
Reference Number: 2325/INTERNATIONAL/SOTF/FUTUREGEN

Date: 15 January 2024

UNITED NATIONS INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDER
GROUPS FOR DECLARATION ON FUTURE GENERATIONS OF PACT OF THE FUTURE

YOUTH AND INDIGENOUS GROUPS & CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF MALAYSIAN YOUTH DIPLOMACY,
ESTHER NG YU XUAN, SECRETARY OF CAPACITY BUILDING

Distinguished chairs, fellow youths,

Salam sejahtera and good day from Malaysian Youth Diplomacy, a youth focal point in Malaysia focusing on empowering youths within the diplomatic discourse, consisting of more than 3000 empowered youths. We stand before you to address the crucial principles that should ground our commitments in this groundbreaking declaration.

Firstly, let us underscore the significance of intergenerational equity, ensuring that our decisions today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and rights. Alongside this, we must embrace the principle of youth agency and participation, recognising the pivotal role young people play in shaping their destinies. This involves diverse youth representation and mechanisms for meaningful intergenerational dialogue.

Now, turning our attention to the unique challenges faced by Malaysia, the Declaration must address climate justice by committing to ambitious action on emissions reduction and climate adaptation. Sustainable development, beyond environmental concerns, should prioritise economic growth that fosters social equity and environmental sustainability. Moreover, ethical technology and innovation must be at the forefront, advocating for responsible development and equitable access.

Moving forward, the practical implementation and accountability of this declaration are paramount. Setting goals aligned with the SMART strategy and monitoring progress, resource mobilisation, and fostering partnerships are key to ensuring our commitments translate into tangible action. Adopting a holistic approach that integrates environmental, social, and economic considerations is essential, respecting cultural diversity and leaving no one behind.

In terms of practical steps at the global level, institutional mechanisms like a Future Generations Envoy and Intergovernmental Forum should be established to coordinate actions on a global scale. National Commissions and Youth Councils should be fostered to ensure local adaptation and youth participation.

Furthermore, integrating long-term thinking into educational curricula and establishing future impact assessments for policies are crucial steps to take future generations into account systematically.

As we look towards the Summit of the Future this year, our aims should be visionary and tangible. We must secure a concrete and actionable Pact for the Future, emphasising intergenerational responsibility and a holistic approach. Setting SMART goals, mobilising resources, and implementing an effective monitoring and evaluation framework will be instrumental in achieving tangible outcomes and holding nations accountable.

Empowering future generations requires the implementation of the proposed Future Generations Envoy role, the establishment of national commissions or youth councils, and prioritising education and skills development. Let us envision a future where our commitments today lead to a sustainable and equitable world for generations to come.

Thank you.