

# Good Governance for Future Generations: Practices and Networks<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

Good governance for future generations lies at the heart of the Summit of the Future. To support action arising from the Summit, this resource collates country practice, stakeholder networks, stakeholder reports and academic work around governance for future generations.

This resource has three sections:

- The **first (page 2)** is a compilation of country practice, summarising - and linking to - examples of governance institutions concerned with young and future generations.
- The **second (page 6)** compiles a list of active stakeholder networks
- The **third (page 7)** compiles written reports from stakeholders (e.g. UN documents) and academic work considered to offer entry points into thinking around governance for future generations and intergenerational justice.

There is no claim on the part of the authors that the first version of this resource, reflecting initial research during the summer of 2024, is exhaustive. It is anticipated that the resource will be revisited and added to over time.

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## **(1) country practices for Future Generations**

*Recognising the role of political and legal practice, this table distinguishes between governance processes and institutions – in blue, and legal provisions and decisions in red.*

| Country (with link to the resource in each case)   | Future-regarding Institutional practices and legal provisions.   | Description   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Australia</b><br><br><a href="#"><u>Commissioner for sustainability and the environment</u></a> | Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (1993-)      | Within the office of the Minister for the environment - largely research/advisory; complaints investigation. Not purpose made for Future Generations but has an overlapping remit.  |
|  | Australia has a 'child and youth policy impact assessment' tool. | The use of the tool is voluntary (requires governmental departments and/or NGOs to choose to employ it where they feel necessary).  |
| <b>France (since disbanded)</b>  | Council for the rights of future generations                     | Since disbanded (1993-95).  |
| <b>Finland</b><br><br><a href="#"><u>Committee for the Future remit</u></a>                        | Committee for the Future (1993)                                  | The main task of the Committee for the Future is to prepare the Parliament's response (Parliament's Future Report) to the Government's (termly) Report on the Future. Since 2017, The Government's implementation for Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development has also been submitted to the Committee for the Future during each electoral term. |

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|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Germany</b>                  | <p>State Secretary Committee for Sustainable Development (2000) and Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (2004).</p> <p><a href="#">German Youth Check</a></p> <p><a href="#">Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany</a></p> | <p>Not purpose built for Future Generations, but has significant overlapping remit.</p> <p>Employed at Pre-parliamentary draft bill stage (not mandatory).</p> |
| <b>Gibraltar</b>                | <a href="#">Office of the Commissioner for sustainable development and Future Generations</a>  | Sustainable Development and Future Generations Commissioner.   |
| <b>Hungary</b>                  | <p><a href="#">The Role of the Ombudsman - AJBH-EN</a></p> <p><a href="#">About the office - AJBH-EN - AJBH</a></p>  | Ombudsman for future generations, now incorporated into the role of deputy commissioner under the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights                          |
| <b>India</b>                    | <a href="#">ECOC Intergenerational equity committee</a>  | The Supreme Court appointed a temporary 6-member Expert Committee on a Cap (ECOC) - Intergenerational Equity, to produce reports on a regional mining dispute. |
| <b>Israel (since disbanded)</b> | <a href="#">Knesset Commissioner for Future Generations</a>  | Since disbanded (2001-2006). Included the power to delay legislation.  |



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|---|---|--|
| <p><a href="#"><u>All-Party Parliamentary Group for Future Generations</u></a></p> <p>Wales</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Future Generations Commissioner</u></a></p> | <p>Future generations commissioner (subnational)</p>  | <p>group.</p> <p>An outcome of the <a href="#"><u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</u></a>.</p> |
| <p>Scotland</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Scotland's Futures Forum</u></a></p>  | <p>Parliamentary think tank 'Futures Forum' for research/recommendations for MPs on issues concerning the long term and future.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Uruguay</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Comision Especial del Futuro</u></a></p>  | <p>Parliamentary Committee</p>  | <p>Research/advisory, dialogue functions.</p>  |

## **(2) Networks and Organisations for Future Generations**

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| Network of Institutions for Future Generations (NIFG)                                | A network of institutions or commissioners with responsibilities for representing the needs of future generations. NIFG includes membership from Israel, Wales, Hungary, Norway, Finland, New Zealand and Canada.  | <a href="#"><u>Network of Institutions for Future Generations</u></a>                  |
| School of International Futures (SOIF)   | Nonprofit founded to facilitate best practice networks, collaborations and publications on national and international FG strategy. See for example toolkit for the Summit of the Future. <a href="#"><u>Action Package for the Summit of the Future   SOIF</u></a> . | <a href="#"><u>SOIF   School of International Futures.</u></a>                         |
| Apolitical x SOIF - Community of practice: long term governance and future thinking. | New venture by SOIF x Apolitical to bring together a community of policy makers and practitioners to share best practices and foster international collaboration.  | <a href="#"><u>Community of practice: long term governance and future thinking</u></a> |
| The Future Generations Lab in the Netherlands.                                       | Academic/best practice depository.   | <a href="#"><u>Organisatie – Lab toekomstige generaties</u></a>                        |
| Global Youth Movement for FG   | NFIG-led network for youth interested in FG. Annual leadership academy for 25 ambassadors.   | <a href="#"><u>NFIG - Global Youth Movement for FG</u></a>                             |

### **(3) Sources on intergenerational justice and future generations**

#### **(a) General overviews and UN reports**

**UN reports -**

- UN Summit of the Future report - [Intergenerational Solidarity and the Needs of Future Generations: Report of the Secretary-General](#)

**Accessible overviews -**

- NIFG 'Building our common future' report - Review of comparative practice. [NFIG Review](#)
- Professor Herbert Girardet (UWE) - Founder: The World Future Council. [The Future - what future? 'Ecologist' article ahead of the Summit of the Future 2024.](#)
- Save the Children - Brief presenting a basic policy framework and general intergenerational justice principles. [Realizing Intergenerational Justice for Children and Future Generations.](#)
- SOIF x NIFG 'Wales protocol' - provides an implementation framework designed to guide communities and world leaders towards a more sustainable and equitable future. [Wales Protocol for Future Generations – from Declaration to Implementation](#). The Protocol has been developed to support the implementation efforts of the [Declaration for Future Generations](#), co-facilitated by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Jamaica.

#### **(b) Selected Academic work on Future Generations**

Literature on the idea of intergenerational justice

- Gosseries, A. and Mayer, L.H., Introductory Chapter - Intergenerational Justice and its challenges. [Introduction - Intergenerational Justice and its challenges](#)
- Dugworth, C. Introductions to Intergenerational justice.
- Gosseries, A. Types of justice for future generations (justice as reciprocity). [Three types of Intergenerational Justice](#)

## Comparative studies of intergenerational justice

- Von Knebel, M. Cross-country comparative analysis and case study of institutions for future generations. Analysis of institutions made in reference to "Time Horizons, Power, Funding, Risk of politicisation and Legitimacy". [Cross-country comparative analysis and case study of institutions for future generations.](#)
- Vanhuyse, P. Measuring Intergenerational Justice-Toward a Synthetic Index for OECD Countries. [Comparative study of 29 OECD countries approaches.](#)
- Zwarthoed, D. Political representation of future generations - case studies. [Political representation of future generations.](#)

## Literature on representation of future generations

- Rose, M. Comparative study of 25 proxies and their differing institutional design. [Institutional Proxy Representatives of Future Generations: A Comparative Analysis of Types and Design Features | Article | Politics and Governance](#)
- Thompson, D.F. Representing future generations: Political presentism and democratic trusteeship. [Representing Future Generations.](#)
- Ward, H. Legal and institutional analysis for designing global governance systems for FG. [Beyond the Short Term: Legal and Institutional Space for Future Generations in Global Governance](#)
- Tremmel, J. The four-branches model of government: representing future generations. [Cross-country comparative analysis and case study of institutions for future generations - ScienceDirect](#)
- Davies, H. The wellbeing of future generations (Wales) act 2015: Duties or aspirations? [The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015: Duties or aspirations?](#)

## Literature on indigenous thought and intergenerational justice

- Introductory chapter on the linkages between intergenerational justice and indigenous philosophies. [Indigenous Philosophy and Intergenerational Justice \(Chapter 1\) - Intercultural Philosophy and Environmental Justice between Generations \(cambridge.org\)](#)
- Iriquois's seven generations philosophy. [Chapter 2: A critical evaluation of inter-generational equity and in the context of climate change](#)

- Winter, C. Maori philosophy of extending rights/personhood to natural resources (anti-mechanistic/ anti-instrumental) [Full article: Subjects of intergenerational justice: indigenous philosophy, the environment and relationships](#)
- Kelbessa, W. Intergenerational justice and African indigenous philosophy. [Intergenerational Justice and the Environment in Africa \(Chapter 3\) - Intercultural Philosophy and Environmental Justice between Generations \(cambridge.org\)](#)

### Work on Catastrophic risk mitigation for future generations

- There exists a large body of work relating to future generations and present duties to mitigate future (or far-future) existential threats. This is often discussed in relation to 'longtermism' but speaks directly to intergenerational justice. For works regarding this, see Oxford University's Global Priorities Institute [Global Priorities Institute](#) and Cambridge university's [Centre for the Study of Existential Risk](#).