

The burning platform for our coalition

From climate change and advancing AI to political polarisation and a cost-of-living crisis at home the UK is facing a proliferation of challenges - and opportunities- that require long-term, whole-of-society responses.

Government could do better at navigating this complex landscape

- We lack institutions, governance and policy processes that are geared towards the future. It is increasingly difficult for the government to effectively make the major choices, tradeoffs and investments, and provide the consistent long-term focus, that these issues require across multiple terms of office.
- We must do more to bring citizens and communities together around a shared understanding of the future and their desired vision for the UK in the world, incorporating their voices, values and lived experiences into decision-making.

According to research by Portland, over two thirds of the public (69%) want the government to do more to plan and prepare for long term threats, rising to three quarters (73%) of swing voters. Around two thirds of the public (66%) also want to hear more about the government's efforts on this front.

Get involved

If you're an MP or civil servant, activist or journalist, academic or business leader, or simply interested in getting involved in a movement to reshape democracy for future generations, please get in touch on: nsxng@soif.org.uk

A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT GENERATIONS

Making decisions about the UK in the interests of future generations



OUR VISION:

This multi-year programme is building the infrastructure to connect citizen participation into long-term planning at the national level. We are modelling a new method of strategy and decision-making which combines a systematic consideration of the future with widespread citizen participation.

See what impact we have achieved in 4 years and our path forward.



SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL
FUTURES

To find out more about the programme, email:
nsxng@soif.org.uk

A long-term journey to build a national dialogue about the UK's role in the world

In the last 4 years, we have collaborated with **50 partner organisations**, engaging over **1000 citizens** in workshops and citizens assemblies, convening current and future leaders to **explore the future of the development sector**, recruiting over **50 youth champions** who hosted 46 intergenerational dialogues in local UK communities, and connecting to **over 250 policymakers**.

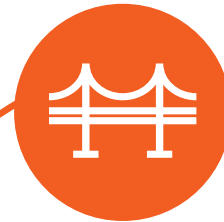


WHAT INSIGHTS ARE EMERGING?

Intergenerational exchanges deliver novel & substantive insights

With growing generational differences around trust, democracy, climate, global solidarity and emerging technology, it is critical to develop **accessible methods** that tap into our collective imagination; to identify solutions and value systems; and connect these to long-term UK national and international policy making.

We have piloted many approaches to hear holistic visions for the future of the UK with recommendations on: Climate and global prosperity; Open societies, conflict and governance; Human security and wellbeing; and Technological progress and existential risk. These approaches are both necessary and in demand and can **re-center national and development policies around community values** (beyond competition and short-term political agendas). They **preserve optimism, hope and citizen participation** for the future leadership of the UK in the world.



WHAT CAPABILITIES ARE WE DEVELOPING?

Bridging citizens and policy makers requires developing new approaches

On a national level:

Our recommendations have been linked into the machinery of government for the Government's Integrated Review in 2021 and 2023. We also had briefing and exchanges with: Select Committee inquiries and informal parliamentary groups; Foresight and Strategy leads across government; Departmental White Paper teams; and we used the Future Check tool to assess the intergenerational impact of policies.

On a regional level:

Our champions launched the Welsh Youth Futures Hub during a Welsh Senedd Event, building a network to coordinate young people in Wales to inspire communities to join visioning activities.

On an international level:

Champions hosted a roundtable with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and briefed their executive team on AI risks, which led to one champion joining a European Commission advisory group on AI.



THE NEXT STEPS

Weaving a network for long-term systems change

In the next stage of the programme we will be formalising these pilots into a sustainable, multi-year programme to build cross government capability for long term participative national planning. We invite you to stay updated with our journey or join the coalition by emailing: nsxng@soif.org.uk

WHAT CHANGE ARE WE WORKING TOWARDS?

Institutionalising this work has started - but it takes time

In the 2023 FCDO development whitepaper, Andrew Mitchell stated "If we are serious about building a safer and more prosperous world for future generations, then it falls upon all of us to try to model in our actions, the kind of world they deserve to inherit."

We are working both to demonstrate the ability to run national dialogues and to build the demand for them - which is much slower. The desire for this work is nonetheless growing and evidenced by the liaison inquiry review, UK Covid-19 Inquiry and growing activity around the UN Summit of the Future.

To capitalise on this growing interest, we need a coordinated approach to **embed infrastructure mechanisms** in order to systemically shift policy making processes to be more democratic, anticipatory and intergenerationally fair.