



Declaration on Future Generations

Civil Society and Academia Consultation

As part of the process leading to the Declaration on Future Generations which is anticipated to be annexed to the Pact of the Future and will form one of the outcomes of the Summit of the Future to be held on 22 and 23 September 2024 at UNHQ in New York, stakeholders are encouraged to focus interventions on the following questions:

- *What are the principles that should ground our commitments in the Declaration on Future Generations?*
- *What practical steps are needed at the global level to take future generations systematically into account?*
- *What should the Summit of the Future aim to achieve so that we live up to our obligations to future generations?*

In preparing interventions, stakeholders are encouraged to reflect on the Our Common Agenda policy brief entitled, “*To Think and Act for Future Generations*” (March 2023), as well as the issues paper produced by the co-facilitators (June 2023): <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-future-generations-en.pdf>

Youth RISE's statement (**3-minute edited version**):

Thank you for the opportunity to engage in today's consultation. I am representing Youth RISE, the international network of young people who use drugs.

We would propose the Declaration on Future Generations must be rooted in principles of human rights, equity, and inclusion. Everyone, regardless of age or health choices, deserves respect for their basic rights. This includes the rights of people who use drugs.

As emphasized during a multi-stakeholder consultation organized by UNODC, UNICEF, WHO, INPUD and Youth RISE, in November 2023, young people who use drugs are systematically and negatively impacted by the consequences of punitive and criminalising drug policies.

Data shows that these policies are failing, and the most impacted are the future generations. For instance, young people who inject drugs have a 50% higher chance of contracting HIV

and HCV in relation to the broader population. At the same time, they face discrimination, barriers to health services, and lifelong consequences due to punitive measures.

The report published in September 2023 by the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights highlights violations like mandatory drug testing and expulsion from education, impacting young people's right to education. It also exposes the lack or limitation in accessing life-saving harm reduction programs, violating the right to the highest attainable standard of health.

International evidence links drug policy to the SDG goals, revealing the detrimental impact of the approach of war on drugs on people, violence, crime, corruption, and the environment. Reforming the international approach is crucial for achieving climate justice and promoting global health, guided by the One Health approach.

To align with the 2030 Agenda, the Pact for the Future must take practical steps to inclusively involve future generations in decision-making, especially marginalized groups. It should recognize the complexity of modern challenges by addressing interconnected issues collaboratively and adopting the principle of

The UN System can enhance SDG achievement through cultural and skills transformation in the UN System entities, as emphasized in the Summit briefing. Multilateral, long-term, and inclusive decision-making at the global level safeguards the interests of future generations.

The Summit of the Future should strive to reform counterproductive policies. The Pact for the Future must pave the way for "UN 2.0," embracing innovation, data, digitalization, foresight, and behavioral science to enhance results and build Member State's expertise.

In conclusion, we recommend the Declaration on Future Generations should call for:

1. A commitment from governments to integrate the perspectives of youth and organizations representing people who use drugs in policy-making.
2. A pledge for improved national data collection for an accurate understanding of challenges and utilizing research from the scientific community and civil society.
3. Equitable funding allocation to evidence-based services, including life-saving harm reduction programs.