

Achieving high ambition commitments to Future Generations in the Summit of the Future journey

Analysis and recommendations of the Zero Draft of the Declaration on Future Generations, the Pact and wider process

Over the past few months, the advocacy work to ensure a high-ambition Summit of the Future, especially on the Future Generations agenda in the Pact and the [Declaration on Future Generations \(DFG\)](#) Annex, has come to a head after years of preparation by the various interested communities from foresight, long-term action, anticipatory governance, future generations and wellbeing fields.

These communities, supported by Future of Climate Cooperation ([see Policy Briefs here](#)) and the School of International Futures (see the [Pledge](#)), have developed various inputs to the Zero draft of the Pact and the DFG, both directly via the civil society-influencing mechanisms led by the co-facilitators, but also via Member State MFAs, including [via a letter template targeting MFAs](#) sharing specific proposed text for the DFG in February.

Developments over the past two months confirm that the Future Generations Declaration, and supporting commitments, have the potential to be one of the most exciting, innovative and important consequences of the Summit of the Future. It remains, therefore, the key priority focus for our loose global community of future-interested citizens.

The co-facilitators shared the [zero draft of the DFG on March](#) 26th. Influencing the upcoming reviews of that text and the wider process will be possible through direct national member-state advocacy and multilateral moments as follows:

- **19th April: Deadline for Member State feedback** via their delegations in New York into the co-facilitators (Kingdom of Netherlands and Jamaica) via national-level mobilisation
- **30 April: Future Generations Forum in Wales** to convene early adopter Member States and experts/champions of this agenda, to develop a focused view of what high ambition asks and commitments could look like
- **9/10 May: Nairobi Civil Society Conference** - and launch of Impact Coalitions
- **April/May Member State feedback** via their NY Delegations into Pact co-facilitators (Germany and Namibia) to ensure the Chapeau and the Chapter 4 commitments align with these ambitions, starting with closed formal Consultation at Ambassadorial Level, April 16
- Additional moments through the readings and HLPF, G20 and other major events

The annexes attached are intended to support your continued advocacy efforts in the opportunities above, and beyond.

1. The first annex provides a **RAG rating** by the Future of Climate Cooperation and SOIF on how well in our view the FGD (and wider process) is tracking in terms of



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hitting a high ambition outcome. It also points to suggestions for improvement and focus on the events coming up.

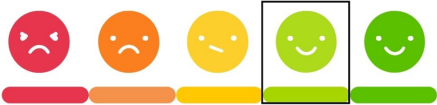
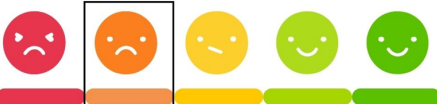
2. The second annex provides an **updated MFA letter** that can be used to advocate with your own MFA and NY delegations. We encourage you to **send it before the 17th of April** to help the delegations digest the content and incorporate it into their feedback (two days later).

With thanks from the teams at FCC and SOIF,

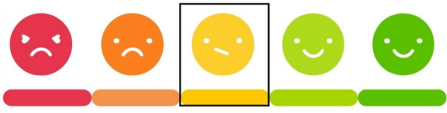
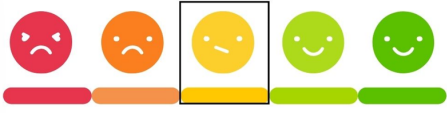
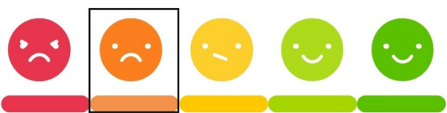
Annex 1. RAG Rating

This RAG rating (Red-Amber-Green) evaluates the ambition of the current process in the lead-up to the Summit, including the Pact and the Declaration on Future Generations. It is measured against criteria and recommendations identified and agreed by the Pledge Network in the lead-up to the Dubai Futures Forum 2023 and previous policy briefs and written contributions to civil society consultations published [here](#).

-  → Green: Indicates that the level of ambition is satisfactory and the language is clear.
-  → Amber/Green: Indicates that the language and commitments could be clarified and/or reinforced.
-  → Amber: Indicates the critical lack of clarity or missing language to complete the item.
-  → Amber/Red: Indicates the risk of a siloed approach and the risk of negotiation at the lowest common denominator.
-  → Red: Indicates the absence of the item.

Area - RAG rating	Comments	Recommendations
<p>1. Surfaces the challenges we face while acknowledging that this is a moment for realistic optimism about the future that can channel hopeful determination to drive rapid national and international governance reforms</p> <p><i>Amber/Green</i></p> 	<p>⊕ An optimistic approach with the mention of “opportunities” in the DFG Guiding Principles text (§11/24/28/29)</p> <p>⊕ Emphasizes governance reform at multilateral level and some at national level (§28/29)</p> <p>⊖ Tone issues: neither the Chapeau of the Pact nor the DFG is meeting the scale and urgency of the transformations needed, nor communicating the magnitude of governance reform needed at national and local level, and missing sense of young citizens being pragmatically hopeful and wanting the UN to match the moment to enable the transitions ahead.</p>	<p>Chapeau of the Pact: Suggested text “<i>We recognize the interconnected and indivisible nature of the challenges we face and acknowledge that this is a moment for realistic optimism about the future that can channel hopeful determination to drive rapid national and international governance reforms</i>”.</p> <p>DFG: Guiding Principles to include reference to ensuring scale of governance reform matches the needs of the challenges ahead.</p> <p>Process: The Summit to embrace a forward-looking perspective that considers the global context interconnected and indivisible beyond the 2030 SDG framework.</p>
<p>2. Brings to the fore the connections and common causes between different governance innovations.</p> <p><i>Amber/Red</i></p> 	<p>⊕ Includes references to indicators beyond GDP, and risk analysis, anticipation. Connects to science-based approaches, including indigenous knowledge.</p> <p>⊖ There is a risk that the innovations proposed are siloed and divided, and technocratic or incremental solutions owned by officials. Instead, we propose a whole of society approach across political leaders and citizens to lead to transformational change.</p>	<p>DFG: Suggesting a commitment (e.g. in §33/34) to indicate that the points in §28-36 are to be applied together (complementary and systemic approach)</p> <p>DFG: Add a commitment to renew the intergenerational social contract through participatory foresight dialogues with citizens and state</p>

<p>3. Appointing the UN Special Envoy for Future Generations, ensuring they are representative of global majority communities, before the Summit and ensuring this position is supported by the necessary resources to drive transformation.</p> <p><i>Amber/Green</i></p> 	<p>⊕ The DFG text encourages the SG to appoint a Special Envoy (thereby not setting the precedent that MS are involved in what is essentially a SG prerogative).</p> <p>⊖ Ahead of the Summit, there seems to be no signals to resource the position or clarifying its national involvement. Consider appointing two Special Envoys to ensure the right mix of the rare expertise in this field is married with the right representation.</p>	<p>DFG & Chap 4 of the Pact: Be clearer about the role of the Special Envoy in scrutinising national level progress (e.g. issue reports on particular topics, review member states progress, accountability and capacity building).</p> <p>DFG: Include countries reporting of their national commitments as well as review of national level progress in the annual forum. Creating incentives to scrutinize the implementation, and raise the ambition in mainstreaming these mechanisms across governance as a whole.</p> <p>Process: See movement from MS to support/fund establishing a well-resourced Special Envoy and Office.</p>
<p>4. Supporting genuinely innovative and tangible practices worldwide that protect the rights of current and future generations... to be showcased at a national level and the High-Level Political Forum.</p> <p><i>Amber/Red</i></p> 	<p>⊕ National actions are emerging, and a few innovative examples of national level activity on Future Generations and foresight influencing NY positions</p> <p>⊖ Very little connection between national innovations with multilateral discussions. Awareness of member-state activity in country remains very low in New York. Similarly very little awareness of the Summit and Declaration in communities driving innovative practice in member states</p>	<p>Process: Allow better connections between policy innovations at a national level and the delegations in NY.</p> <p>Process: Spotighting innovative policy initiatives, the establishment of new institutions, meaningful youth engagement, demonstrator projects, and national listening exercises at both national levels and the High-Level Political Forum.</p> <p>Process: Propose a FG-related panel at HLPPF</p>

<p>5. Integrating insights from young leaders, and leveraging foresight practices and anticipatory governance to consider the interests of future generations across the remaining thematic tracks of the Summit of the Future.</p> <p><i>Amber</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ The text offers room for coordination with the Futures and Foresight community ⊖ There is a risk of a siloed approach, as most conversations about chapters 1-3, 5 are held independently. 	<p>Across the Pact: add a mention to the preservation of rights of future generations in all chapters of the text.</p> <p>Process: Integrating people-based and indigenous knowledge in the lead-up to the Summit and integrating insights from young leaders throughout the Summit, leveraging foresight practices and anticipatory governance across all thematic tracks.</p>
<p>6. A Declaration on Future Generations, which enshrines the rights of future generations as a practical instrument to drive legislative and institutional reforms at the national level.</p> <p><i>Amber</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ The text offers a great perspective on the future generations agenda. ⊖ The needs of future generations must be acknowledged and addressed in ALL UN and multilateral processes ⊖ It is insufficiently practical to drive legislative and institutional reforms. The Declaration would only be effective if it is framed as an implementation mechanism of the Pact. 	<p>Chapter 4 of the Pact: specify the role of the Declaration as an implementation mechanism.</p> <p>DFG: §35 Strengthen requirement</p> <p>Process: CSO and UN provide better support and communication to MS to understand what is at stake in the DFG and the FG agenda; diffuse the message of what is Foresight and future generations governance; and highlight existing topics</p>
<p>7. Treats the global context as an interconnected and indivisible whole and focuses on action beyond the 2030 threshold of the SDGs, looking at least a generation into the future.</p> <p><i>Amber red</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Little insight into connection with SDGs ⊖ There is little structured foresight or collective scenarios to explore the interdependencies of the changing environment out to a long-term horizon 	<p>The Chapeau of the Pact</p> <p><i>Suggested text: Highlighting the intrinsic connection between the Pact for the Future and the 2030 Agenda, Member States commit to integrating Pact principles into the ongoing implementation and renewal of the 2030 Agenda. This integration ensures a cohesive approach to addressing present urgencies while safeguarding future interests.</i></p>

<p>8. A fundamental commitment to fairness for current and future generations, including the need for effective intergenerational dialogue and assessment of public policies from the standpoint of intergenerational fairness</p> <p><i>Amber green</i></p> 	<p>⊕ There are commitments to national and UN assessment of the progress on the implementation as well as language to support intergenerational impact assessments</p> <p>⊖ It is unclear how those assessments are going to be used to drive change.</p> <p>⊖ The risk of listing only science, data and “tools” is to transform intergenerational fairness as a technocratic exercise, when it needs to be inclusive and participative.</p>	<p>Chapeau of the Pact: Strengthen the language on intergenerational solidarity and stress the need for intergenerational accountability mechanisms</p> <p>Chapter 4 of the Pact : Strengthen the commitments for national implementation Suggested text: <i>“We recommend impact assessments to facilitate evaluating initiatives, fostering accountability not to compromise the future of those yet to be alive. We also suggest capability building for a foresight ecosystem at all levels of government and running “national listening exercises” that connect all generations into policy-making in support of the 2030 Agenda’s “new approach” at local, subnational, and national.</i></p>
<p>9. A high-ambition capability-building programme to adopt strategic foresight and intergenerational fairness approaches in the UN and across Member States, including commitments to building capability for a foresight ecosystem at all levels of government</p> 	<p>⊕ In the process before the Summit, more Member states have started to get interested in Strategic Foresight, thanks to the work of many CSO, UN agencies and major events.</p> <p>⊖ However there is no coordinated capacity-building program for futures and foresight for Member States at a UN-level.</p>	<p>DFG: §34 should mention more clearly capacity building and support to Member States in implementing future generations governance.</p> <p>Process: In the lead up to the Summit, there is opportunity to share innovations already happening at a country-level (Wales FG Forum, Nairobi CSC).</p>