

### 3. The DFG and the World Social Summit

**Date:** Wednesday, 25th June 2025

**Location:** Jamaican Mission to the UN + Hybrid

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The Dialogue Session on “The DFG and the World Social Summit” was the third of a series of dialogues titled “The DFG Dialogue Series.” The series is a strategic initiative led by the **Permanent Missions of Kenya, Jamaica, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the School of International Futures (SOIF)**. The dialogues are designed to move from **words to action** on the principles enshrined in the Declaration on Future Generations (DFG), and to inspire and unlock global action through **showcasing real-life innovations from different countries**. By convening policymakers, civil society representatives, and experts, these dialogues will address multilateral opportunities for DFG implementation and the adoption of long-term governance strategies within key global policy discussions across geographic and thematic areas.

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*“Mo tātou, ā, mo kā uri ā muri ake nei – For us, and our children after us.”*

*Ngāi Tahu Proverb*

#### Context

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 Declaration on Future Generations 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 emphasized 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. The event aimed to showcase how this approach fosters more adaptive, equitable systems that protect the wellbeing of both current and future generations, while enabling more effective responses to education, health, and poverty challenges, while also surfacing innovative models of governance and cross-sector collaboration that align near-term action with the long-term public good.

## Innovations in embedding DFG principles into social development

Speakers emphasised the opportunity to ensure the DFG is not only referenced in high-level outcomes, but unlocks a new framing for and shapes reforms in the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion. The DFG was repeatedly cited as a practical, action-oriented tool to help governments move from promises to implementation, bridging short-term priorities with long-term planetary and societal wellbeing.

Inclusion, and how the voices of those often sidelined must be heard and actioned, surfaced as the leading theme of discussions. Politicians, indigenous representatives, and members of civil society emphasised the importance of embedding inclusive foresight approaches and collaborative policymaking for moving the needle of social development at every level of governance.

The dialogue helped bring to the fore practical approaches and enabling conditions that can turn inclusion from aspiration into action. Guest speakers shared innovations from their home countries, pinpointing key intergenerational issues such as employment and decent work, taxation, and health, while highlighting existing implementation of DFG values:

- Youth-led governance innovation in Kenya where members of the Senate Futures Caucus are pushing for free secondary education and integration of AI into the national curriculum, recognising education and youth innovation as foundational to long-term societal resilience. Additionally, Kenyan politicians are proposing future-oriented budgeting, proposing a minimum of 10% of national expenditure dedicated to long-term youth development, including digital literacy, green innovation, mental health, and civic participation
- The Mō Āpōpō Future-Makers initiative in New Zealand equips indigenous youth with tools for storytelling, governance and systems thinking, embedding intergenerational identity and cultural values into climate adaptation and policy development
- The “Solid Start” programme in the Netherlands, which prioritises support for parents-to-be, reflects how investing early in life can break cycles of intergenerational inequality, trauma, and poverty, based on decades of epigenetic research

- Community-led climate resilience work in the Caribbean is connecting health, poverty and climate advocacy to long-term policymaking through grassroots foresight education, curriculum design and advocacy campaigns
- Climate change preparedness for Black communities in Toronto using community-led facilitation to expand knowledge on the unequal impacts of climate change and build long-term resilience strategies grounded in lived experience.

### **Words to Action: Suggestions for the World Social Summit**

As we approach the World Social Summit, these perspectives reveal how the DFG can be a powerful narrative frame to unlock new solutions to persistent challenges.


To translate these discussions into action, the following themes should be considered at Summit:

#### **1. Reflect the principles of the DFG in the political declaration**

Participants stressed the importance of embedding the DFG into the political declaration of the World Social Summit and broader multilateral processes. As a connective tissue between diverse global agendas, the DFG provides a common framework to align long-term thinking, promote coherence across policy discussions, and act as a guiding compass for action. The dialogue surfaced growing momentum around formal institutional commitments, such as the call for a UN Special Envoy for Future Generations, and the value of country-led coalitions, such as the Group of Friends for Future Generations, in championing this agenda.

#### **2. Champion localised foresight and the power of networks**

Building inclusive and future-fit societies requires action and foresight at the local level. Participants highlighted the importance of robust, place-based networks that bridge sectors and empower communities. Local foresight practices rooted in culture, context, and lived experience transform hope into agency, but also illuminate the interconnected nature of complex challenges. Rather than treating issues in silos, foresight helps communities surface integrated, innovative solutions, whether reconciling sustainable livelihoods with ecological protection, or making the most of opportunities like the demographic dividend.



By enabling this systems-level thinking, local foresight offers a practical means of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in ways that reflect interdependence. Community leaders emphasised the need to invest in the connective infrastructure that allows such approaches to scale and endure, ensuring national and global strategies are grounded in what works on the ground.

### **3. Intergenerational fairness across the life cycle**

A powerful theme that emerged was the role of intergenerational fairness across the life course, from the critical window of pre-birth and early childhood to the wisdom and care of older generations. Participants drew attention to the need for targeted interventions at different life stages to rebalance the disproportionate impacts of intergenerational trauma, including in areas of education, mental health, and early family support.

### **4. Embedding youth and indigenous voices**

Embedding youth and indigenous voices across all sectors is essential to delivering on the promise of social inclusion and ensuring that those too often overlooked are meaningfully represented in decision-making. Foresight and futures thinking offer practical and desirable pathways to achieve this, helping to surface long-term priorities through turbulent contexts that are shaped by diverse lived experiences. Indigenous-led governance models, grounded in intergenerational cultural wisdom, provide powerful alternatives for reimagining systems. Identity and storytelling emerged as especially powerful tools for indigenous communities, offering not only a sense of wellbeing and continuity but also a mechanism to bring their knowledge into governance structures.

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

Permanent Mission of Guatemala  
Permanent Mission of Indonesia  
Permanent Mission of Ireland  
Permanent Mission of Jamaica  
Permanent Mission of the Netherlands  
Permanent Mission of Kenya  
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Permanent Mission of Singapore  
Permanent Mission of Suriname  
Permanent Mission of Spain  
Permanent Mission of Germany  
Permanent Mission of Portugal  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland  
Permanent Mission of France  
Permanent Mission of Poland  
UN Executive Office of the Secretary General  
UNDP  
UNESCO  
IDLO  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
Global Partnership for Education  
Save the Children  
Project Starling  
Generation Squeeze  
We Down South

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

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



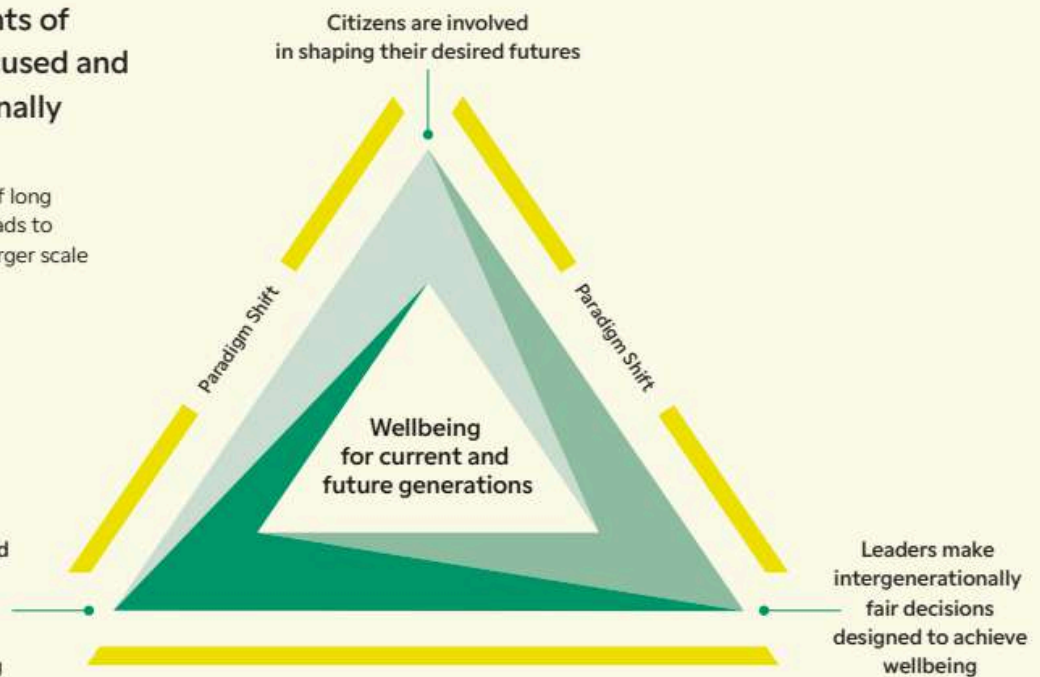
Annex 1. The Foresight Governance Prism, from the [Working for Current and Future Generations: Handbook on DFG Implementation](#) (SOIF, 2024).

Figure 1: The Foresight Governance Prism

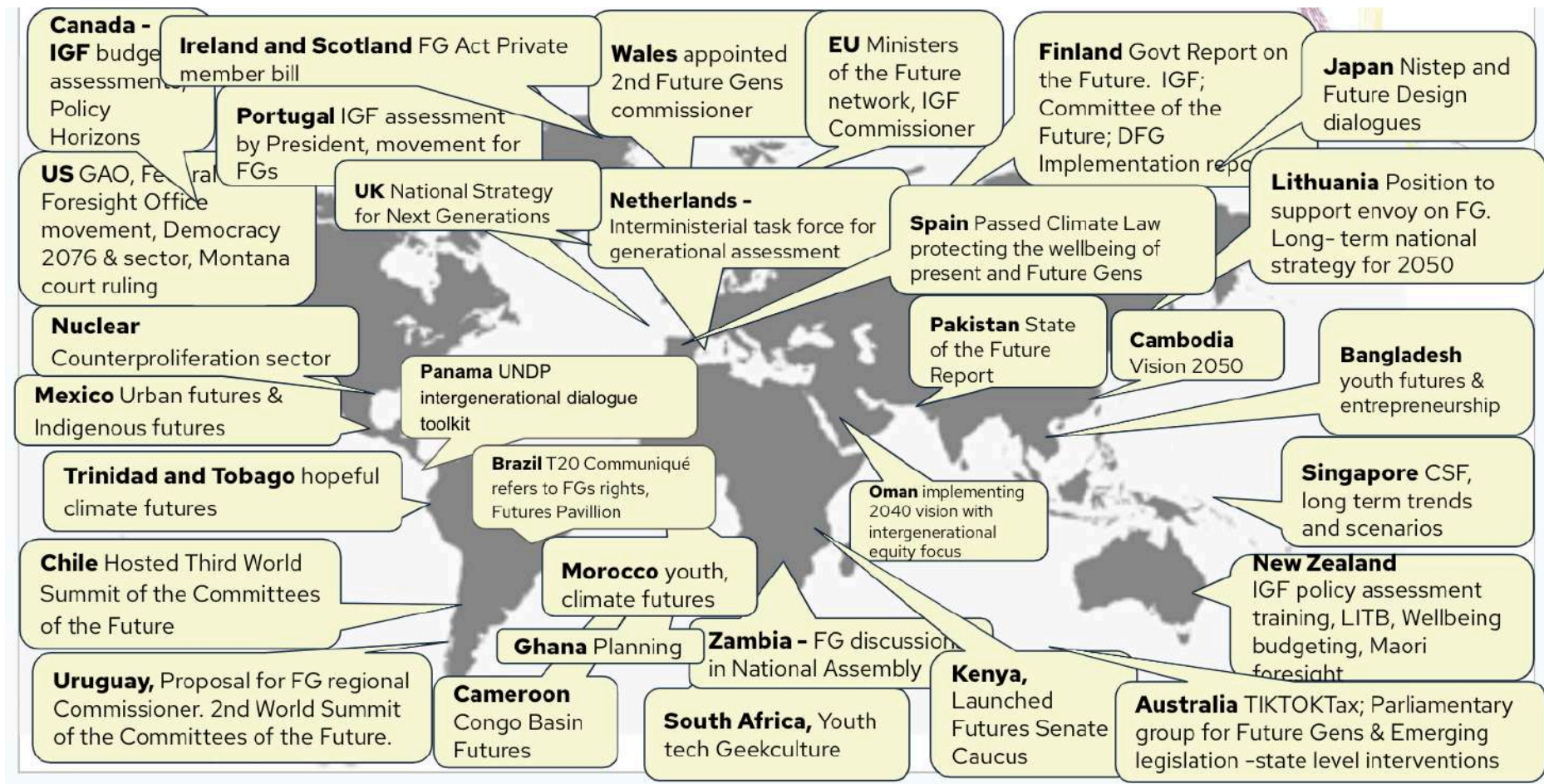
### The Components of a wellbeing focused and intergenerationally fair system

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

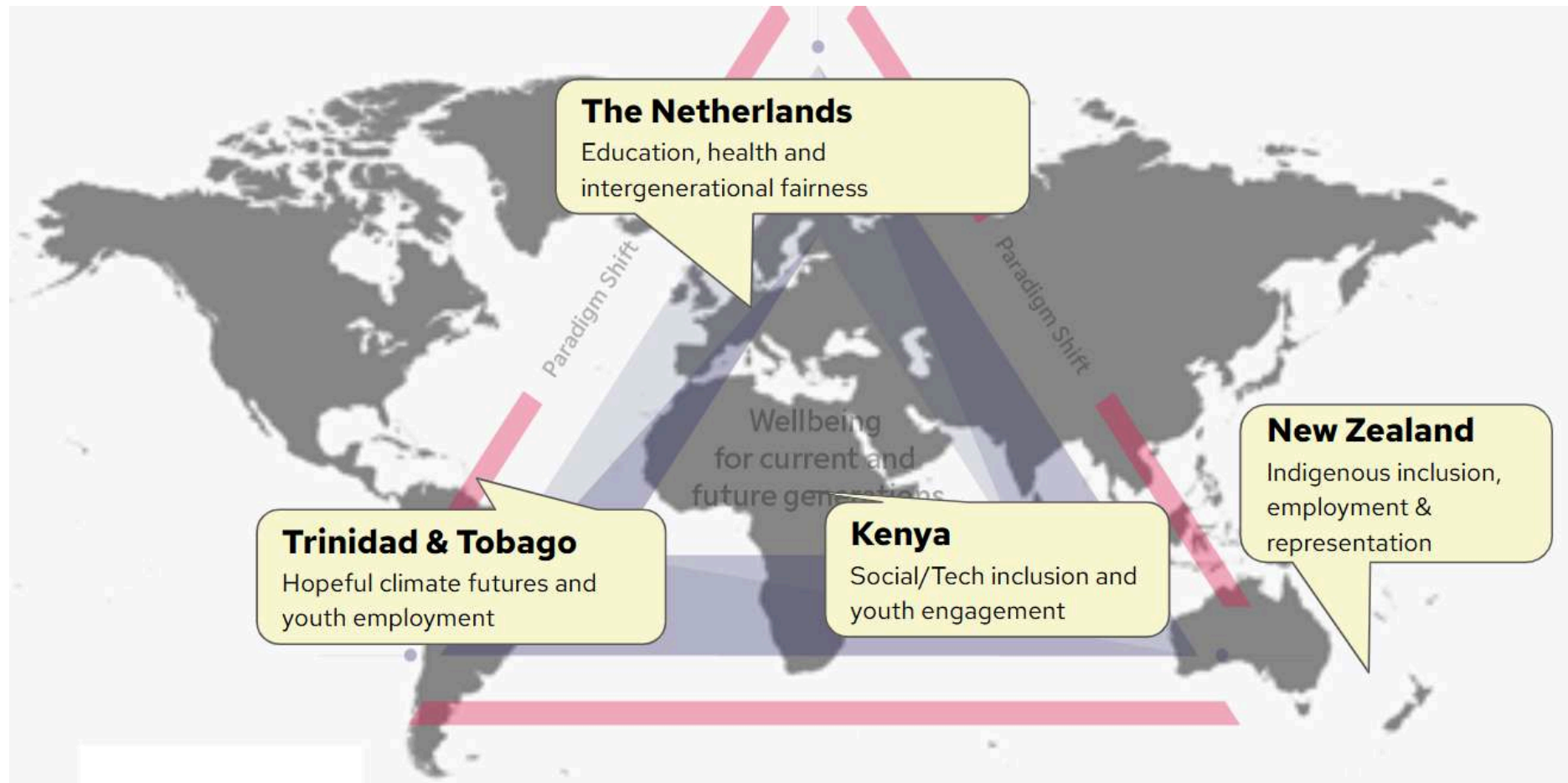
Organisations and sectors are prepared for the future and can design and implement policy based on wellbeing



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



### Annex 3. Long-term Governance Innovations reflected by speakers



## Annex 4. Event agenda

# Agenda

### I. Opening Remarks

- ★ H.E. Ambassador Brian Wallace, Permanent Representative, Jamaica
- ★ H.E. Ambassador Yabesh O. Monari, Deputy Permanent Representative, Kenya

### II. Framing Remarks

- ★ Cat Zuzarte Tully, Managing Director, School of International Futures

### III. Speakers

- ★ **Kenya:** [Senator Paul Karungo Wa Thang'wa](#), Senate Caucus of the Future - social inclusion and youth engagement
- ★ **Trinidad & Tobago:** [Alicia Richins](#), founder of The Climateverse - social development, technology and future of employment in climate-affected communities
- ★ **Netherlands:** [Professor Tessa Roseboom](#), Epigeneticist, Future Generations Commissioner of Amsterdam UMC - social inequality, education, health and intergenerational fairness
- ★ **New Zealand:** [Thomas Blakie](#) (Ngāi Tahu), Mō Āpōpō Future-Maker and youth advocate working with his tribal authority Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu - indigenous inclusion, employment and representation

### V. Reflections

- ★ Karima El Korri, Director of the Sustainable Development Unit, EOSG

### VI. Open Discussion and Closing Remarks

