position and make fiscal choices. Making future obligations more visible can strengthen accountability for the consequences of today's decisions and provide policymakers with better information for managing trade-offs across generations.



Wellbeing Economics: From Frameworks to System Change

— **Cressida Gaukroger (School of International Futures)**

Over the decade the wellbeing economy and futures thinking have moved from the margins of policy debate towards the mainstream. Over 70% of OECD countries now have some form of multidimensional wellbeing measure or framework, the UN High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP has set out recommendations for global norms on sustainable development indicators, and constitutional and legislative protections for future generations have expanded – from Wales’ 2015 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to Italy’s 2022 constitutional amendment and Germany’s 2021 constitutional court ruling on climate obligations.

The adoption of the UN Declaration on Future Generations in 2024 has the potential to be a watershed moment for this movement towards wellbeing-centred, long-term thinking. Taken together, these developments confirm that the underlying question is no longer whether long-term and wellbeing-oriented governance matters, but how to embed it into the everyday machinery of government.

Promising practical examples increasingly show what implementation can look like. Budget reform is proving one of the most powerful levers: New Zealand’s 2019 Wellbeing Budget structured multi-year funding around shared priorities rather than departmental silos, while Scotland has piloted a preventative-spending tool that tags spending by the demand drivers it addresses. Revenue systems are also being reshaped with long-term goals in mind, from Norway’s sovereign wealth fund treating oil revenue as belonging to future as much as current generations, to Scotland’s new Community Wealth Building law. Independent institutions – Finland’s Committee for the Future, Singapore’s Strategic Foresight Unit – show how foresight capability can be built directly into government decision-making rather than treated as an external add-on.

Despite this progress, a persistent implementation gap remains the central barrier. Many governments now have wellbeing frameworks, long-term strategies

or future-generations commitments, but these ambitions still struggle to shape routine decisions on spending, regulation, taxation and service delivery. Much of this reflects system inertia, competition for political bandwidth, and the slow, hard-to-communicate nature of preventative benefits – barriers well documented in analyses of pushback against wellbeing economy reform. A further risk is that wellbeing and future-generations approaches are adopted piecemeal, grafted onto economic systems that remain structurally short-term, rather than driving genuine transformation of the incentives, accountability structures and evidence base that shape decisions.

Priorities for the period to 2028 should therefore focus on moving from fragmented interventions to coherent system architecture. This means treating legal duties, budget reform, revenue design, procurement and accountability mechanisms as interlocking parts of a single system rather than standalone initiatives – a wellbeing framework without budget reform, for instance, will struggle to shape actual spending. It also means expanding what counts as evidence in decision-making, combining foresight, citizen participation and long-term impact assessment alongside conventional fiscal analysis. As the DFG’s 2028 review approaches, alongside the parallel Beyond GDP and post-2030 processes, there is a real opportunity to consolidate this growing body of practice into shared implementation tools and accountability mechanisms – helping governments move from articulating long-term wellbeing goals to consistently delivering on them across electoral cycles.



Advancing Climate and Environmental Justice through the African Human Rights System

— **Michael Kakande (Resilient40)**

For Africa's young people, the UN Declaration on Future Generations offers an important framework for moving beyond short-term decision-making and recognising that today's choices shape the rights, opportunities and security of generations yet to come.

Resilient40 held its first ever East Africa Future Generations Tribunal (EAFGT) in Mombasa, Kenya in 2025 and has sought to translate this principle into practical climate and human rights action through regional advocacy, youth mobilisation and strategic engagement with African institutions.

A central part of this work is the ongoing petition for an Advisory Opinion on State Obligations in Response to the Climate Crisis before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. The initiative seeks to clarify the obligations of African states to protect human rights in the context of climate change and environmental harm, while strengthening accountability for decisions that affect present and future generations. It represents an effort to use Africa's own regional human rights architecture to develop legal standards that reflect the continent's realities, vulnerabilities and aspirations.

The process has also demonstrated the value of civil society and affected communities in shaping long-term governance. Through youth-led advocacy, consultations, public dialogue and regional coalition-building, the petition has created space for young people and frontline communities to contribute to conversations about the legal and policy choices that will define Africa's future. Resilient40's wider work, including EAFGT, Climate Cafes and the Africa Climate Justice Caravans, similarly seeks to connect community experience with national, regional and global policy processes.

Important gaps remain. Political will and implementation often lag behind the urgency of the climate crisis, while civic space for human rights and environmental defenders

remains under pressure. Between now and the 2028 review, Africa needs stronger legal accountability, meaningful youth participation, intergenerational impact assessments, and mechanisms that connect climate commitments with enforceable human rights obligations. Regional institutions should be supported to provide clearer standards, while governments and international partners should invest in the capacity of young people and communities to participate meaningfully in governance.

The experience of Resilient40 demonstrates that future generations are not simply beneficiaries of today's decisions; they can be active co-authors of the future being built. The period to 2028 should therefore be used to institutionalise meaningful youth participation, strengthen accountability for climate and environmental harm, and ensure that long-term governance is grounded in equity, human rights and African leadership. The future cannot be protected by postponing action – it must be governed differently today.



Being a Future Generations Commissioner: Building an Indigenous Institution for the Future

— **Nsah Mala (Mbessa Kingdom Indigenous Commission for Future Generations and Sustainability)**

After the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, I proposed to the King (Fon) of Mbessa that we create an Indigenous Commission for Future Generations and Sustainability – an institution that could bring the principle of responsibility towards future generations into our own system of indigenous governance.

Rather than simply reproducing the single-Commissioner model used in Wales, we chose a collective model: a diverse commission bringing together women and men, young people, adults and elders, development leaders, intellectuals and other community members with diverse expertise. I was appointed Chairperson, with His Majesty Gilbert Njong III serving as Patron.

The experience has taught me that being a Future Generations Commissioner is less about speaking on behalf of an abstract future than about creating institutional spaces in which communities can ask different questions about the consequences of decisions today. The Commission works within, rather than outside, existing institutions, engaging the Fon, the Kwifoyn, the Mbessa Area Development Association (MADA), community organisations and other actors.

This has already produced practical conversations and actions. Discussions on the health risks associated with sachet whiskeys contributed to a customary ban through the Kwifoyn. We have also worked with the Mbessa Language Committee to sustain the Mbessa language through holiday classes in Yaoundé and online WhatsApp classes, and launched a storytelling competition to document Mbessa folklore. Commission and community members have also participated in foresight training alongside representatives from other communities, while Mbessa youth have benefited from digital youth advocacy programmes.

Our agenda is expanding towards food futures, environmental protection – including awareness of the impacts of eucalyptus trees on water sources – and a long-term community development vision. Meanwhile, the model is beginning to travel. I supported the creation of similar multiple-member commissions in Nkar (Fon Molo II) and Ajung (Fon Peter Ketu) in 2025 and Din-Noni (Fon Joseph Ntang II) and Jull (Fon Robert Kiyam) in 2026, where I now serve as strategic adviser.

For me, this is the deeper promise of a Commissioner's role: not simply to advocate for future generations, but to help communities build institutions capable of thinking and acting for them today.



Laying Foundations for Healthy Future Generations

— **Tessa Roseboom** (University of Amsterdam) and
Dina von Heimburg (Norwegian University of Science
and Technology and SOIF LTG Norway Hub)

Investing in children's developmental environments is the foundation for society's long-term capacity to care for future generations.

On stewardship

Stewardship is often understood as protecting natural resources or public finances for those who come after us. Yet the first responsibility of stewardship is developmental: creating environments that allow every child to develop to their full potential.

All living creatures are shaped by the environment created by generations past

Health offers a powerful lens through which to understand intergenerational justice. **Every living organism is shaped by its environment, and humans are no exception.** From conception onwards, the environments in which we develop influence our biology, health, resilience and capacity to thrive. These environmental influences are transmitted across generations through social, environmental and biological pathways, meaning that every generation inherits not only genes, but also the consequences of the conditions created by those before them. Healthy environments enable healthy child development; healthy children are more likely to become healthy adults, healthy parents and engaged citizens capable of making decisions that safeguard the wellbeing of future generations.

Investing in a good start in life as foundation for healthy future generations

This understanding has shaped the Netherlands' approach through the *Solid Start* programme and the broader *Healthy Generation* movement, which unite government,

civil society and 23 health foundations around a shared ambition to give every child the best possible start in life. A key lesson has been that creating healthy future generations requires action far beyond the health sector. It demands collaboration across health, education, housing, social protection, finance and the physical environment, recognising that health is created primarily by the conditions in which people are shaped (during the first 1000 days of life) and live rather than by healthcare alone. Framing this agenda through children's rights, who are affected by our actions and decisions even before they are born, and as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, require protection, has helped build broad political support by connecting immediate investments in children with long-term societal wellbeing.

Investing in a good start in life as an investment in society's future capacity for stewardship

Perhaps the most important lesson is that intergenerational thinking is not only a matter of governance – it is also deeply human. Our capacity to care for future generations is itself shaped by what previous generations passed on to us. Children who grow up in safe, nurturing and stable environments are more likely to develop the trust, resilience and agency needed to invest in the future. Conversely, experiences of unsafety, poverty, violence, discrimination and chronic stress can be transmitted across generations through social, psychological and biological pathways, reducing people's opportunities to look beyond immediate needs and limiting society's collective capacity for long-term action.

This creates an important paradox for future-generations policy. We ask governments and societies to think beyond short political and economic cycles, yet many individuals and communities are living with the consequences of past decisions that have constrained their ability to do exactly that. Breaking these cycles therefore requires more than institutional reform. It requires investment in the conditions that enable people to flourish from the earliest stages of life.

Because the capacity for long-term thinking is itself shaped by early developmental environments, investing in children's health and wellbeing strengthens not only future population health but also society's ability to govern in the interests of future generations.

Challenge: While the Netherlands has introduced a Generation Test, its application remains limited and continues to focus predominantly on healthcare rather than the wider determinants of health.

Communicating the Importance of Future-Generations Thinking

— **Zoe Tcholak-Antitch (Global Optimism)**
and **Sarah Thomas (Kloo Communications)**

Zoe Tcholak-Antitch and Sarah Thomas led the creation of the Future Generations Communications Playbook, developed to help practitioners communicate long-term and intergenerational governance more clearly and effectively. The Playbook draws on extensive research, practitioner interviews, message testing and a review of wider public-attitudes evidence. Their contribution below highlights the communications approaches that are resonating most strongly, the gaps that remain, and what should be prioritised next.

What is resonating?

The framing that resonated most among futures practitioners working with policymakers was ‘keep the future open’. It centres the call to make good decisions today that also widen the options available to those who come after us. It is powerful and adaptable for three reasons:

1. It is genuinely non-partisan. It sits on the how of decision-making rather than contested policy positions, so it does not code left or right. Policymakers can pick it up without adopting anyone else’s political vocabulary.
2. It is honest about what we do not know. We cannot know what future generations will need or the context they will work in. Keeping the future open allows us to focus on long-term governance that protects choice and the ability to adapt.
3. It places the action firmly in the present and across policy. Long-term governance might look like homes that stay affordable, health systems that prevent disease as well as treat it, and energy infrastructure that lowers bills.

We continue to draw on Potential Energy’s Later is Too Late research given its size and reach. While focused on climate, it covered 23 countries and around 58,000 people, and found that protecting the planet for the next generation beat messages about jobs, prosperity, ending injustice and extreme weather in every country and every segment. It also showed that restriction language – bans, mandates and phase-outs

– costs support. A frame built on protecting options is therefore key to wider public support and a stronger global appetite to act.

Where the gaps are

The most cited frustration among the practitioners we spoke to was the tendency for future generations to be understood only as a youth justice or climate add-on. What they wanted instead was its positioning as a long-term, cross-policy governance approach involving stewardship and responsible yet ambitious policymaking, and one that is not confined to Global North contexts.

A ‘show, don’t tell’ communication strategy through concrete case studies is the most effective tool to achieve this. Foresight, scenario planning and citizens’ assemblies are all fundamental and effective tools, but risk sounding academic when described in theory alone. Clarity and ambition land when policymakers can see real-life applications that detail who benefited and what endured.

Further investment and time are needed to devise and test the messaging with policymakers in globally diverse regions, on a sample big enough to take this from anecdote to data-driven evidence.

What to prioritise

Our recommendations are as follows:

- Build the case study base, gathering detailed outcomes and learnings, and keep it current.
- Fund proper message testing with policymaker and intermediary audiences, with feedback loops that let the language adapt where needed.
- Converge on shared language using a resource like the Future Generations Playbook so messaging stays consistent but flexible across contexts.

All this builds confidence in communicating about future generations, and confidence is key. Future-generations leadership has legal grounding, institutional precedent and overwhelming public support across the political spectrum.

Culture as Infrastructure for Future Generations

— Patrick Towell (Creative Innovation 4 Good)

Since the Declaration, progress has not been a single cultural policy breakthrough, but a convergence of public policy, the cultural sector and creative practitioners' approaches to policy and involvement of young people and increasing agency by young people themselves.

The areas of cultural rights, Culture-Based Climate Action (CBCA), heritage protection and youth creativity are increasingly being recognised as practical and core – rather than 'add-on' – routes through which societies exercise responsibility to future generations.

In 2025 Spain's cultural rights plan and Wales's *Culture for Future Generations* Green Paper demonstrated how cultural policy framed by individual's cultural rights – as a subset of their social and economic rights – centres on individuals' needs and experience rather than support mechanisms for the cultural sector and long-term sustainable development of communities rather than short-term economic gains.

COP30 in Belém marked a step change for Culture-Based Climate Action. Brazil's leadership helped bring culture, cultural heritage and creative practice into the COP30 Action Agenda, framing climate action as a social, cultural and democratic transition as well as a technical one. Crucially, the process also created space for future generations – including young people, Indigenous voices and communities whose heritage is already being reshaped by climate change – to be recognised not only as affected stakeholders but as active contributors to climate imagination, adaptation and justice. The priority now is to convert this recognition into resourced action: embedding culture in adaptation plans, climate finance and local implementation so that tangible and intangible heritage, public imagination and intergenerational responsibility become part of climate infrastructure.

'Heritage adaptation' is one kind of heritage protection. Multiple initiatives in conflict zones have emphasised the need to save tangible culture for future generations in Lebanon and the Ukraine, to name but a few. Meanwhile, measures to protect and

capture for future generations intangible – or ‘living’ – heritage continue. For example the United Kingdom, having only recently acceded to the UN Convention, is busy preparing its first register of intangible heritage to be released in summer 2026, thus raising the profile of this often-invisible societal capital in a country whose cultural policy heavily focuses on investment in buildings and physical collections.

One small piece of research inspired by the Declaration on Future Generations and the School of International Futures’ Next Generation Foresight Practitioners programme was the *Growing up with music in your blood?* report undertaken by an undergraduate student and keen amateur musician while studying and working in Rio. Based on interviews with young people finding their way in the world of music, the study identifies many social and economic barriers to equality of access to music education, equipment and facilities and professional opportunities and puts forward suggestions for strategies for greater inclusion, partly informed by the British Council’s *Next Generation Brazil* research. As well as hoping to inspire more in-depth research on this topic in Brazil, it’s also an interesting model of research by young people, with young people, using their lived experience to generate ground-up solutions.

The arts and cultural education in focus roundup⁴ by the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) shows a broad international shift in 2026 towards treating arts and cultural education as a core public policy concern, connecting creativity, skills, peacebuilding and sustainable development. At global level, the Korea Arts and Culture Education Service hosted an international symposium during UNESCO Culture and Education Week on how to measure the impact of arts education; in Chile, the culture and education ministries convened the third International Hilando Saberes gathering, emphasising arts education as a route to critical thinking, creativity, inclusion and social cohesion. The Organisation of Ibero-American States and Brazil’s Ministry of Culture announced 17,000 international scholarships for creative economy training, including audiovisual production, photography, animation and documentary filmmaking.

4 ACORNS 473: Arts and cultural education in focus. <https://ifacca.org/what-we-do/knowledge-evidence-and-insight/acorns/acorns-473-arts-and-cultural-education-in-focus/>

Rivers 2050 Vision: A Citizen-led Model for Long-Term Governance in a Fragile Context

— **Ebenazar Wikina** (Rivers 2050 Vision)

Rivers State, one of Nigeria's 36 states, sits in the Niger Delta on the Atlantic coast and has been the epicentre of Nigeria's oil and gas industry since the 1950s. Like much of the wider region, it has been without any long-term governance framework since 1975. The result has been haphazard service delivery without continuity: more than half of its seven-million strong population now live in multidimensional poverty, without reliable access to good healthcare, education, or jobs.

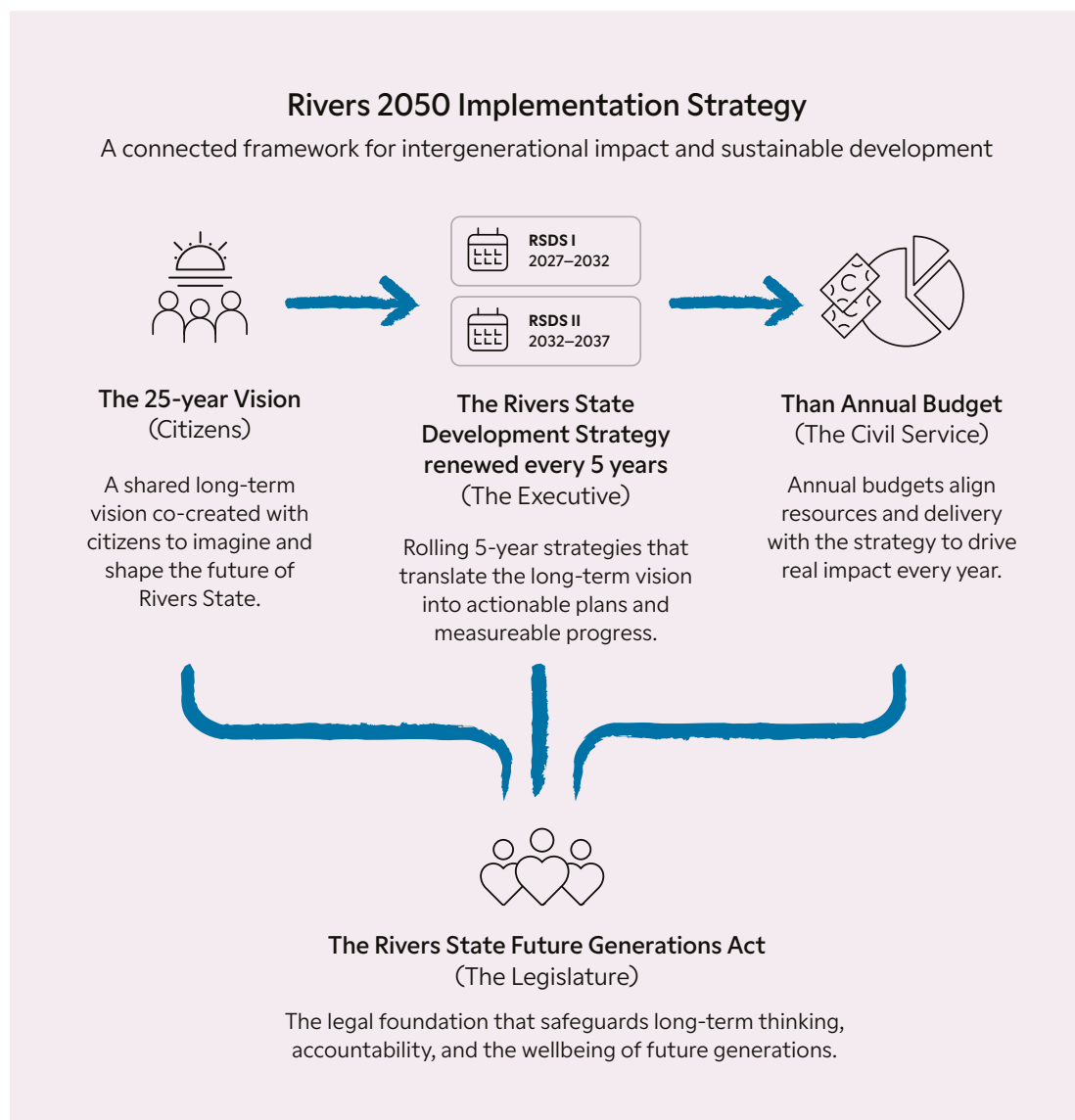
For years, I led advocacy for the State government to develop a long-term governance framework. After the UN Declaration on Future Generations was adopted, it became clear the State could go another 50 years without public leadership taking up that task on its own. So in February 2025, I convened the Rivers 2050 Vision, a citizen-led, youth-powered foresight project to co-create a 25-year development blueprint for Rivers State.

The project runs across five phases: constituting a volunteer Task Force, a state-wide futures survey, expert focus groups across 17 thematic areas, synthesis and drafting of the Vision Book, and launch and implementation advocacy. Since 2025, more than 150 young people have formed the Task Force, over 4,300 citizens have been surveyed one-on-one, and insights have been gathered from more than 100 thematic experts across 51 public consultation sessions. This scale of direct civic participation in subnational visioning is, to our knowledge, the first of its kind on the African continent: evidence that even in a fragile context, with thin institutional trust and short planning horizons, young people can lead long-term governance work when given the right platform.

With the Vision Book being finalised for launch in November 2026, one lesson stands out from the past 18 months: citizen movements can lead the advocacy and implementation of long-term governance frameworks in fragile contexts, not just participate on the sidelines. That opens a real pathway for long-term governance globally. But it also exposes a gap.

That gap is institutionalisation. How does a document designed by citizens get adopted by government as a working instrument? Citizen-led visioning can build momentum and legitimacy, but without a legislative anchor, it risks becoming a well-produced document that sits on a shelf. We've thought hard about this over the past year and designed an implementation framework, connecting the Executive, Civil Service, and Legislature in Rivers State.

Between now and the 2028 DFG review, our first priority is securing passage of the Rivers State Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, giving our 25-year aspiration institutional machinery that survives changes in political party or administration. Our second priority is operationalising that Act once passed: launching the first five-year Rivers State Development Strategy (2027–2032) and aligning annual state budgets to it, so the vision moves from legislation into delivery rather than stalling at the point of adoption.

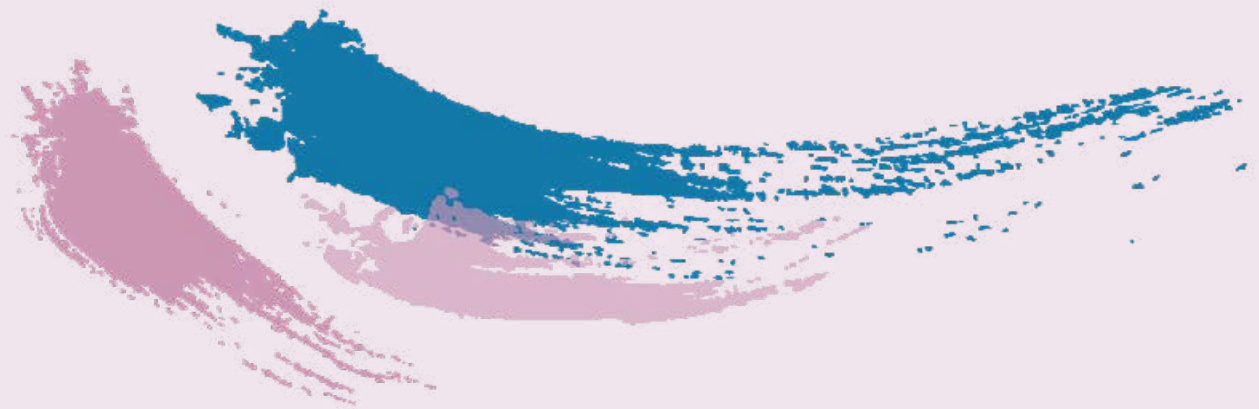


What we are seeing

These contributions show that an intergenerational lens can **change both the substance and the process of governance**. Applied to a policy challenge, it can reveal consequences, trade-offs and connections that shorter-term or sector-specific approaches may miss. Applied through a governance mechanism, it can change what evidence is considered, whose interests are represented and how decisions are scrutinised.

No individual tool guarantees influence. Law, foresight, audit, finance, participation and dedicated institutions derive their significance from how they connect to wider decision-making systems and to the policy challenges governments and communities are trying to address.

The breadth of these contributions therefore points back to a central finding of this update: long-term governance is not a specialist agenda alongside other policy priorities. **It is an approach to governing those priorities across time.**



A Call to Action for 2028: What's Next and What's Needed



The task for the next two years is to turn emerging momentum into durable practice. The priorities are already clear. What matters now is **who acts, where, and with what support.**

1. Institutionalise long-term thinking

Political leaders and parliaments should use current momentum to establish durable institutional anchors for long-term governance, whether through legislation, parliamentary scrutiny, dedicated mandates, planning functions or accountability mechanisms suited to their context.

Governments should ensure these arrangements have sufficient authority, staffing and resources to survive political transitions and influence real decisions.

2. Translate commitment into policy and implementation

Governments, particularly ministries and institutions responsible for finance, planning, public investment, regulation and evaluation, should integrate long-term and intergenerational considerations into the processes through which consequential choices are made.

International organisations and technical partners should support governments to apply these approaches to live policy challenges, adapting tools to national and local contexts rather than promoting a single model.

3. Strengthen accountability and evidence

Governments, accountability institutions, researchers and practitioners should move beyond documenting activity and assess whether long-term governance is changing decisions.

By 2028, the evidence base should be able to show whether foresight, participation, impact assessment, legislation or institutional reform has influenced budgets, planning, investment, regulation or policy outcomes.

Funders should finance evaluation and learning alongside experimentation so that evidence can be shared and compared across contexts.

4. Invest in capability and implementation

Governments and development partners should invest in the practical capabilities needed to act: foresight, intergenerational assessment, participation, long-term policy design, evidence and implementation support.

Investment should be more deliberately directed towards **locally led practice across the Global Majority**, including governments, cities, communities, Indigenous institutions, civil society and practitioners developing approaches rooted in their own political, cultural and institutional contexts.

Philanthropic and development funders can play an important catalytic role where emerging practice lacks sustained resources.

5. Build the infrastructure for collective action

The UN system, the Group of Friends, regional organisations, the G20, national and local governments, practitioner networks, civil society, academia and funders should strengthen the connections through which implementation support, experience and evidence travel.

That means investing in peer learning, regional hubs, communities of practice, technical assistance, trusted convening spaces and accessible knowledge.

The goal should not be to create new structures for their own sake, but to ensure that actors seeking to implement long-term governance can find the **tools, expertise, peers and resources** they need.



What should we reasonably expect to see by 2028?

The 2028 review should not expect proof that governance systems have been transformed everywhere. It should, however, expect **compelling evidence that a transition is underway**.

By 2028, we should be able to see:

- long-term governance becoming **institutional practice across different political, economic and cultural contexts**;
- evidence that reforms are **influencing real policy choices**, including budgets, planning, legislation and investment;
- **better access to practical tools, technical support and peer learning** for governments and institutions seeking to act;
- **meaningful participation by citizens and communities** in decisions affecting their futures;
- **stronger evidence** about which approaches work, under what conditions and why; and
- a **better-connected international implementation architecture** linking global commitments with national and local practice.

By 2028, the test should not be whether long-term governance has been fully embedded everywhere, but whether there is compelling evidence that it works. Across different types of countries, we should be able to point to new ways of making decisions, strengthening accountability and engaging society that are helping to rebuild the intergenerational social contract. And we should see these approaches feeding through into tangible results on issues people care about – from jobs, housing and climate resilience to how countries manage public investment, sovereign wealth and debt. This will look different in different places. The test is whether there are compelling examples across the full diversity of countries – large and small, landlocked and island states, richer and poorer – showing that better long-term governance can lead to better decisions and better outcomes for current and future generations.

Appendix

Expert survey respondents

This report draws on a broad evidence base reflecting our growing global network of practitioners working on long-term governance, foresight and intergenerational policy, spanning community members and initiatives across more than 60 countries; over 30 named contributors from a wide range of perspectives and diverse backgrounds; and a targeted survey of 28 experts listed below. Together, these sources inform the analysis throughout the report and provide complementary perspectives on how long-term governance is developing across different regions, levels of governance and areas of practice.

Name	Organisation	Country/Region
Mohammed Ahmed	The Presidency, Federal Republic of Nigeria	Nigeria
Christel Barthelemy	DEED	Australia
Manuel Castañón del Valle	Foundation for the Protection and Defence of Future Generations	Spain/Latin America and the Caribbean
Vibha Deshpande	Teach The Future	India
Mikko Dufva	Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra	Finland
Susana Fonseca	ZERO	Portugal
Florence Gaub	NATO Defense College	Italy, France, Germany
Nathaniel Harding	One Family Foundation, Melton Foundation	United Kingdom/International
Taylor Hawkins	Foundations for Tomorrow	Australia
Peter Hoffman	Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, CUNY Graduate Center	United States
Andrew Jackson	Independent Practitioner	New Zealand

Donncha Kavanagh	University College Dublin	Ireland
Nicklas Larsen	Copenhagen Institute for Future Generations	Denmark
Laurel Lundstrom	Pathfinder International	United States/ International
Nsah Mala	Mbessa Commission for Future Generations and Sustainability	Cameroon
Niall McGuirk	Coalition 2030	Ireland
Abraham Morris Weah	SYCADl	Liberia
Caitlin Murray	Zero Waste Scotland	Scotland
Holly Norman	University College London Institute for Global Prosperity	United Kingdom, Lebanon, Kenya
Tessa Roseboom	Amsterdam University Medical Center	The Netherlands
Rose Rondelez	Plurality University Network	France
Dilek Sayedahmed	New York University – Paris; Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience	France, Canada
Kira Schroedel	Bertelsmann Stiftung	Germany
Narue Shiki	United Nations Development Programme	United States/ Latin America and the Caribbean
Daniel Villaverde	Fundación Ética Visionaria	Mexico/Latin America and the Caribbean
Jody R Weiss	Women's Funding Council, Women Funding the World	United States
Valentino Wichman	Pacific Community-SPC	Asia Pacific
Besir Wrayet	Independent Practitioner	Türkiye



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