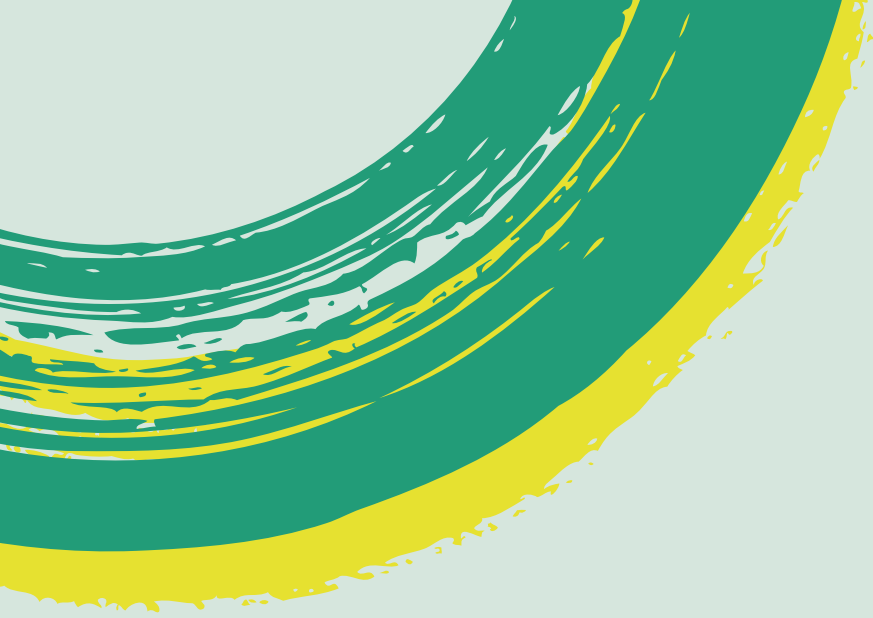


One Year in Practice: Stories of Global Action for Future Generations

soif.org.uk | September 2025

An Update to the Implementation
Handbook for the Declaration on
Future Generations



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Special thanks

Andrew Jackson and Fátima Fernández, authors of the original Implementation Handbook for the UN Declaration on Future Generations.

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.

Members of SOIF's Pledge and Pioneers Networks, national hubs and other experts who contributed insights from our survey.

Design and Layout

Effusion

Produced by

School of International Futures (SOIF)



**School of
International
Futures**

Foreword

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

One year since the adoption of the Declaration on Future Generations, we have seen how this commitment can breathe new life into global governance.

Across the world, governments and communities are taking steps to embed foresight and intergenerational fairness into national, regional and international strategies. We are encouraged by these beacons of progress, yet conscious that realising the full promise of the Declaration will require far greater urgency and ambition.

Over the past year, the three of us, representing Jamaica, Kenya, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, were honoured to co-host, alongside the School of International Futures, the Declaration on Future Generations Dialogue Series. These exchanges surfaced a core truth: safeguarding the future cannot be the responsibility of any single nation, or indeed a select group of nations. It requires collaboration across regions, sharing innovations, and building a community of practice that links local action with multilateral momentum and political will.

As we reflect on this one-year review, we have been inspired by examples of activation from our own regions and beyond. In Jamaica, the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into a national development plan demonstrates how long-term thinking can be embedded into policy from the outset. In Kenya, the establishment of a Parliamentary Futures Caucus shows how institutions can expand opportunity today while preparing for tomorrow. In the Netherlands, “Generation Test” is helping ensure that intergenerational fairness is applied consistently across policymaking. Each of these innovations illustrates how the Declaration’s principles can take root in diverse contexts, offering learnings for all Member States.

As we look ahead, and in advance of the 2028 progress review, our collective aspiration is that this agenda will continue to gain momentum and strength. We are committed to maintaining our advocacy around the Declaration, including through the Group of Friends for Future Generations, noting the ongoing interest in the appointment by the United Nations Secretary General of a Special Envoy for Future Generations.

Member States have committed to reviewing progress on the implementation of the DFG in 2028. To attain the targeted success, the Declaration must not be treated as a stand-alone document but as a mindset shift integrated into decision-making at every level, from local policies to global strategies, and across all major multilateral processes, from climate to financing to peace and security.

The true measure of our success will be whether future generations can inherit institutions that are more resilient, societies that are more inclusive, and a planet that is more sustainable. This is both our responsibility and our opportunity; to ensure that the principles we agreed to one year ago become the foundation for a fairer, more future-ready multilateral system.

We must continue to put our energy into activation and our words into action, to bring meaningful change to people's lives now, and for the generations who will follow us.



**H.E. Ambassador Brian
Wallace**
UN Permanent
Representative of
Jamaica



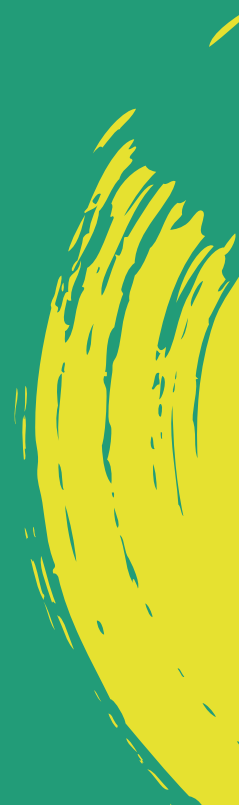
**H.E. Ambassador
Ekitela Lokaale**
UN Permanent
Representative Kenya



**H.E. Ambassador Lise
Gregoire-van Haaren**
UN Permanent
Representative of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands

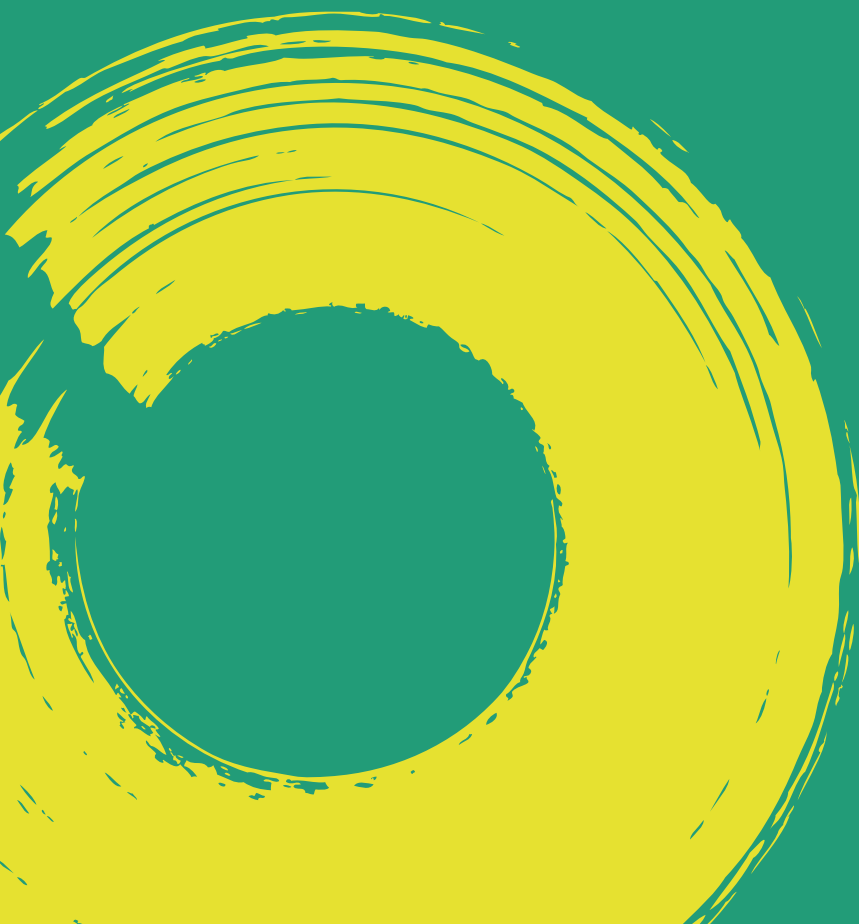
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Executive Summary



One year on from the launch of the *Implementation Handbook for the Declaration on Future Generations (DFG)* and three years away from the 2028 Member States' review of the Declaration, we are excited to share this updated edition. Momentum is building, but clear and shared direction is still required: to deepen understanding of why the DFG is transformative; to make the “how” of implementation concrete; and to ensure that early wins and interventions are real, visible and shared.

The original Handbook was published with one central lesson in mind: transformative frameworks, such as the SDGs, require both ambition and immediate practical action. Over the year leading up to the DFG, we worked with experts and champions worldwide, national and local innovators, and our Pioneers and Pledge network to build a technical evidence base, as well as a policy framework and approach to support implementation, based on case studies of good practice. We also set out a pathway for a high-ambition outcome at the 2028 review.

This update takes stock of the past year of action. With our community, we explored: *‘how far have we come against that initial approach? What progress deserves recognition? Where must we redouble our efforts? And what more have we learnt along the way?’*

We hope that this updated Handbook will be a resource for all, whether you are a government representative in New York, a policymaker in your country, a civil society activist, or part of a community working to inspire change. Our intention is that it supports your work: to build awareness, drive investment and translate the promise of the DFG into practical, lasting impact.

In these pages you will find:

- **Why the DFG matters now:** situating it in context and defining the framework required for it to deliver on its transformative potential.
- **Celebrating progress and renewing commitment:** where awareness and investment are growing, and where they must be strengthened.
- **Windows into action and innovation:** insights from inspiring examples and what we can learn from them.
- **A review of the past year:** how interventions have been activated and what has been achieved.
- **An agenda for the year ahead:** five steps we can take together to keep building momentum towards 2028.

This work reflects the commitment of a wide and diverse community: pioneers working at national level; groups exploring new legal and financial instruments; international dialogue series and deep dives on key issues and communities of practice—teachers, parents, artists and others, as well as connections being made to wellbeing new economics systems and delivery of the SDGs all of which bring the DFG to life in everyday contexts. Meanwhile, legislators are forming caucuses of the future building bridges across generations and demonstrating the breadth of engagement that this agenda now inspires.

The journey is only just beginning. With three years until the 2028 review, this is a call to action: to reach out to join the community and to help shape a shared future that is fairer, more resilient, and more sustainable for generations to come.



Cat Tully
Director of SOIF



Sophie Howe
Future Governance Adviser of SOIF
and Former Future Generations
Commissioner for Wales

What is the Declaration on Future Generations (DFG)



In September 2024, the Summit of the Future brought together world leaders, international organisations and other stakeholders to discuss the future of global governance, address emerging global challenges and strengthen multilateral cooperation - summarised in a “Pact for the Future”.

The Summit was a key component of the UN Secretary General (UNSG) Antonio Guterres’ 2021 manifesto for his second mandate, “Our Common Agenda”. This manifesto was a response offering new ideas to a world where problems and crises—not least COVID-19, but also climate change, emerging technology, growing inequality—seemed to outweigh current solutions.

At the summit, all countries made a historic commitment to foresight and future generations by adopting an annex to the Pact called the “Declaration on Future Generations”—the one part of the Pact that was adopted by consensus. The DFG signals a new impetus behind an old global principle, an acknowledgment that the wellbeing of future generations is a shared responsibility that transcends national borders and political cycles.

What does the DFG cover?

The six-page Declaration contains a preamble, ten guiding principles, thirteen commitments and nine actions. It calls for:

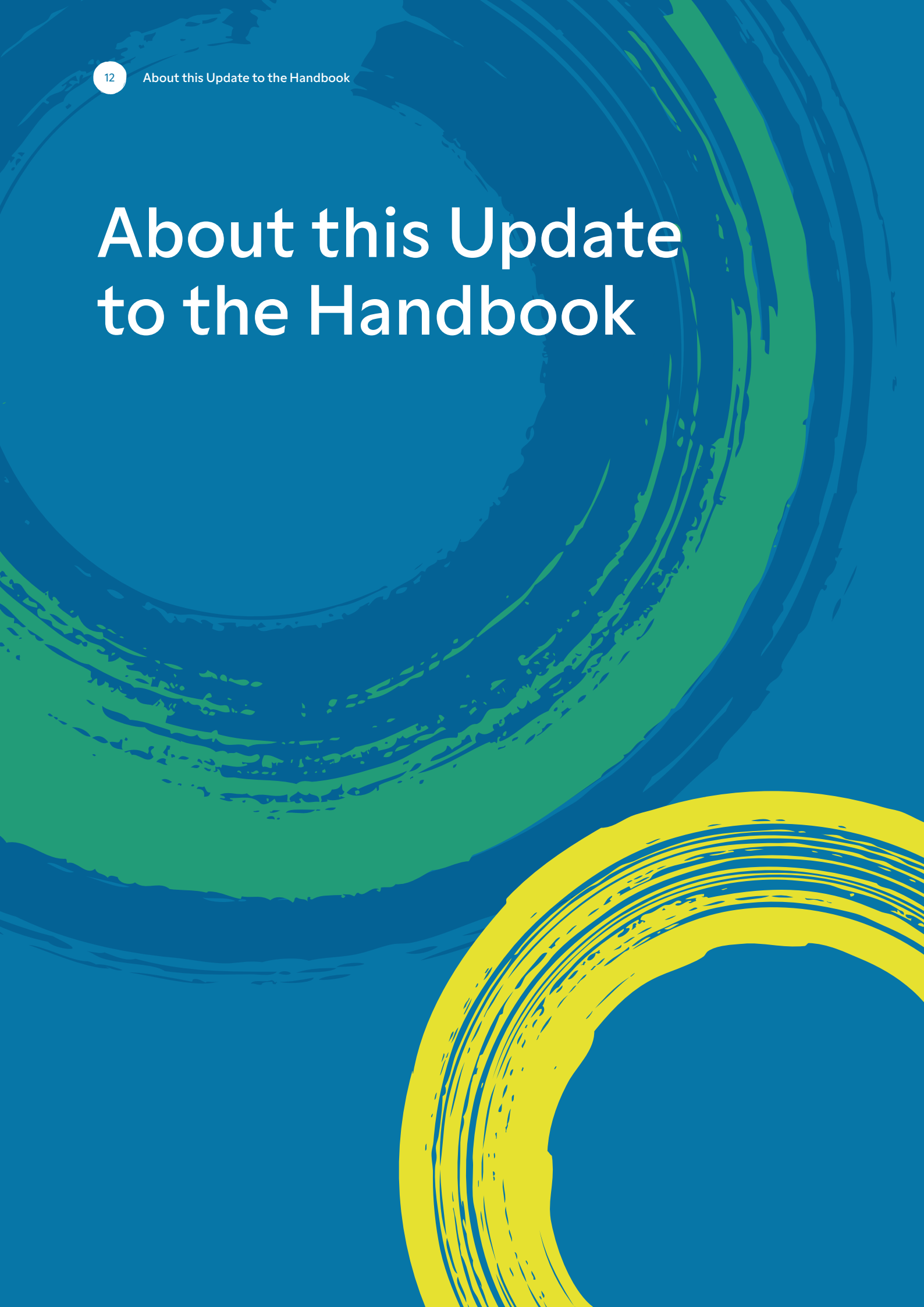
- Promoting intergenerational solidarity and dialogue
- Leveraging science, foresight and evidence-based planning
- Building anticipatory and adaptive governance
- Preparing for global shocks through risk analysis and capacity building
- Valuing public participation and indigenous knowledge
- Encouraging whole-of-society partnerships across generations

Why the DFG could be a game-changer

While the broader Pact for the Future engaged with familiar debates on development and governance, the DFG stood out as fresh, strategic and unifying. Negotiations led by the Missions of Jamaica and the Netherlands avoided entrenched positions and instead fostered genuine innovation.

- **A north star for change.** A simple unifying call to act for both present and future generations can catalyse governance reform and align diverse innovators worldwide.
- **New momentum for an old principle.** The principle of protecting future generations has long existed in UN declarations, national constitutions and the Sustainable Development Goals but lacked clear multilateral guidance until now.
- **Transformative commitments.** Article 28 alone, which pledges whole-of-government approaches to safeguarding future generations, has the potential to reshape policymaking, institutions, and ultimately governance.

About this Update to the Handbook



The Implementation Handbook for the Declaration on Future Generations in 2024 emphasised three starting points.

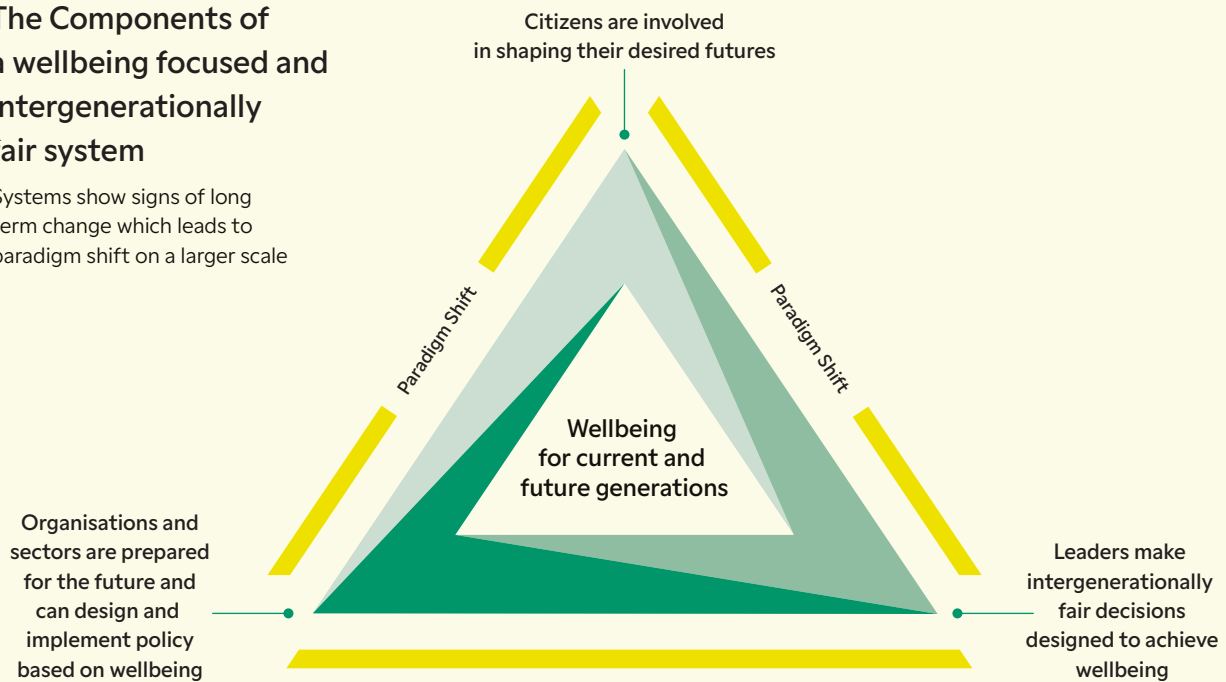
1. The Declaration is a transformative agenda. While the language of future generations may be new, the movement itself is already under way, with initiatives across sectors seeking to break away from short-termism that limits our ability to act on long-term challenges.
2. Success should be measured by whether we could shift the needle internationally and nationally. To do so we proposed working at three interconnected levels: national action, UN engagement (both country-level and system-wide) and wider multilateral collaboration.
3. The importance of an ecosystemic approach. Evidence from the accompanying technical report indicates that meaningful change depends on understanding future generations governance as inherently dependent, encompassing governance reforms, civic engagement, foresight tools and institutional innovations.

The SOIF Long-Term Governance Prism below serves as a tool to analyse the interaction between these interdependent dimensions:

- **Citizens are involved:** Active engagement of the public (especially youth and underrepresented groups) in shaping long-term policies.
- **Political leaders are committed to taking long-term decisions:** Politicians make intergenerationally fair decisions to achieve wellbeing.
- **Organisations and sectors are ready:** Governance systems and institutions combine formal structures, frameworks, and processes with culture and incentives that embed long-term strategies and tools into everyday decision-making.

The Components of a wellbeing focused and intergenerationally fair system

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



This update, one year on, asks whether we are realising the potential we identified.

It is an opportunity to take stock: to celebrate what has been achieved, to learn from emerging practice, and to highlight the gaps where further effort will be needed in the years ahead.

Success for the DFG does not come from new activities alone. It is about providing a shared narrative and framework that brings innovators and reformers together, helping to unlock transformation on issues that have stalled.

In this update, we examine whether these efforts are gaining support and whether we are developing a clearer understanding of what is possible.

The update is structured in four parts:

- **First, we assess where we are standing overall.** There are encouraging signs: pockets of innovation, new alliances and emerging conversations at all levels. At the same time, awareness of the Declaration remains limited and underinvestment continues to constrain scaling up.
- **Secondly, we look more closely at “a year in” case studies.** These illustrate the different dimensions of the prism, from participatory processes to new legislation, from litigation cases to new economic approaches
- **Third, we reflect on how SOIF and its partners have been supporting this agenda** through networks such as the Pioneers and the Pledge, through incubating hubs and movements, and through action research, advocacy, and technical support.
- **Finally, we focus on what is needed next.** The evidence is clear: when people connect to the narrative of future generations, it sparks ambition and builds unlikely alliances. The potential is still there but the lift remains heavy. The next phase will be decisive in fulfilling the Declaration’s promise: raising awareness across governments, strengthening global network weaving, enabling seed funding for early adopters in global majority countries, and ensuring high-level political leadership through a Special Envoy.

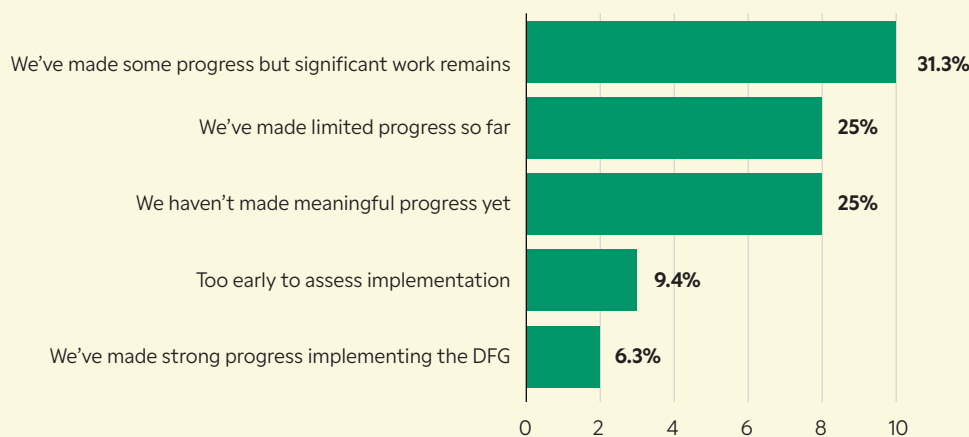
As part of this update, we surveyed 32 experts drawn from our global network in governance, foresight, and intergenerational policy to gather feedback on DFG implementation. Their views, dispersed throughout the report, provide a small insight into how, one year on, a sample of the DFG’s global community of supporters see implementation unfolding, the opportunities ahead, and the critical next steps. The names of experts consulted are in [Appendix 1](#).

1. Assessing where we are



There is evidence that the DFG is seeding new conversations at the multilateral level and supporting an ecosystemic approach to long-term governance in vanguard countries. However, awareness and investments need to increase.

Expert Panel Insight: One year on, how well have we done in beginning to implement the DFG? (32 responses)



1.1 There are signs that the DFG can integrate new life into the multilateral agenda

The DFG has made contributions to critical initiatives such as UN80, as well as major global processes such as Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development.

The work has also been reflected in the G20 communiqué and in regional milestones such as those of the African Union.

There is growing interest among regional bodies and parliaments in engaging with long-term governance approaches.

The DFG narrative is increasingly recognised as valuable for addressing contemporary crises. SOIF's 2025 DFG Dialogue Series illustrates how it can be applied to the existing UN agenda to explore solutions to long-term challenges.

The Dialogue Series has been co-hosted by the UN Permanent Missions of Kenya, Jamaica and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the School of International Futures. It aims to showcase the transformative potential of the DFG and inspire meaningful implementation by:

- Showcasing best practices at the national level that lead to substantive change and give voice to underrepresented intergenerational voices including youth and indigenous communities
- Presenting the practical applicability of the DFG framework in policy discussions at key multilateral moments throughout the year
- Supporting a coalition of UN Member States' champions for Future Generations.

Below, the key takeaways and actions from each dialogue have been summarised as an example of how the DFG has been used to advancing global policy discussions. Full summaries of the discussion papers are available on our website.

UN80 Initiative

The UN80 Initiative, announced in March 2025 by the Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres, is a system-wide process of the UN which seeks to streamline operations, improve the organisation's effectiveness and reaffirm the UN's role and relevance in a rapidly changing world. The [DFG and UN80 dialogue event](#) was the first place to bring together these two agendas.

Key Takeaway

Strategic foresight, scenario planning and participatory engagement are essential to navigate uncertainties, build intergenerational solidarity, and align the UN system with the long-term needs of the populations it serves. By operationalising these principles, the UN80 Initiative can become a model of anticipatory adaptive and inclusive multilateralism.

From Words to Action

1. **Operationalise DFG across UN reform.** Use strategic foresight and scenario planning to guide resource allocation, and mandate consolidation and institutional realignment. Harness foresight to unlock creativity and generate actionable solutions drawing on foresight networks.

2. **Review proposals for alignment and accountability.** Evaluate UN80 proposals for intergenerational fairness, resilience, and consistency with the Pact for the Future and DFG commitments. Stress-test proposals against multiple scenarios to ensure robust forward-looking planning.
3. **Institutional structures for future generations.** Reaffirm the Special Envoy for Future Generations and equip the office with authority and tools to influence UN-wide processes. Strengthen foresight units within agencies and country teams to support anticipatory governance.

The DFG and the African Union

Agenda 2063 is the African Union's (AU) strategic blueprint for inclusive and sustainable development across the continent. Launched in 2013, it sets out Africa's vision, priorities, and targets for the period up to 2063, aiming to transform the continent socially, economically and politically. Agenda 2063 embodies a long-term intergenerational approach to systems that safeguard prosperity, security and opportunity not only for today, but also for African future generations. [This dialogue](#) showcased the potential of the DFG to unlock progress toward the achievement of Agenda 2063.

Key Takeaway

African nations are leading by example in institutionalising futures thinking through legislative bodies, national strategies and local governance structures. These initiatives serve as models for integrating foresight into policy and governance.

From Words to Action

1. **Economic and resource planning.** Sustainable financing and responsible debt management are key to protecting future generations, ensuring that present-day policies do not burden them with unsustainable economic challenges.
2. **Balancing present and future needs.** Addressing the immediate challenges of youth, such as education, jobs, and finance, is critical while also safeguarding long-term sustainability for future generations.
3. **Foresight and policy alignment.** National and multilateral strategies must incorporate long-term thinking, ensuring alignment between global frameworks and local realities. Electoral cycles often prioritise short-term goals, making strategic foresight crucial for sustainable policy planning.

4. **Cultural and institutional foundations.** Concepts like good ancestry and intergenerational responsibility exist across societies and can be leveraged to promote long-term policymaking.

Financing for Development/ Debt

This dialogue sought to explore how the DFG can bring out new ideas and solutions to longstanding stagnant issues within the Financing for Development agenda, by presenting concrete examples of governance innovations from various actors working in the space. By convening diverse stakeholders and fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, this meeting unlocked new pathways for integrating strategic foresight and future generations' interests into global financial and governance frameworks.

Key Takeaway

The DFG has the potential to shift the narrative: from reframing development financing not as an act of charity but as strategic, cross-generational investment; and embedding foresight, fairness and long-term accountability into governance frameworks. The end goal is to move from fragmented short-term aid models toward cohesive future-fit systems that serve both current and future generations.

From Words to Action

1. **Scaling up domestic resource mobilisation.** Reaffirm domestic resource mobilisation as an opportunity for all countries. This includes scaling and sustaining access to much larger amounts of long-term patient capital such as mobilising pension funds to drive investments that enable domestic resource mobilisation in growing young economies.
2. **Beyond GDP.** Include the use of strategic foresight to support the development of indicators beyond GDP that provide a more holistic assessment of wellbeing demographic trends and impacts on future generations.
3. **Assessing long-term impacts.** Assess development effectiveness not only based on what can be verified in the present but also on long-term impacts on future generations especially in relation to mineral extraction.
4. **Unlocking global investment strategies.** Create a collective cross-generational global investment strategy to realise the African and Asian demographic dividend. This involves strategic investments that secure prosperity for future generations in both developing and developed countries.
5. **Integrating intergenerational framing.** Utilise intergenerational framing to unlock pension fund investments and tax reform particularly in ageing countries.

Second World Summit for Social Development

The Second World Summit for Social Development is set to take place 4-6 November in Doha, Qatar with the aim of accelerating action on social progress. As momentum builds toward the Summit, [this dialogue](#) event explored how the DFG can serve as a guiding framework for advancing inclusive and resilient social development and addressing the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment, and decent work for all and social inclusion. It emphasised the importance of integrating strategic foresight and intergenerational fairness into policy and planning, helping governments and communities anticipate long-term social risks such as demographic shifts, inequality, and the evolving nature of work.

Key Takeaway

The Declaration on Future Generations can be a unifying framework at the World Social Summit (WSS) anchoring inclusion, foresight and intergenerational fairness in social policy while scaling up grassroots innovations and embedding youth and indigenous leadership in governance.

From Words to Action

1. **Embed the DFG in the WSS political declaration.** Make DFG principles explicit in Summit outcomes. Push for formal commitments (e.g.a UN Special Envoy for Future Generations, country coalitions like the Group of Friends).
2. **Champion localised foresight and network.** Invest in place-based foresight practices grounded in culture and lived experience. Support cross-sector networks and “connective infrastructure” that scale local solutions.
3. **Advance intergenerational fairness across the life cycle.** Design interventions that tackle inequality and trauma at different life stages, particularly in education, health, mental health and family support.
4. **Embed youth and indigenous voices in decision-making.** Ensure governance includes those most often sidelined. Use foresight and indigenous wisdom to shape resilient and inclusive systems.

Sustainable Development Goals

The 2025 High-Level Political Forum under the theme “*Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda*” highlighted the DFG as a catalyst to accelerate SDG progress amid regression and uneven implementation. Drawing on Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the session stressed that embedding long-term thinking, intergenerational equity and future-oriented policymaking into national strategies is essential for prioritising resources, managing trade-offs, and seizing opportunities in the final stretch to 2030.

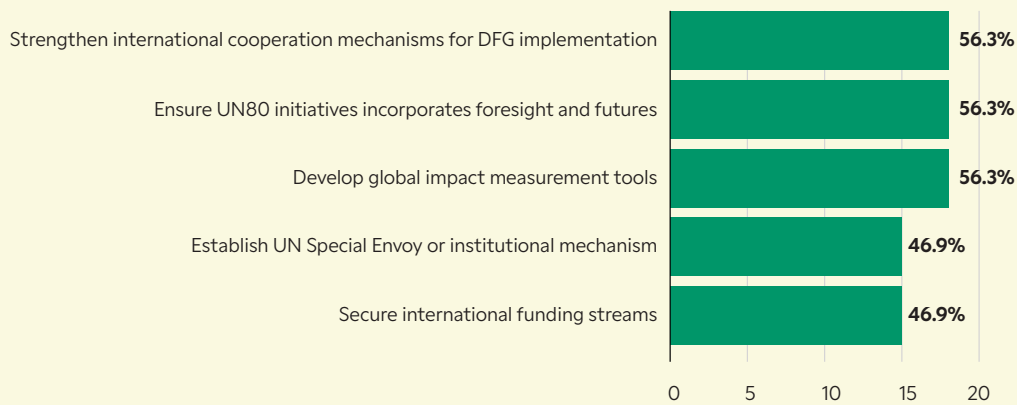
Key Takeaway

The DFG can act as a catalyst to turbocharge SDG progress to 2030 and beyond by embedding long-term thinking, intergenerational equity and foresight into national strategies. This approach not only helps countries prioritise scarce resources and manage trade-offs, but also ensures continuity toward a post-2030 sustainable development framework that prepares societies for future risks and transitions.

From Words to Action

1. **Embed tools that drive real change.** Institutionalise future-oriented tools (e.g. Generation Test in the Netherlands, Malta’s sustainability governance, Jamaica’s SDG-aligned budgeting) into decision-making, accountability and resource allocation.
2. **Build capability across society.** Extend future-oriented training beyond governments to private sector actors, civil society and, especially, youth as co-developers of local solutions.
3. **Close the gap between vision and reality.** Ground strategies in realistic capability, financing, and institutional commitments through shared baseline analysis.
4. **Lead with principles, incentivise systems change.** Align interventions with intergenerational fairness and equity; design incentives to reward sustainable, future-conscious choices.
5. **Link local action to global commitments.** Strengthen networks (e.g. SOIF Implementation Hubs) that bridge local innovation with national and global frameworks.
6. **Redesign the agenda beyond 2030.** Begin shaping Future Development Goals (FDGs) that integrate justice, planetary stewardship and digital-ethical transformation, with 2050 and 2100 as horizons.

Expert Panel Insight: What do you think should be the top three global level priorities between now and 2028? (32 responses)



Upcoming multilateral moments to continue DFG integration into the UN agenda

Embedding the DFG into other multilateral processes, rather than treating it as a stand-alone document, is key to ensure that the principles of intergenerational justice and long-term thinking are mainstreamed across global decision-making.

High-level convenings—such as COP30/31, G7, G20, the World Health Assembly, and peace and security initiatives—can strengthen coherence across agendas when DFG commitments are integrated. Connections should also be made between multilateral moments and regional dialogues, linking parliamentary associations, regional commissions like UNECLAC, and cities networks. This integration ensures that future generations are systematically considered in discussions on climate, sustainable development, health, financing, and peacemaking. The DFG is a living framework: adaptable to emerging trends, it informs and shapes collective action rather than remaining a symbolic commitment.

1.2 An ecosystemic approach is emerging in some countries, however potential remains untapped

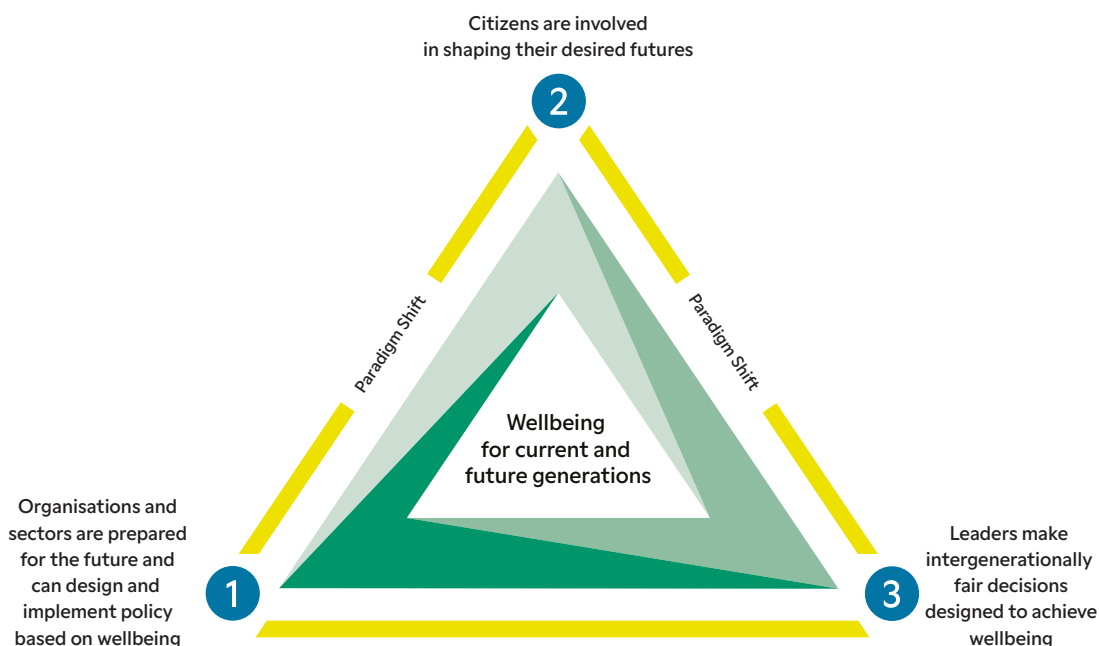
Many countries have leaned into applying foresight, embedding intergenerational fairness principles, and activating future generations' language, creating both a wealth of learning opportunities and strong appetite for further transformation.

Political leaders are increasingly taking the lead in championing these approaches.

Fewer efforts are taking place at a systems level. However, there are nonetheless many valuable examples, even if they are not fully representative.

A year on, key vanguard countries are incorporating DFG principles, building on their existing progress in long-term governance and translating them into tangible policy impact in their countries, regions, and cities.

The SOIF Implementation Handbook recommended an ecosystemic approach to long-term governance for countries that wanted to move from commitment to action for current and future generations. An ecosystemic approach is about building the formal and informal conditions that allow current and future generations' wellbeing to flourish, whether by institutionalising foresight at the centre of government, within public administrations or from within political leadership and the citizenry. What defines this work is its system-wide orientation and a focus on the structures, rules, and relationships that determine how governments and societies think about policy issues and the future. Below we have illustrated three examples of countries that are moving the dial and working across all three dimensions of the Long-Term Governance Prism.



Kenya

1. Organisations and institutions are preparing for the future

The 2010 Constitution explicitly recognizes intergenerational equity in the management of public resources and borrowing. Section 201(c) mandates that the burdens and benefits of using resources and public debt must be shared equitably between present and future generations.

2. Citizens are involved in shaping their desired futures

Civil society in Kenya has actively contributed to shaping long-term and future-focused policies through a variety of initiatives. Examples include citizen engagement in urban planning and future city development, the work of Next Generation Foresight practitioners in digital futures, and youth-led initiatives such as the Youth Environmental Manifesto for COP and the Africa Climate Summit.

3. Leaders make intergenerational fair decisions

The Senate Futures Caucus institutionalized strategic foresight within the legislative process (see case study), while Vision 2030 provides a national roadmap for sustainable development. Legal frameworks, such as the Kenya Climate Change Act, further embed environmental responsibility and long-term planning into policy

Canada

1. Organisations and institutions are preparing for the future

The 2024 federal budget was formally titled “Fairness for Every Generation”, marking a milestone in embedding intergenerational equity into national fiscal policy. Since 2019, all Treasury Board submissions must consider intergenerational impacts.

2. Citizens are involved in shaping their desired futures

Generation Squeeze, a civil society organisations proposal to establish a Generational Fairness Task Force, with a ministerial mandate and an oversight commissioner role, underscores widespread political appetite for institutionalizing intergenerational fairness in policy and budgets.

3. Leaders make intergenerational fair decisions

A 2020 recommendation from the National Finance Committee urged priority consideration for guaranteed livable basic income, positioning it as a measure rooted in long-term societal wellbeing and earlier Senate studies on poverty and basic income demonstrate a historical and enduring concern for policies benefiting future generations.

Italy

1. Organisations and institutions are preparing for the future

In Italy, institutions such as the Consiglio Nazionale Giovani ensure youth perspectives in policymaking, while ministries like the Ministero per le Riforme Istituzionali and the Ministero per la Funzione Pubblica work on institutional reforms and administrative efficiency that strengthen

long-term governance. The Corte Costituzionale reinforces constitutional protections relevant to future generations, and the Scuola Superiore dell'Amministrazione (SNA) builds civil service capacity to address future challenges.

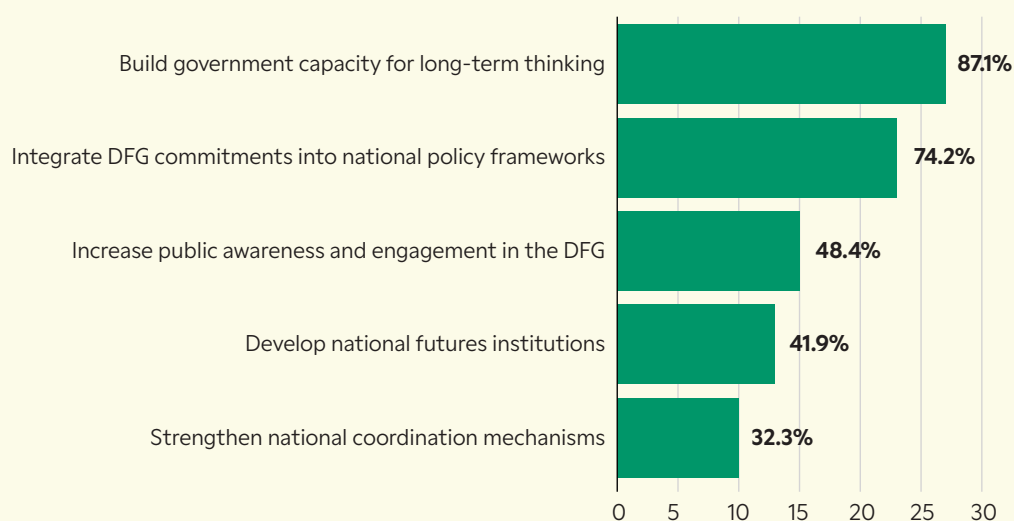
2. Citizens are involved in shaping their desired futures

The Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (ASviS) mobilizes civil society, business, and institutions around the SDGs, creating a shared national vision for sustainable development. Officine Italia engages young people directly in innovation and civic participation, while Skopia provides foresight and scenario tools to help communities and policymakers anticipate and plan for future challenges.

3. Leaders make intergenerational fair decisions

In 2022, parliament unanimously supported including “future generations” in the Constitution, embedding long-term responsibility into the country’s highest legal framework. The current government’s bill on intergenerational support, though pending in the Senate, signals growing political will to translate this principle into actionable policy. Importantly, both majority and opposition MPs actively champion intergenerational fairness, creating a rare area of bipartisan alignment.

Expert Panel Insight: What do you think should be the top three national level priorities between now and 2028 for implementation of the DFG? (31 responses)



1.3 Awareness needs to increase on the DFG and how it can be transformational

Despite some positive signs, awareness of the commitments governments have signed up to remains limited across all levels.

Civil society groups within countries are making use of these commitments in their respective sectors, but many struggle to extend their efforts across silos.

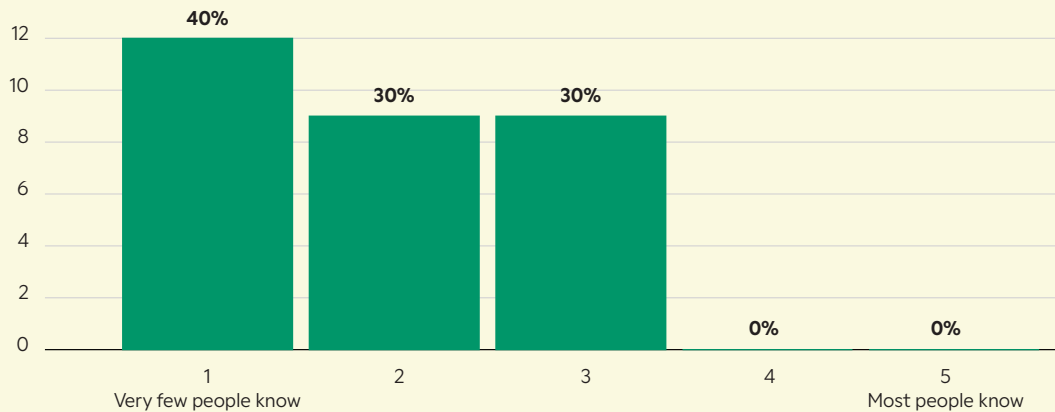
At the international level, the civil society community working on the DFG principles remains underdeveloped, limiting its ability to connect the dots between important initiatives.

While the adoption of the DFG marks a significant step toward embedding long-term thinking into policy and governance, awareness of its content remains low across many parts of national governments. This is especially true for Article 28, which outlines key expectations for national implementation and cross-sectoral action. This disconnect continues to hinder meaningful progress and risks reducing the Declaration to a symbolic gesture rather than a catalyst for action. A more concerted effort to connect UN Missions and Ministries of Foreign Affairs to other departments and branches of government is needed to translate international commitments into actionable guidance. Enhanced internal coordination is a key pathway to coherent national implementation strategies.

At the non-governmental level, civil society organisations have emerged as important champions of the Declaration, actively incorporating its principles into work on climate justice, education, health, and intergenerational equity. Yet these efforts often remain siloed within individual sectors. Many groups lack the resources, networks, or mandates to collaborate beyond their primary area of focus, limiting the broader systemic impact that cross-sectoral cooperation could achieve.

At the global level, the civil society ecosystem focused on future generations remains fragmented. There is a notable absence of convening platforms or coordination mechanisms to bring together advocates, experts and practitioners from across regions and sectors. This fragmentation hampers the ability to connect key initiatives, share innovative practices, and build collective momentum. As a result, many promising local or sector-specific innovations go unnoticed and underutilised in the global conversation.

Expert Panel Insight: To what extent do you think people across government systems in your country/region know about the Declaration's existence? (30 responses)



1.4 Under investment at all levels is limiting scaling up

Many global majority countries, despite strong rhetorical commitment, lack the fiscal space to scale up long-term governance or embed future generations thinking.

To attract funding and political support advocates need to position the Declaration as a tool that strengthens existing national development priorities such as climate resilience, education, and inclusive growth, rather than as a separate or competing initiative.

Implementation of the Declaration is also constrained by underinvestment and resources, which risks it being sidelined in the face of more immediate policy pressures. The funding gap is particularly acute in global majority countries, where limited fiscal space, donor fatigue, and competing development priorities make it difficult to prioritise long-term initiatives. While many of these countries have shown leadership in integrating intergenerational justice into rhetoric and planning, they often lack the financial and institutional support needed to scale up their efforts or link them to global platforms. This leaves many promising efforts underdeveloped or isolated.

Even where political will exists, there is a capability gap that prevents governments from embedding future generations thinking across policy domains. Institutions often lack the foresight expertise, technical know-how, or coordination mechanisms to drive awareness beyond a small circle of policymakers. Ministries responsible for long-term planning, sustainable development, or intergenerational equity are rarely equipped to reach across governments, let alone engage meaningfully with civil society or local communities.

This issue is compounded at the civil society level. Civil society organisations often struggle to access funding and technical support to integrate the Declaration's principles in part due to the misconception that the agenda for future generations is a separate or "add-on" initiative, disconnected from core development and governance goals. Instead, the case must be emphasised that protecting the wellbeing of current and future generations aligns directly with national development priorities such as climate resilience, education reform, youth engagement, and inclusive growth.

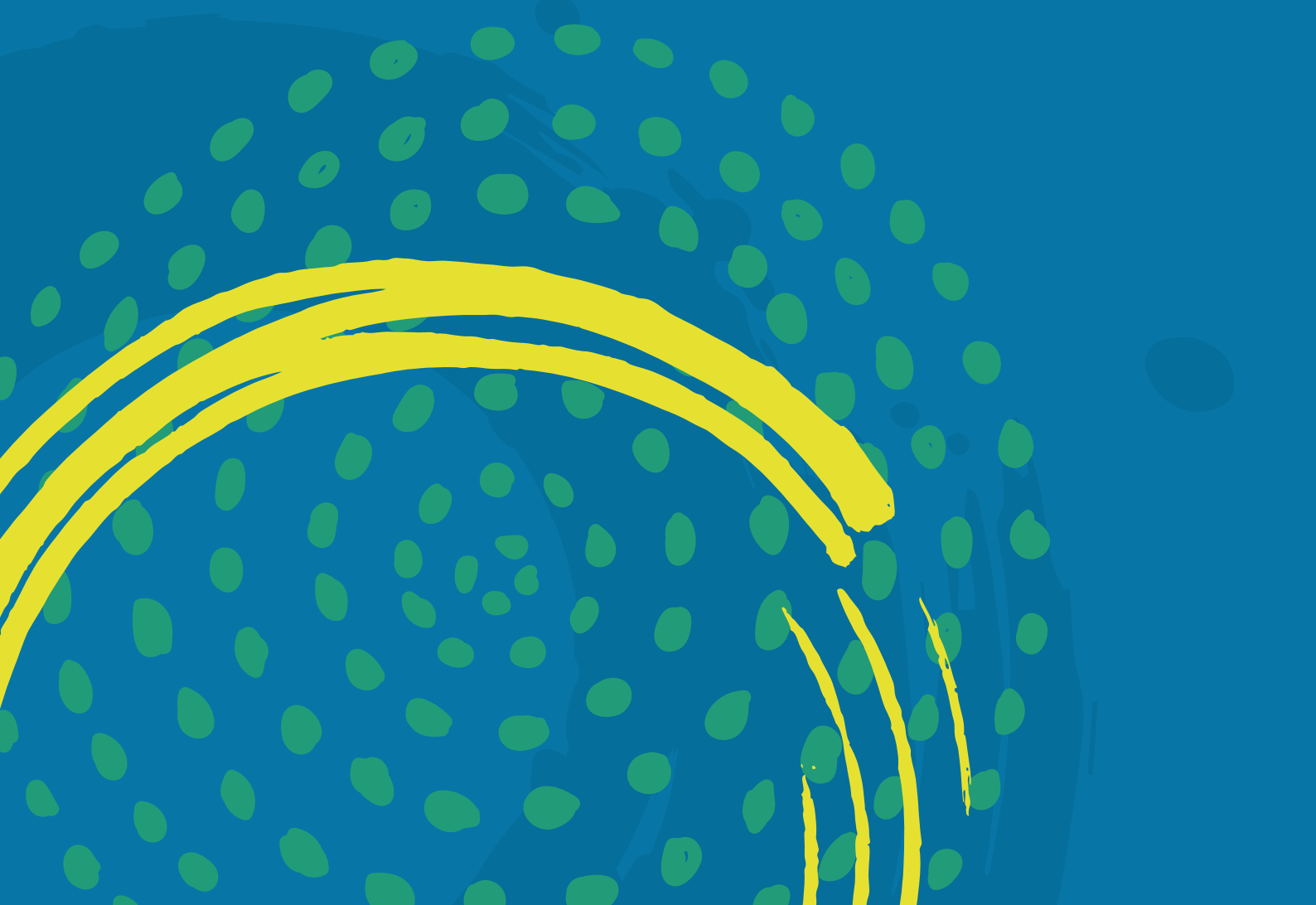
To unlock funding and political support, advocates must work with funders and governments to position the Declaration as a tool for integrating long-term thinking into existing national plans, not as a competing priority. It offers a practical framework for enhancing the effectiveness, equity, and sustainability of decisions being made today.

Expert Panel Insight: In your country or context, which topics do you think the Declaration on Future Generations has the most potential to advance? (32 responses)



2. A year in case studies

Since the adoption of the DFG in September 2024, we have seen examples of work that reflect the DFG principles and commitments. This section lays out a sample of developments since September 2024 that illustrate places where DFG principles are coming to life around the world.



2.1 Since the DFG adoption innovations are emerging all around the world and from all parts of the ecosystem

This selection of case studies from around the world illustrates pockets of progress that have developed since the adoption of the DFG in September 2024. Case studies are labeled in line with the dimension of the long-term governance prism they illustrate.



→ Australia
→ Brazil
→ Cambodia
→ Cameroon
→ India
→ Indonesia
→ Ireland

→ Kenya
→ Lithuania
→ New Zealand (Aotearoa)
→ Nigeria
→ Norway
→ Oman
→ South Africa

→ Ukraine
→ United Arab Emirates (UAE)
→ United Kingdom
→ United States (USA)
→ Uruguay
→ Vanuatu

2.2 Case Study Deep Dives

Citizens based approaches



1. Norway – *Citizen-Led Deliberation on National Wealth and Global Responsibility*

Context

Norway faced critical questions about how to responsibly manage its national wealth for the benefit of current and future generations. The challenge was to engage a broad cross-section of citizens in a deliberative process to explore ethical and environmental considerations in the use of national resources.

Initiative

Between January and May 2025, 56 citizens from across Norway participated in the Citizens' Assembly for Norway's Future initiated by seven civil society organisations. The assembly followed OECD guidelines for deliberative processes, engaging in eight structured sessions that included expert briefings, facilitated discussions and consensus-building activities.

Significance

The Citizens' Assembly produced 19 broadly supported citizen-driven recommendations emphasizing long-term societal value and intergenerational equity, engaged a diverse group of citizens in meaningful deliberation to enhance democratic participation, sparked a national conversation on the ethical use of national wealth and global responsibility, and influenced civil society organisations to commit to disseminating and advocating for these recommendations.

2. Honduras – *Youth, Peace and Security Plan: Democratising Futures at the Local Level*

Context

San Pedro Sula, a city in northern Honduras, faces high levels of youth vulnerability, including exposure to violence, inequality and social exclusion. With youth aged 12–30 representing over 3.1 million Hondurans, national surveys indicate low trust in democratic institutions. Against a backdrop of polarisation, violence and erosion of the social contract, the city sought a participatory, future-oriented approach to place youth at the center of peace and security policymaking while rebuilding institutional legitimacy.

Initiative

In July 2025, San Pedro Sula became the first city in Latin America to implement the Plan Local Integral de Juventudes Paz y Seguridad. Led by the Municipality with technical support from UNDP Honduras and UNODA, the process applied the UNDP Democratising Futures Guide. Participatory foresight tools, including futures wheels, images of the future, time capsules and risk/dream mapping, were used in hybrid workshops with youth organisations, civil society, academia, private sector, and local authorities to co-create a shared vision and roadmap for youth, peace and security.

Significance

San Pedro Sula achieved a regional milestone as the first Latin American city to launch a local Youth, Peace and Security plan aligned with UNSC Resolution 2250, UNDP's Global Youth Strategy (2022–2025) and SDG 16, demonstrating the operationalisation of anticipatory governance and the DFG at the municipal level. The initiative illustrated how foresight methodologies can reframe youth as agents of change, while hybrid participatory approaches enhance inclusivity and intergenerational dialogue. It also highlighted that decentralised, local-level anticipatory governance empowers communities to co-design policies that anticipate long-term challenges and opportunities. It was a demonstration of the operationalisation of anticipatory governance and the DFG at the municipal level.

3. New Zealand – *Embedding Indigenous Futures in Long-Term Governance*

Context

New Zealand has established strong foundations for long-term governance through its civil society groups who draw on the Treaty of Waitangi obligations and well being economy concepts to provide a framework for integrating indigenous perspectives into national governance.

Initiative

New Zealand is advancing innovative initiatives to operationalise intergenerational fairness, primarily through citizen, and civil society-led activities. The 'Tomorrow Together' campaign for a future generations act led by WEAll Aotearoa, Think Beyond, and cross sector civil society actors, calls for legislation to safeguard the interests of future generations, including a dedicated Commissioner role. Meanwhile the Ngāi Tahu iwi (tribe) has pioneered futures approaches rooted in whānau (family) and whenua (land). These frameworks align cultural identity with environmental stewardship, guiding tribal governance, economic strategy, and contributions to national policy.

Significance

This approach illustrates how wellbeing frameworks and indigenous leadership can combine to embed intergenerational fairness. The integration of wellbeing economics, coupled with advocacy for a Future Generations Act and indigenous values in civic campaigns, results in a holistic and transferable proposal for anticipatory governance.

4. Global South Futures Community

Context

The Global South Futures Community (GSFC) is an international network dedicated to amplifying the voices and perspectives of the Global South in futures thinking and strategic foresight. It was founded to address the dominance of Global North narratives in shaping global futures. By highlighting locally grounded perspectives and alternative approaches, GSFC aims to create a more inclusive and diverse discourse on the future.

Initiative

GSFC provides a collaborative platform for futurists, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders from the Global South, engaging in initiatives that amplify local perspectives and knowledge. Through decolonizing futures thinking, the community hosts events and workshops that challenge dominant paradigms and promote culturally grounded approaches. GSFC also leverages technology, such as the Thámien Ohlone AR Tour, to empower communities to reclaim and narrate their histories. The community fosters collaborative learning and capacity building through webinars, workshops, and training sessions, equipping participants with the skills to actively shape inclusive and equitable futures.

Significance

The GSFC is significant for its role in amplifying underrepresented voices, ensuring that diverse perspectives influence global decision-making. It challenges dominant Western-centric narratives in policy, technology, and development while fostering cross-regional collaboration and the exchange of ideas. By integrating innovative approaches like AR storytelling, GSFC simultaneously promotes cultural preservation and social empowerment, reshaping how futures are imagined and planned with a focus on inclusivity and local knowledge.

5. IGF Cities Community of Practice

Context

Cities are key actors in driving bottom-up policy change at national and regional levels, yet they often lack the capacity and resources to incorporate foresight into governance. While the DFG mandates national actors to enable long-term governance, it provides limited guidance for regional and local governments. The IGF Cities Community of Practice (CoP) addresses this gap by upskilling city governments to anticipate long-term challenges, envision preferred futures, and systematically embed intergenerational fairness into policy design and implementation.

Initiative

The IGF Cities CoP comprises member cities across four continents—including Auckland, Melbourne, Christchurch, New York City, Cape Town, Recife— involving both public sector and civil society stakeholders. The CoP facilitates:

- Monthly updates highlighting global innovations in intergenerational fairness practice
- Webinars focused on structured discussions and case studies on topics such as sustainable development localisation, participatory policy design and scenario mapping for intergenerational fairness
- Policy dialogues applying strategic foresight to real city challenges, including housing insecurity in Cape Town and climate vulnerability in Recife

Significance

The IGF Cities Community of Practice has demonstrated the significance of building global urban capacity for intergenerational fairness by conducting eight webinars with 42 participants across seven cities, launching two active policy dialogues on city-specific challenges, and preparing to consolidate collective insights into the Urban Anticipatory Resilience Handbook. The initiative underscores that urban governments must anticipate a plurality of futures rather than a single predicted outcome to maintain agency and resist short-term pressures. By aggregating knowledge across member cities, the CoP provides a practical model for operationalising intergenerational fairness in municipal policy and planning.

Institutionalisation of leadership

6. *Cameroon – Mbessa Commission for Future Generations and Sustainability*

Context

Cameroon, which contains territories within the Congo Basin tropical rainforests, faces severe environmental challenges, including the loss of over 1.5 million hectares of forest between 2001 and 2020, rising temperatures, water scarcity and extreme weather events. Vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected. Traditional governance systems in Cameroon provide frameworks for cultural preservation, intergenerational equity, and sustainable decision-making, offering valuable insights for modern long-term governance.

Initiative

The Mbessa Commission for Future Generations and Sustainability was established in 2024 by His Majesty Foyin Gilbert Njong III, King of Mbessa (Mbessa), marking the first indigenous African initiative explicitly aimed at long-term governance. Its mandate includes:

- Embedding anticipatory and long-term governance using foresight and futures thinking,
- Addressing health issues, food insecurity, and water scarcity,
- Building peace and promoting sustainable development,
- Combating climate change and protecting biodiversity and cultural diversity,
- Preserving and adapting indigenous governance mechanisms,
- Ensuring the wellbeing of present and future generations - human and nonhuman alike.

Significance

The Commission demonstrates how indigenous knowledge systems can inform anticipatory governance, highlighting the integration of cultural preservation with environmental sustainability in a bottom-up approach. It has already inspired similar commissions in the indigenous kingdoms Nkar and Ajung, including potential commissions within other kingdoms and municipalities in Cameroon. Other related bottom-up long-term governance initiatives in Cameroon include efforts by some civil society organisations and the ongoing #CongoBasinFutures participatory foresight

and storytelling project, as well as emerging efforts within the national government—from a top-down perspective. In essence, the Mbessa Commission serves as a pioneering model for embedding intergenerational equity and long-term planning into governance structures in Africa.

7. European Union – *Appointing an Intergenerational Fairness Commissioner to Safeguard Long-Term Interests*

Context

The European Union recognised that traditional governance focused on short-term electoral cycles often fails to anticipate and balance the needs of current and future generations. Amid demographic shifts, the twin transition, and growing intergenerational tensions, the EU sought to embed intergenerational fairness into its institutional frameworks, operationalising commitments from the the UN Pact for the Future and its DFG.

Initiative

In November 2024, the EU appointed Glenn Micallef as its first-ever Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness under President von der Leyen. The Commissioner's mandate includes:

- Developing an EU Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness and launching tools such as an IGF Assessment Framework
- Integrating foresight into policymaking and legislative oversight
- Creating participatory mechanisms, including annual Youth Policy Dialogues and a President's Youth Advisory Board
- Aligning the office with key EU institutions such as the European Commission Secretariat-General and Joint Research Centre, Eurostat, the European Parliament, the European Council, the European External Action Service and the Court of Auditors, among others, to strengthen governance ecosystems

Significance

Dedicated leadership can elevate long-term governance agendas and signal political commitment. Institutional embedding—via frameworks, participatory tools and oversight channels—ensures durability beyond symbolic actions. Early collaboration with both external stakeholders and scientific experts is critical for co-creating a strategic vision and fostering evidence-based, future-oriented governance.

Parliamentary innovations of future generations



8. Kenya – *Senate Futures Caucus: Institutionalising Strategic Foresight in Legislative Governance*

Context

Kenya highlighted the importance of embedding future-oriented thinking into its legislative processes to anticipate long-term challenges and develop evidence-based durable laws. The country faced the challenge of moving beyond crisis-driven policymaking to future readiness, ensuring that legislation remains relevant beyond political cycles. The task was to transform legislative governance to incorporate foresight, resilience, and sustainability, allowing laws to serve both current and future generations.

Initiative

The Senate Futures Caucus was established in 2024 with its inaugural Strategic Foresight Retreat held in 2025, themed “Charting a Future-Oriented Course for Kenya.” The retreat brought together Senators, partners, and foresight experts to:

- Equip lawmakers with tools for anticipating long-term challenges
- Embed foresight into law making, fiscal planning and devolution
- Promote resilient, equitable and sustainable policy across Kenya

The Caucus provides a structured framework for integrating foresight into legislative practice, creating mechanisms to assess long-term implications of policy decisions.

Significance

Structured foresight approaches can transform legislative processes, enabling policymakers to legislate not only for the present, but also with future generations in mind. The success of the caucus underscores the importance of bipartisan efforts in addressing long-term challenges, demonstrating that collaboration across political divides can lead to meaningful change. Investing in the capacity of legislators and their staff is crucial for embedding foresight into governance, ensuring that they are equipped to make decisions that consider future implications.

9. Americas and the Caribbean – *Legislating for the Future: Anticipatory Governance and Citizen Engagement*

Context

Parliaments across the Americas and the Caribbean are facing growing pressures from climate change, demographic shifts, transformative technologies (AI automation), political polarisation, and declining trust in democratic institutions. Traditional governance models are increasingly insufficient to anticipate long-term challenges and respond effectively, prompting the need to integrate foresight, anticipatory governance and citizen engagement into legislative processes.

Initiative

The 21st Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas and the 9th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network, hosted by Uruguay's Parliamentary Futures Committee in May 2025, brought together legislators from across 19 countries in the region. Participants explored anticipatory governance, tested foresight tools such as Futures Wheels and Three Horizons, and engaged in dialogue sessions on AI governance, demographic transitions, climate change, and democracy renewal. The initiative linked foresight methodologies with Open Parliament commitments to strengthen citizen participation, trust, and long-term policymaking.

Significance

The adoption of the Montevideo Declaration on Legislating for the Future committed parliaments across the Americas and the Caribbean to embed foresight, intergenerational equity, and citizen engagement into legislative practice. The initiative strengthened inter-parliamentary networks for collaboration on anticipatory governance, facilitated the practical application of foresight tools by parliamentarians, and secured a regional commitment to integrate anticipatory governance into Open Parliament action plans, combining participatory approaches with long-term, intergenerational planning.

10. Ukraine – *Building National Foresight Capacity*

Context

Ukraine has faced profound uncertainty and volatility due to ongoing conflict, economic pressures and rapid global change. Understandably, policymaking has often been constrained by short-term imperatives, limiting the government's ability to anticipate and prepare for future challenges. Recognising the need for systemic foresight, the parliamentary Inter-Factional Union (IFU) "Strategic Foresight for Ukraine" launched a multi-year effort to embed future thinking in national governance.

Initiative

The initiative began in 2021, when the IFU partnered with UNDP and the UK Parliament to conduct foresight exercises exploring Ukraine's long-term trajectories. The process reached a milestone with a high-level workshop in 2025, where efforts transitioned from experimental projects to institutional design. The centerpiece was a roadmap for systemic foresight infrastructure, featuring proposals for establishing a permanent Parliamentary Committee for the Future and drafting a Wellbeing of Future Generations Act as a legal foundation for long-term governance.

Significance

Ukraine's foresight journey illustrates how, even in a context of immediate crises, it is possible to invest in long-term governance. By building national foresight capacity and institutionalising it through parliamentary structures, Ukraine is laying the groundwork for policies that safeguard both present needs and the wellbeing of future generations.

Legislative developments



11. India – *Maharashtra Future Generations Welfare Bill*

Context

In 2024, the Maharashtra Future Generations Welfare Bill was introduced in the state legislative assembly. It continues through legislative processes in 2025. Inspired by Wales' Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, the bill proposes the establishment of a Commissionerate of Future Generations to oversee and guide departmental policies towards long-term sustainability.

Significance

The bill mandates that all government departments define and implement strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It proposes the creation of an independent office, the Commissionerate, responsible for monitoring and ensuring that departmental actions align with these long-term goals. The initiative is influenced by a learning exchange programme in the UK, where legislators studied the Welsh model of governance.

12. Australia – *Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill 2025*

Context

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill 2025 was introduced in the Australian Parliament in 2025. The bill proposed a public duty requiring all government bodies to consider the long-term effects of decisions, an independent Commissioner for Future Generations, and a federal Wellbeing Framework integrating social, economic and environmental considerations into policy-making.

Significance

Although the bill lapsed with the dissolution of Parliament on March 28, 2025, it successfully initiated a national conversation on intergenerational equity and long-term policy planning.

13. Ireland – *Commission for Future Generations Bill 2023*

Context

The Commission for Future Generations Bill 2023 was introduced in the Dáil to establish an independent body dedicated to safeguarding the interests of future Irish citizens. The bill proposes the creation of a commission tasked with advising the government on establishing an Office of Ombudsman for Future Generations and assessing how public bodies and departments can incorporate long-term sustainability into their operations.

Significance

Organisations like Coalition 2030 and the National Youth Council of Ireland have expressed strong support, highlighting the bill's alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and the need for long-term policy planning. Although the bill lapsed, there have been renewed calls in 2025 for its reintroduction.



14. Nigeria – *Strategic Foresight Training & Youth Engagement*

Context

Facing a landscape defined by economic hardship, security threats, social unrest and climate-related disasters, Nigeria's National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), in partnership with Peace Building Development Consult (PBDC), organised a three-day, high-level Leadership Course on Strategic Anticipation and Crisis Management.

Initiative

Held at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre, it brought together over 78 participants from federal and state civil services, security agencies, development institutions and the private sector to shift governance from reactive to proactive. The training introduced leaders to practical foresight tools such as scenario planning, environmental scanning, trend analysis, and backcasting, applying them to national priorities including Vision 2050, climate resilience, and youth empowerment.

Significance

Effective governance requires embedding strategic foresight as a core leadership competency, not an optional add-on. Communication and human security are as critical as military preparedness ensuring communities are informed and empowered can be life-saving. Inclusive and systemic approaches reaching rural areas and involving younger professionals, as well as aligning policy with legislation, are vital for sustainable governance

15. Cambodia – *Developing the National Foresight Roadmap*

Context

In January 2025, Cambodia convened a pivotal workshop “Cambodia’s Foresight Roadmap” hosted by UNDP and led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Facing a transition marked by the expected reduction of foreign aid, post-LDC graduation, climate risks and evolving global markets, Cambodia is at a crucial crossroads. The nation aims to sustain 7% annual GDP growth en route to realising its Pentagonal Strategy and Vision 2050, demanding a proactive governance mindset to navigate uncertainty.

Initiative

The workshop positioned foresight not just as a toolkit or procedural add-on, but as a mindset: a structured approach to exploring multiple futures and aligning present actions with long-term aspirations. It convened a diverse ecosystem of stakeholders from government bodies, UN agencies, development partners, think tanks, the private sector, and civil society to collaboratively identify critical disruptions, drivers of change, and pathways for inclusive development.

Significance

The workshop marked the launch of a National Foresight Roadmap and implementation plan—a flexible framework designed to evolve through continuous learning and adaptation. It also created shared leadership and accountability. Establishing a collaborative foresight ecosystem ensured that ownership of the roadmap extends across government, civil society and development partners—fostering collective responsibility for the future.

16. *Oman – Operationalising Intergenerational Equity in Governance*

Context

Oman faces pressing long-term challenges, including climate change, water scarcity, demographic shifts, and economic diversification. Vision 2040 provides the national framework for sustainable development, with cross-government infrastructure already in place through the Vision 2040 Unit. This positions Oman to embed intergenerational equity as a guiding principle for decision-making.

Initiative

Oman has developed a long-term Vision to 2040 with cross-government implementation through the Vision 2040 Unit. Aligned with work within the Strategic Advisory Group, a partnership between the Omani and British governments, Oman is now exploring how to operationalise intergenerational equity as a core concept of governance. A dedicated Foresight Office is being established, and programmes are underway to consider how to embed intergenerational equity across government. The Royal Academy of Management is also supporting efforts to introduce intergenerational equity to public sector officials across multiple sectors.

Significance

Oman's approach demonstrates how long-term national visions can evolve into practical anticipatory governance frameworks. By linking foresight with intergenerational equity, and by embedding these concepts across government and public sector leadership, Oman is positioning itself as a regional pioneer. The combination of cross-government structures, international partnerships, and capacity building initiatives offers a replicable model for other states seeking to balance immediate priorities with the wellbeing of future generations.

17. United Kingdom – *Growing Recognition of the Need for a National Strategy for Next Generations*

Context

The UK is facing increasing pressures from a confluence of factors that are testing its policy making approaches - from environmental and ecosystemic shifts to emerging technology, to shifting demography and value shifts, to the changing nature of national security. There is also growing recognition that the social contract between citizens and the state is deteriorating. These challenges cannot be met with a focus only on the short term and structural reform is needed.

Initiative

The Heywood Fellowship, sponsored by the Head of the Civil Service, in response to a Parliamentary Liaison committee Inquiry on National Strategy, is actively designing a new National Strategy Framework. Proposals include 5-year planning cycles with 15-20 year horizons, linked to fiscal planning, public dialogues on future trade-offs, intergenerational impact assessments, and stronger institutional mechanisms for foresight. The Heywood Fellowship is the first civil service-led attempt in recent history to develop whole-of-government proposals for national strategy. Its scope spans Treasury, foreign and domestic policy, local government, public services, and business.

Significance

This initiative is part of a growing recognition in the country of the need to prepare for a future that will differ significantly from today and reflect the changing needs, values, and aspirations of citizens over the long-term. It also explores how governments can form a coherent national vision of what truly matters for future generations, with a view to how state structures, systems, and capabilities must adapt to deliver meaningful, enduring outcomes. This effort will require coherent mobilisation of multiple cross-cutting initiatives across the UK political landscape, but is essential to ensuring that public institutions remain relevant, resilient, and responsive in an increasingly uncertain world.

Judicial recognition of the rights of future generations



18. South Africa – *Landmark Climate Rights Decision*

Context

In November 2021, the African Climate Alliance (a youth-led organisation), together with the Vukani Environmental Justice Movement in Action and Groundwork Trust, filed proceedings to challenge the South African government's decision to include 1,500 MW of new coal-fired power. The applicants argued that this decision violated several constitutional rights, including the right to an environment not harmful to health or wellbeing (section 24), the best interests of children (section 28), and the rights to life, dignity, and equality.

Significance

The case sets a historic precedent: climate-related government decisions must align with constitutional rights, especially the right to a healthy environment and the best interests of children. It highlights the importance of intergenerational justice, reinforcing that decisions taken today must not undermine the rights of future generations.

19. Hungary – *Intergenerational Justice and Constitutional Climate Obligations*

Context

In 2023, Hungary had already achieved the 40% emissions reduction target by 2030 set in Article 3(1) of the Climate Protection Act. This rendered the law functionally obsolete and largely symbolic, failing to drive further action on climate change. Members of the Hungarian Climate Protection Association, particularly its youth members, argued that the outdated target amounted to a “generational injustice” by shifting the burden of meaningful climate action onto future generations.

Significance

The Constitutional Court struck down Article 3(1) of the Climate Protection Act, finding it unconstitutional for violating the principles of intergenerational justice and environmental protection. The Court ruled that the 2030 target was inadequate given the severity of climate change. The ruling strengthens the principle of intergenerational justice, affirming that present and future generations' interests must be considered equally.

Budgets and economic consideration of future generations



20. UAE – Ministry of Finance launches the 2025 Federal Budget Yearbook

Context

In February 2025, the UAE Ministry of Finance launched its annual Federal Budget Yearbook titled “Empowering the Future of Generations to Come”. This initiative aimed to enhance transparency, promote financial literacy, and align the federal budget with the nation’s long-term development goals, as outlined in the UAE Centennial 2071 vision.

Initiative

The Yearbook provides a comprehensive analysis of both financial and non-financial data, highlighting key financial trends, major achievements, and detailed insights into revenue sources, expenditures, and fiscal policies. It emphasises strategic spending in areas such as education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, economic development, infrastructure, and space exploration. A special community edition was also developed to present this information in an accessible and simplified format, aiming to deepen public understanding of financial priorities across all segments of society.

Significance

The budget was designed around alignment with long-term goals and allocations reflect a commitment to sustainable development and the empowerment of future generations, in line with the UAE Centennial 2071 vision.

21. Australia – *Intergenerational Inequity and the Economic Reform Roundtable*

Context

In August 2025, the Australian government convened an Economic Reform Roundtable in Canberra. This initiative aimed to tackle pressing national challenges, with regards to the economy. The roundtable brought together 25 participants, including policymakers, industry leaders, and community representatives, to discuss strategies for enhancing productivity and ensuring fair economic opportunities for future generations.

Initiative

The roundtable identified three primary priorities for economic reform, including addressing intergenerational inequity. Recognising the need to address disparities between generations including the importance of reforming the tax system to promote fairness and sustainability, boosting business investment, and simplifying the tax system.

Significance

The key focus of the roundtable on intergenerational equity marked an important integration of the interests of younger and future generations in economic policymaking with the roundtable emphasising the importance of reforming the tax system to promote generational fairness and sustainability.

Multilateral developments on future generations



22. ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change – *Protecting Present and Future Generations Through Legal Accountability*

Context

In 2021, the Republic of Vanuatu initiated a proposal for an ICJ advisory opinion to clarify states' obligations on climate change, particularly concerning intergenerational equity. The effort addressed a critical legal gap: while states faced pressure to act on climate change, there was uncertainty about their binding obligations to protect the environment for present and future generations.

Initiative

The UN General Assembly requested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue an advisory opinion on states' duties to prevent climate harm. The ICJ framed climate change as a legal issue, emphasising that obligations to protect the environment are enforceable under international law. The court found that states have binding duties to prevent significant environmental harm, cooperate internationally, and respect the rights of future generations.

Significance

The ICJ advisory opinion on climate change is significant because it establishes a clear legal precedent that inaction on climate change can constitute a wrongful act under international law, reinforcing state accountability. It provides governments and courts with a robust basis to justify climate action and hold states responsible for failing to protect the environment. Its intergenerational framing underscores the moral, political, and legal imperative to protect future generations, while the integration of science-based enforcement strengthens the credibility and enforceability of climate duties.

23. OECD Strategic Foresight Toolkit – *Building Resilient Public Policy*

Context

As global challenges grow increasingly complex, countries committed to future-oriented governance through initiatives like the DFG face a common barrier: limited capability to translate long-term ambitions into actionable policy. Governments often lack structured methods to anticipate disruptions such as climate tipping points, technological breakthroughs, or systemic crises.

Initiative

In January 2025, the OECD published the Strategic Foresight Toolkit for Resilient Public Policy, offering a structured five-step methodology. The toolkit also supports capability building by equipping systems and leaders with operational tools for anticipation, including facilitation aids, scenario-building guidance, and real-world case studies. Pilot applications in Indonesia and Lithuania helped governments test and refine the methodology, demonstrating practical relevance and adaptability to diverse contexts. The OECD also published the Towards Anticipatory Governance Guidelines in May 2025, which provides guidance on integrating strategic foresight into public organisations.

Significance

The value in the project lay in the practical tools, guides, and case studies, allowing policymakers to translate foresight into actionable strategies. Key takeaways include that structured foresight methodologies increase the resilience and adaptability of public policy. The project also linked foresight to the DFG, strengthening alignment between ambition and capability.

24. G20 Leaders' Declaration – *Embedding Future Generations in Global Governance*

Context

Historically, global governance frameworks have prioritised short-term economic and political goals, often overlooking the needs of future generations. Recognising the importance of long-term, intergenerational policy thinking, the G20 took a significant step toward future-oriented governance.

Initiative

Under the leadership of Brazil, the G20 Leaders' Declaration in November 2024 included the first-ever explicit reference to future generations, signaling a shift toward intergenerational responsibility at the highest political level. Institutional innovations, such as the G20 Social and its engagement groups, formally empowered youth, think tanks, civil society, and other stakeholders to participate in shaping policy discussions, creating a more inclusive, forward-looking policy ecosystem. The initiative connected multilateral efforts, linking commitments like the DFG with the G20 communique to reinforce a consistent intergenerational governance agenda.

Significance

The initiative established a high-level precedent for integrating intergenerational considerations into global political declarations and strengthened institutional pathways for youth and civil society to influence international policy. Key learnings include that explicitly referencing future generations in high-level political documents reinforces accountability and responsibility across national governments and that aligning multiple international platforms, such as the DFG and G20 communiqués, strengthens the coherence and impact of intergenerational governance efforts.

3. How SOIF is supporting the DFG

SOIF's objective is to determine how progress on the DFG can be achieved by 2028 and to identify the necessary infrastructure to facilitate rapid knowledge sharing, enhance awareness, and strengthen both institutional and individual capabilities.



3.1 Our Mission

SOIF's mission is to activate the potential of the DFG as a catalysing moment to build a global movement that centres the wellbeing of current and future generations in decision-making, mainstreams long-term governance across all countries in the world, and delivers meaningful change for people and the planet.

3.2 Our work in long-term governance

Aligned with our theory of change, and based on our expertise, we focus on four core areas of work that drive real-world impact:

1. **We champion long-term governance in the UN, EU, G20 and beyond.** We make sure long-term thinking and future generations are part of the world's biggest decisions and policy discussions—at the UN, EU and G20, to name a few. By working with our global networks, including members of our Pledge and Pioneers networks, we showcase tangible innovations that deliver for current and future generations to inspire multilateral action and ambition. For example, we have been engaging strategically in the EU Intergenerational Fairness strategy development, showcasing insights from work at Member States-level and partnering with key civil society organisations. We have also showcased implementation possibilities to UN Member States through the DFG Dialogue Series.
2. **We empower people to work for better futures at a community, systemic and global level.** We connect leaders, activists, young people, researchers, and communities across the world to grow a strong movement for change. Through our Pledge and Pioneers Networks, we support people who are already making long-term thinking a reality and help them learn from and inspire each other.
3. **We incubate country hubs providing technical support to scale in-country impact.** We help countries build the skills, knowledge and systems they need to plan for the long-term and act in the interests of future generations. This includes practical advice, training and expert support tailored to each context, as well as support in movement and coalition building around long-term governance.
4. **We build capability for long-term governance for sustainable development.** We carry out action research and learning activities to understand what really works in long-term governance and how to institutionalise future-oriented policymaking. We use this knowledge to help others take action, backed by evidence, shared tools, and lessons from the ground.

3.3 Catalysing action at the national level

SOIF National Hubs for long-term Governance

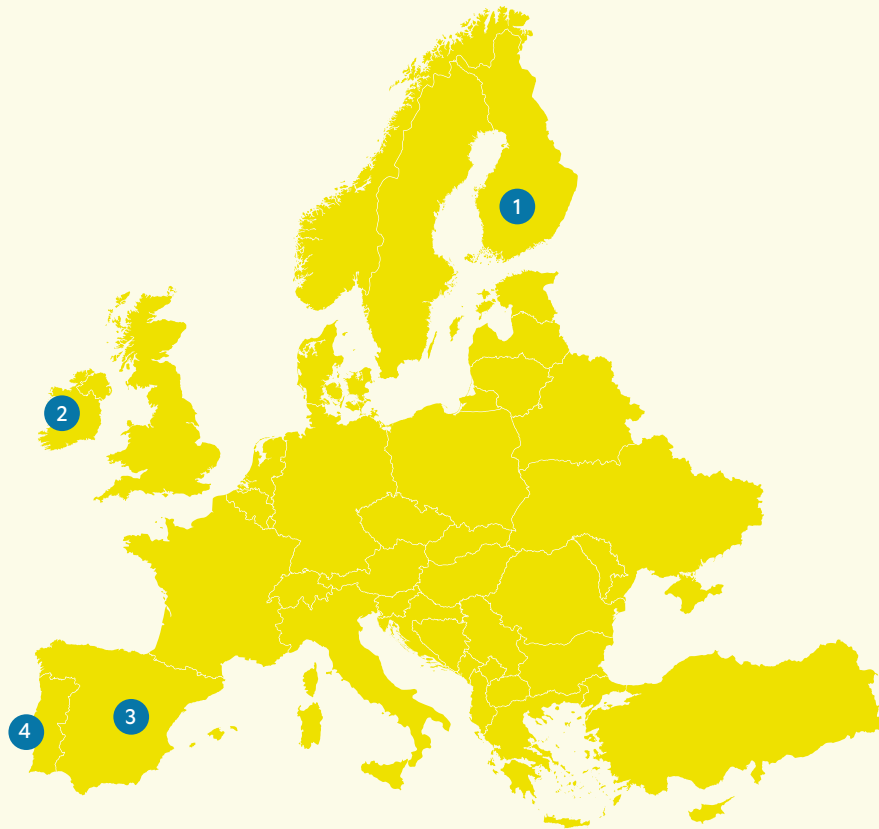
In 2025, we are working in seven countries—Australia, Brazil, Finland, Ireland, Kenya, Portugal, Spain—, helping to build national long-term governance hubs that translate global ambition into practical, locally-owned change.

The aim of the SOIF national hub programme is to establish multistakeholder hubs as spaces for dialogue and common action that can help countries coordinate and leverage the work of different actors (citizens, political leaders, institutions) and connect them around future generations.

Learnings from our work in Europe

Some findings from our pilot phase of hubs in Spain, Portugal, Finland and Ireland include:

1. **The future generation narrative is galvanising interest across a range of different actors.** This increases collaboration and provides a new frame for movements advocating for climate transitions, wellbeing economy, public or population health, and young people, as well as long-term thinking. This has the potential to be hugely powerful.
2. **There is political interest in a new way of framing.** Hubs provide scope to frame collaborative opportunities amongst the range of different sectors/movements and, when activated, members are able to use their own sector specific networks to build a movement under the future generations narrative.
3. **Hubs are starting to link action across the prism.** By coordinating contacts with government civil service and helping to identify and support political champions, they are seeding movements and identifying champions beyond just the political environment
4. **In-country work is going to be critical to both framing the level of international ambition and showing that there is political support to advancing this agenda.** Without practical domestic examples, there is a risk that the agenda becomes a technocratic and bureaucratic exercise within the multilateral system with little real life outcomes.



1. Finland

Finland has institutionalized long-term and intergenerational thinking through a comprehensive foresight framework that spans government, parliament, and academia. The Government Report on the Future identifies emerging issues each electoral term using expert input and public dialogue, while the Committee for the Future in Parliament evaluates legislation through a futures lens. Supporting these efforts, the National Foresight Network connects experts across sectors to ensure foresight informs decision-making. The hubs work in 2025 is focused on supporting members to activate citizenry around long term governance and connecting this to the extensive institutionalised long term governance mechanisms.

2. Ireland

Ireland's proactive approach reflects a growing recognition of the need for long-term thinking in governance. For example, the proposed Commission for Future Generations Bill 2023 seeks to establish a statutory body to advise government on policies affecting future generations. Advocacy efforts by over 70 groups, including trade unions and NGOs, to push for a Future Generations Commissioner, envisioned as a "sustainability tsar" are ongoing. The hubs work in 2025 is to continue to support the re-introduction of the Future Generations Bill and seek to make the future generations agenda a priority through the 2026 Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

3. Spain

Building on the work of national agencies such as the Oficina Nacional de Prospectiva, regional groups such as Innobasque and Correos' project "The Post Office of Tomorrow" long term governance approaches are emerging in Spain. Cities such as Valencia, through Las Naves, are exploring future scenarios for sustainable urban development, while events like Future Days in Barcelona engages citizens directly in shaping long-term priorities. The Hubs work in 2025 is focused on developing city level progress on long term governance as a proof point and motivator for national conversations on future generations.

4. Portugal

Portugal has cultivated a vibrant ecosystem for intergenerational and futures thinking. Civil society has led with Gulbenkian Foundation and Nova University's IGF assessment in the past to today's campaigns by Oikos and Zero on wellbeing economics and future generations' rights. Youth voices are growing through platforms like Conselho do Futuro, Future Days, and Geracao Futuras. Historically political leaders have shown interest in embedding foresight tools and today officials at Plan App are world leading in integrating foresight practices into policy making. The Hub's work in 2025 is focused on coordinating the citizen led movements to ensure they reinforce technical capability being built within Portuguese institutions while also broadening the coalition of actors involved in the call for a future generations law.

Learnings from our work in Brazil

The work in Brazil highlights and reinforces several key findings from these pilot hubs. Collaborating with civil society organisations, political champions across national, regional, and local governments, and foresight experts, the hub demonstrates how the future generations narrative can galvanise diverse actors. Initiatives such as the G20 Intergenerational and Long-Term Governance Hub, workshops with youth negotiators at COP and collective action with organisations focused on wellbeing economics and participatory processes as well as the UNDP national office, show that cross-sector collaboration is both possible and powerful. These activities confirm that in-country engagement, linking political champions, civil society, and foresight expertise, is critical for translating global ambition into locally-owned, practical action, and for framing collaborative opportunities across sectors. Our full list of partners in the countries we work in are listed in [Appendix 2](#).

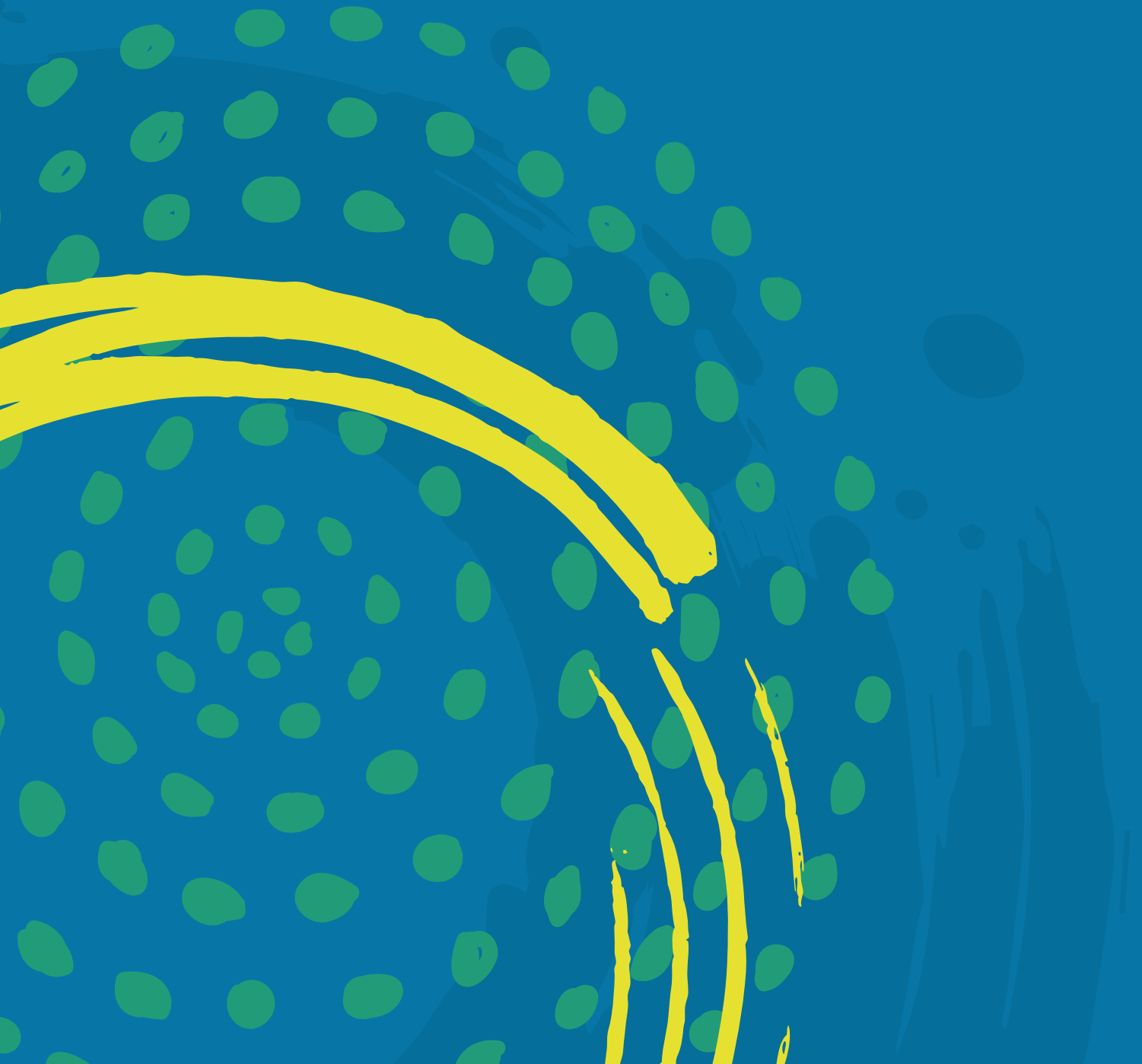
Our broader ambitions

We are actively supporting emerging movements in Cameroon, Greece, Italy, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Ukraine, and the United States, among others.

For instance, SOIF has contributed to the development of Wellbeing of Future Generations Acts in Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Australia, and New Zealand. These initiatives aim to institutionalise long-term governance principles and intergenerational fairness within national legal frameworks.

In addition to legislative efforts we have initiated cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder dialogues to advance the implementation of the DFG. Notably, these conversations have taken place in diverse settings, including a convening of US champions, the G20 Intergenerational and long-term governance hub in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and a parliamentary retreat in Kenya. Beyond the national and multilateral levels, we have also galvanised action at the city, state, and regional levels: from supporting a community of practice across global cities (see case study) and connecting across US states driving long-term governance efforts, to supporting anticipatory governance efforts across Latin America.

4.What is needed next



The first year since the Declaration’s adoption has demonstrated that the future generations framing—whether in policy halls, civil society gatherings, or multilateral forums—activates connections, stokes ambition and enables ecosystemic engagement. It reaffirms that the Declaration functions not as a prescriptive programme, but as a narrative umbrella or a shared story under which innovators can convene and act. Yet awareness is still limited, networks are nascent, and resources are thin. To move from principle to norm, from fragments to systems, from potential to transformation, the next phase requires both consolidation and scale.

4.1 Bridge the back-channel information lag

Member States were vocal advocates of the Declaration at the UN, but those commitments, including Article 28, risk fading unless embedded into bilateral cooperation channels and domestic policy spheres. The first priority is to ensure that national administrations from foreign affairs to domestic line ministries, agencies, and local bodies, are fully engaged and aware of their obligations and opportunities under the Declaration.

4.2 Strengthen global network weaving and knowledge exchange

The ecosystem is rich with emerging pioneers and promising innovations. Yet they exist in scattered pockets. The moment calls for robust network weaving, drawing together legal reformers, financial innovators, youth movements and civic leaders. Tools like cross-country peer exchanges, thematic deep-dives, and cross-sector dialogues should be launched in earnest. Importantly, the 2028 review must become a pivotal anchor for these networks to work toward in a coordinated way.

4.3 Catalyse action with strategic seed funding

Ambition is circumscribed by resource scarcity. Youth networks, local governments, and emerging hubs are eager to pilot long-term approaches. A modest investment today can build momentum. We must prioritise dedicated funds to support these early innovations, particularly among youth-led and indigenous initiatives, especially in global majority countries. They need support to act and also to connect, learn and share innovations.

4.4 Prioritise support for leadership, capability building and governance innovation in global majority countries

Paradoxically, the countries most eager to galvanise future generations, and indeed often those with younger demographics, are often the ones with the least access to resources. The cross-cutting nature of this agenda makes it hard to slot into siloed funding streams. Targeted support must therefore be channelled to leaders in these regions, innovators networks, and institutions to ensure the Declaration is not just global in language, but in ownership and action.

4.5 Institutionalise high-level political leadership with a Special Envoy for Future Generations

Our vision is that by 2028, the Declaration has transcended its origin. It has accelerated the 2030 Agenda, transformed governance systems, and inspired institutional imagination, from national foresight departments to participatory assemblies. But for that future to emerge, we need a powerful voice today: a UN Special Envoy who can cut through bureaucracy, mobilise leaders, convene coalitions, and humanise the narrative. Though there are political and resource challenges to integrating this mechanism into the existing UN architecture, the key insight from all effective national systems is that this is a must-have, not a nice-to-have. Such a role is the lynchpin around which a whole-of-system approach can be mobilised—across UN bodies, multilateral fora and national capitals.

Expert Panel Insight: Looking ahead to 2028 what are the key developments you'd most like to see globally, regionally and domestically?

High level summary of responses

- **Institutionalised structures and frameworks** Establishment of Future Generations Acts, parliamentary committees, Office of Ombudsperson or a Commissioner for Generational Fairness, and national foresight agencies are key structures to integrate DFG principles into national strategic planning and policies.
- **Global and regional leadership.** The appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Future Generations could represent a significant shift in international discourse. Including the security dimension and regional platforms promoting Indigenous-led climate action and foresight innovation are also needed.
- **Policy and implementation.** Incorporating Future Generations perspective in NDCs, mainstreaming DFG principles into policy design and implementation, Future Generations strategies and laws, and developing tangible policy implementation/ localisation pathways for intergenerational fairness have been mentioned
- **Accountability and action.** Clear KPIs, deliverables, the role of audit and accounting standards, and accountability mechanisms (e.g. online dashboards), more action on the ground, citizen participation in legislation, and radical application of systems thinking across initiatives.
- **Funding and capacity building.** Increased funding for science, technology and innovation—especially for local and indigenous initiatives, capacity building, and uptake of foresight at all levels is needed.

Appendix



1 Panel of global experts surveyed

Name	Organization	Country
Andrea Long	Generation Squeeze	North America
André Arruda	DDF.Lab	Latin America and Caribbean
Caitlin Murray	Strategic Spatial Planner	Europe
Daouia Chalali	United Nations University Centre for Policy Research	Europe
Dhaval Kothari	Lagori Collective	Asia-Pacific
Amb. Erick Githaiga	Resident Ambassador for Future Generations in Kenya under the Partnerships for Future Generations in Africa	Africa
Dominik Balthasar	Asian Institute of Management	Asia-Pacific
Dr Nsah Mala	Chair of the Mbessa Kingdom Indigenous Commission for Future Generations and Sustainability, Cologne Hub Coordinator for UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Coalition	Africa
Emil Koreniev	UNDP Ukraine	Europe
Isidora Gonzalez Rios	Secretaria Tecnica Consejo CTCI / Latin American Futures Network	Latin America and Caribbean
James Balzer	Next Generation Foresight Practitioners	Asia Pacific
Justin R. Langan	Executive Director O'KANATA	North America
Katerina Lambrinou	Hellenic Parliament	Europe
Ludo Simons		Europe

Margarida Mano	Vice-Reitora da Universidade Católica Portuguesa	Europe
Maria Lorente-Pérez	Wellbeing Economy Iberia Hub	Europe
Minh-Thu Pham	Project Starling	Asia-Pacific
Mohammed Ahmed	Office of the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria	Africa
Montacer Barakat	Head of Exploration and Digital Innovation, UNDP	Middle East
Osmar Coelho Filho	Universidade de Brasília	Latin America and Caribbean
Sam Douglas-Bate	ForgeFront	Europe
Sanjay Rajan	ClimateResilient.Earth	North America
Shahtaj Nazmeen	HBL	Asia Pacific
Susana Fonseca	Zero	Europe
Vera Djakonoff	Demos Helsinki	Europe
Vitorino Mello Oliveira	Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations	Europe
Amb. Yabesh O. Monari	Kenya Permanent Mission to the United Nations	Africa

2 SOIF's National Hub in-country partners

Hub Country	In country hub partners
Finland	Demos Helsinki Sitra Fingo
Portugal	Oikos Zero Futura Foundation
Ireland	Coalition 2030 FEASTA
Spain	Revo WEALL
Australia	Foundations for Tomorrow
Kenya	Society for International Development Senate of Kenya
Brazil	Instituto Toriba Observatório Internacional da Juventude Øutra Economia Delibera Brasil



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