

## ICH Special Bulletin on the Pact for The Future - Chapter 4 - Youth and Future Generations , September 2024

**BACKGROUND:** The [Zero Draft](#) of the Pact for the Future was released on January 26, 2024. Following consultations with member states, [Rev. 1](#) was published on May 14, 2024. This was followed by [Rev. 2](#), which emerged after the second reading and was released on July 17, 2024. The third revision ([Rev. 3](#)) followed on August 27, 2024, and shortly thereafter, the fourth revision ([Rev. 4](#)) was released on September 13, 2024. The most recent update, Rev. 5, was disseminated on September 19, 2024. This bulletin will highlight the key topics addressed in Chapter 4 in Rev. 5 and summarize the evolution of the revisions of Chapter 4 of the Pact for the Future.

### KEY TOPICS - REV.5:

- Today's generation of children and young people is the **largest** in history, primarily in **developing countries**. They are **critical agents** of **positive change**, contributing to **peace, security, and human rights** globally.
- Millions of children and young people face **deprivation** of essential conditions to reach their **full potential** and fulfill their **human rights**. This is particularly true for those in **vulnerable situations**, living in **extreme poverty** without access to basic services.
- Recognizing that today's decisions impact **future generations**, there is a need to account for the **consequences** of both **action** and **inaction**. Collective responsibility calls for investment in youth engagement to secure a better future.
- Children and youth are distinct from future generations, and **decision-making** must consider the **needs** of both. This requires a **balance** between the interests of current and future generations, detailed in the **Declaration on Future Generations**.
- Investing in the **social and economic development** of children and young people is crucial for them to reach their **full potential**. This includes ensuring **equitable access** to essential services, particularly in **health, education, and social protection**.
- The importance of ensuring the **full enjoyment** of the rights of young persons is reaffirmed. Protecting them from **violence** and fostering **social inclusion** is essential for supporting those in **vulnerable situations**.
- Young people contribute significantly to **peace, security, and sustainable development**. Acknowledging their contributions enhances the effectiveness of policies that affect their lives and communities.
- Meaningful youth participation at the **national** level is crucial for addressing their **needs** and aspirations. Establishing mechanisms for youth engagement in **policy making** is necessary for inclusive governance.
- Strengthening meaningful youth participation at the **international** level enhances engagement in the **United Nations**. This includes promoting **inclusivity** and encouraging the inclusion of youth delegates in national delegations.
- Calls for contributions to the **United Nations Youth Fund** aim to facilitate youth participation from **developing countries**. Ensuring greater geographical balance in youth representation is vital for effective global engagement.

### Evolution from the Zero Draft to Rev.5:

The evolution of Chapter 4 from the **Zero Draft** of the Pact for the Future to **Rev. 5** highlights significant changes, with both additions and omissions that reflect a deeper commitment to **youth engagement** and **rights**. The **Zero Draft** emphasized the vital role of **young persons** as agents of change in promoting **sustainable development, human rights, and peace**. It recognized their contributions but was less

## ICH Special Bulletin on the Pact for The Future - Chapter 4 - Youth and Future Generations , September 2024

explicit about the demographic realities, such as the fact that today's generation is the **largest** in history, predominantly residing in **developing countries** , as noted in **Rev. 5**. This revision also highlighted the **critical challenges** faced by millions of young people who lack the necessary conditions to realize their potential, a point that was not as pronounced in the **Zero Draft**. In terms of content, **Rev. 5** added a more nuanced understanding of the distinct needs of **children** and **youth** compared to **future generations** , a differentiation that was absent in the initial draft. Additionally, while the **Zero Draft** called for robust **social security systems** and emphasized the **right to health** , **Rev. 5** expands on this by specifying the need for **universal health coverage**, including **immunizations** and **sexual and reproductive health services**, thereby addressing specific health challenges more comprehensively. The focus on **quality education** was maintained, but **Rev. 5** introduces more explicit commitments to **equity** and **accessibility** in education, particularly for **early childhood** and **girls** , alongside a recognition of the need for **lifelong learning opportunities** tailored to a rapidly changing world. The **Zero Draft's** general advocacy for youth participation has evolved into more concrete actions in **Rev. 5**, including the establishment of **national youth consultative bodies** and mechanisms to support **meaningful youth engagement** in **policy making**. Moreover, **Rev. 5** emphasizes **intergenerational dialogue** and **partnerships** , reflecting a broader approach to **inclusivity** that addresses barriers preventing participation, particularly for **marginalized youth**, including **young women** and those with **disabilities** . The **Zero Draft's** call for **flexible funding** for youth organizations is echoed in **Rev. 5** but is now integrated into a broader strategy for empowering young people through **entrepreneurship** and **innovation** , signaling a shift towards supporting proactive solutions rather than merely addressing existing challenges. Omissions from the **Zero Draft** include some of the specific calls for **guidance** and **protocols** for protecting young persons engaging with the UN, which seem to be subsumed under broader themes in **Rev. 5**. Additionally, while the **Zero Draft** called for addressing **legislative barriers** to youth participation in leadership, **Rev. 5** broadens the scope to include diverse forms of **discrimination** and **violence** against young people, such as **racial discrimination** and **gender-based violence** , reflecting a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges they face. In general, the transition from the **Zero Draft** to **Rev. 5** demonstrates a significant deepening of commitment to the **rights, needs, and active participation** of youth, highlighting both immediate challenges and long-term aspirations for a more **inclusive future**.

### RESOURCES:

1. [Summit of the Future](#)
2. [ICH Bulletins - Pact for the Future](#)