



SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

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Declaration on Future Generations

Comparison - REV 3 vs REV 4



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Declaration on Future Generations - Comparison - REV 3 vs REV 4

ABOUT: The [Zero Draft](#) of the Declaration on Future Generations was issued in April 2024, followed by [Rev.1](#) in May 2024. The Declaration on Future Generations was then revised ([Rev. 2](#)) in July, 2024, with the third revision ([Rev. 3](#)) issued in August, 2024. The most recent version is [Rev. 4](#), which was released in September 2024. This bulletin will detail the evolution of the above-mentioned Declaration on Future Generations revisions, as well as give a comparison of each version to its next iteration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The evolution of the Declaration on Future Generations, from the Zero Draft to Revision 4 (Rev. 4), showcases a significant refinement of its content, expanding on inclusivity, sustainability, and intergenerational equity. Each Revision builds upon the previous one by addressing contemporary challenges such as climate justice, human rights, and the protection of vulnerable populations, while increasing specificity and accountability. Rev. 4, the latest version, emphasizes proactive global governance, cultural restitution, and technological cooperation to better prepare for future risks, ensuring a dynamic and forward-looking approach to safeguarding future generations.

Evolution: The evolution of the Declaration on Future Generations from the Zero Draft to Revision 4 (Rev. 4) reflects a process of continuous refinement, enhancing inclusivity, specificity, and proactivity in addressing intergenerational equity, sustainability, and human rights.

The transition from the Zero Draft to Rev. 1 marks a substantial enhancement in both structure and content. The Preamble in the Zero Draft emphasizes reaffirmation to foundational global frameworks like the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, focusing on intergenerational dialogue and sustainable development. Rev. 1 builds on this by referencing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and expanding on the interconnectedness of actions across generations. It also introduces a broader understanding of the role of children and youth as change-makers. The Guiding Principles evolve from focusing on key global values such as peace, gender equality, and environmental protection to include new concepts like climate justice and the rights of persons with disabilities in Rev. 1. Commitments in Rev. 1 strengthen the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights, intergenerational solidarity, and families' roles in shaping future societies, while Actions shift toward long-term planning and advocating for a whole-of-government approach to future-oriented governance. Rev. 1 introduces systemic changes, expanding the role of the UN in future-focused decision-making.

The shift from Rev. 1 to Rev. 2 further enhances clarity and inclusivity. While Rev. 1 highlights state sovereignty and multilateral cooperation, Rev. 2 shifts the focus to intergenerational solidarity and protecting vulnerable populations. It expands on human rights, racial equality, and combating racism, signaling a commitment to broader inclusivity. The Commitments in Rev. 2 build on Rev. 1 by addressing the specific needs of developing countries and expanding gender equality efforts, adding emphasis on preventing harassment and abuse. Actions in Rev. 2 formalize the role of the UN in reporting and accountability, ensuring ongoing assessments of commitments. This version refines language to create a more dynamic and responsive framework for ensuring that future generations are prioritized in global policy decisions.

Rev. 3 introduces further nuance and specificity, particularly in its Preamble, where the focus shifts from lessons of past mistakes to acknowledging past failures more directly. The Guiding Principles expand on human rights by including the "right to development," which Rev. 2 did not explicitly mention, while also emphasizing the needs of the most vulnerable countries. Rev. 3 also strengthens its environmental commitments by addressing both the root causes of environmental challenges and the critical importance of collective action. Commitments in Rev. 3 introduce a clearer stance on issues such as nuclear disarmament and gender equality, specifically calling for women's full participation in leadership. The section on cultural diversity is deepened with language on the restitution of cultural property, reflecting a stronger acknowledgment of historical injustices. Actions continue to prioritize evidence-based decision-making and long-term planning, with added focus on fostering intergenerational partnerships for collaboration across age groups. Rev. 3 establishes clearer mechanisms for ensuring ongoing accountability through periodic reporting.

Rev. 4 refines the Preamble by introducing more assertive language regarding nuclear disarmament and enhancing discussions on global demographic trends. The Guiding Principles in Rev. 4 further emphasize climate justice by considering national circumstances and Indigenous Peoples' rights. Rev. 4 also enhances the Commitments to cultural heritage, particularly through stronger recognition of the importance of cultural restitution. It strengthens language regarding vulnerable populations, ensuring clearer and more specific attention to their needs. Actions in Rev. 4 adopt a more proactive stance on global risk management, emphasizing investment in capacity to better prepare for future global shocks and elaborating on technological cooperation for capacity building and knowledge sharing across generations. This version is more dynamic, emphasizing actionable commitments and future-proofing societies.

In conclusion, the Declaration has evolved from a broad statement of principles in the Zero Draft to a more detailed, inclusive, and proactive document in Rev. 4, addressing contemporary global challenges while prioritizing the needs of future generations. Each Revision builds on its predecessor by adding specificity, enhancing commitments to vulnerable populations, and reinforcing the importance of long-term, inclusive governance.

Comparison:

Rev. 3 vs Rev. 4

The comparison between Revision 3 (Rev. 3) and Revision 4 (Rev. 4) of the Declaration on Future Generations highlights their shared core principles, while also revealing Rev. 4's enhancements in clarity, specificity, and proactivity across the Preamble, Guiding Principles, Commitments, and Actions.

In the Preamble, both Rev. 3 and Rev. 4 emphasize intergenerational responsibility, sustainable development, and the importance of international law. They also recognize the critical role of children and youth as agents of change and call for intergenerational dialogue. However, Rev. 4 introduces more assertive language regarding nuclear disarmament, replacing "a safer world without nuclear weapons" with "steadfastly advancing our efforts to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons," thus underscoring the need for continuous proactive efforts. Rev. 4 also refines its discussion of global demographic trends, offering a more nuanced understanding of the interconnected opportunities and challenges these present, providing greater depth to the discussion of sustainable futures.

In the Guiding Principles, both Revisions cover key areas such as international peace, human rights, environmental protection, and social equity, while promoting intergenerational solidarity and acknowledging the role of families in sustainable development. The main differences in Rev. 4 are subtle but meaningful. For

example, Rev. 4 expands on "climate justice" by emphasizing the need for national circumstances to be considered when addressing climate responsibilities. Furthermore, it strengthens the rights of Indigenous Peoples by explicitly stating the need to "strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions," thus providing more detailed protections and support for Indigenous communities.

In the Commitments section, both versions remain aligned in their dedication to eradicating poverty, promoting gender equality, preserving cultural diversity, and addressing environmental challenges. However, Rev. 4 enhances the focus on cultural heritage by adding language that emphasizes raising awareness about the importance of the return or restitution of cultural property, thereby acknowledging its significance beyond mere preservation. This reflects a deeper commitment to addressing historical injustices. Additionally, Rev. 4 provides more clarity regarding the needs of vulnerable populations, refining the language to better capture the scope of these commitments and ensure a clearer understanding of their importance.

When it comes to Actions, both Revisions advocate for inclusivity, evidence-based decision-making, and the institutionalization of commitments. However, Rev. 4 adopts a more proactive stance in its wording, particularly in relation to global risk management. It calls for "investing in capacity to better prepare for and respond to future global shocks," signaling a stronger commitment to future-proofing societies against emerging threats. Furthermore, Rev. 4 elaborates on technological and knowledge cooperation, particularly in the context of capacity-building and sharing knowledge across generations and societies, positioning it as more dynamic and future-oriented compared to Rev. 3.

In conclusion, while both Rev. 3 and Rev. 4 uphold the same core values of intergenerational responsibility and sustainability, Rev. 4 refines the text to offer clearer, more actionable commitments. The Revisions in Rev. 4 emphasize proactive engagement, cultural restitution, and a nuanced approach to climate justice and vulnerable populations, making it a more robust and forward-thinking declaration.

Rev. 2 vs Rev. 3

The comparative analysis of Revision 2 (Rev. 2) and Revision 3 (Rev. 3) of the Declaration on Future Generations demonstrates nuanced changes that enhance clarity, specificity, and inclusivity across the document's core sections: Preamble, Guiding Principles, Commitments, and Actions.

In the Preamble, both Revisions reaffirm the commitments to the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and international law. Rev. 3 strengthens this by integrating the text of the Rio Declaration more explicitly. It simplifies the language in certain areas, such as reducing the explanation of the "multiplier effect" of present actions, making it more concise. Both versions stress the need to learn from past mistakes, though Rev. 3 uses the term "failures," signaling a more direct acknowledgment of past shortcomings. The emphasis on peace, security, and demographic trends remains consistent, with slight adjustments to phrasing for clarity.

The Guiding Principles maintain similar focuses in both Revisions, with some notable differences. Rev. 3 broadens human rights by explicitly including "the right to development," which Rev. 2 had omitted. Both versions stress sustainable development and the elimination of intergenerational poverty, but Rev. 3 explicitly names "the most vulnerable countries," emphasizing greater inclusivity. Rev. 3 also deepens its commitment to addressing environmental challenges by not only focusing on the adverse impacts but also the root causes, which reflects a stronger dedication to long-term solutions. The approach to technology is subtly expanded in Rev. 3 to include science and innovation, broadening the focus beyond just technology. Principles such as gender equality, the participation of persons with disabilities, and the need for an inclusive multilateral system remain consistent, with minor language adjustments.

In the Commitments section, both Rev. 2 and Rev. 3 advocate for peaceful societies and the elimination of inequalities, but Rev. 3 takes a more specific stance by emphasizing the pursuit of a safer world without nuclear weapons. Rev. 3 also strengthens gender equality commitments by calling for women's "full and effective participation" in leadership, compared to Rev. 2's broader focus on empowerment. In terms of cultural diversity, Rev. 3 highlights the restitution of cultural properties, reflecting a deeper acknowledgment of historical injustices. Additionally, Rev. 3 explicitly mentions the "rights of Indigenous Peoples," offering a clearer and more direct commitment than Rev. 2. On environmental issues, Rev. 3 expands beyond climate change to encompass a broader range of "critical environmental challenges," reinforcing the urgency of collective action. Both versions address safe migration, but Rev. 3 highlights the positive contributions of migrants to inclusive growth, acknowledging their role in sustainable development.

Regarding Actions, both Revisions emphasize the role of governments and the importance of evidence-based decision-making. Rev. 3, however, slightly expands the focus on strategic foresight and planning, particularly concerning the use of science and data for long-term decision-making. The importance of inclusive access to knowledge is maintained, but Rev. 3 narrows this by promoting "life-skills" as agents of change, suggesting a more practical application of knowledge. Both versions call for national and global accounting to address future challenges, though Rev. 3 refines the language for better clarity. Furthermore, Rev. 3 explicitly mentions "intergenerational partnerships" to foster collaboration across age groups, demonstrating a stronger commitment to building coalitions that bridge generational divides. Lastly, Rev. 3 standardizes the UN's advisory role by specifying meeting times for accountability, enhancing the framework for ongoing engagement and implementation monitoring.

Generally speaking, while Rev. 2 and Rev. 3 share the same foundational principles, Rev. 3 refines the language and adds specificity to several commitments, focusing more on inclusivity, intergenerational equity, and tangible action. The document evolves to better address contemporary global challenges, with stronger engagement with vulnerable populations, a deeper commitment to addressing environmental issues, and an emphasis on creating an inclusive, multilateral future for all generations.

Rev. 1 vs Rev. 2

The comparison of Revision 1 (Rev. 1) and Revision 2 (Rev. 2) of the Declaration on Future Generations Reveals key shifts and refinements in language, focus, and commitment towards intergenerational equity, human rights, and sustainability. Both Revisions maintain a strong foundation, but Rev. 2 introduces more clarity, inclusivity, and collaborative action.

In the Preamble, Rev. 1 focuses on commitments to the UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 2030 Agenda, and international law, emphasizing the interconnectedness of past, present, and future actions. It acknowledges responsibilities outlined in the Rio Declaration and highlights the importance of youth and intergenerational dialogue. Rev. 2, while maintaining these core themes, adds a reference to "high representatives" attending the meeting alongside heads of state. It also stresses learning from past achievements and mistakes, removing the specific reference to the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration. Rev. 2 broadens the scope by emphasizing national legal systems' role in promoting intergenerational solidarity and the critical importance of sustainability and the rule of law for future generations.

In the Guiding Principles, Rev. 1 emphasizes state sovereignty, the rule of law, and human rights, without specific emphasis on vulnerable groups. It includes references to technology, gender equality, and the importance of multilateral systems. Rev. 2 shifts away from state sovereignty, focusing more on intergenerational solidarity as a guiding principle. It expands human rights to include the "right to pursue and enjoy" and places a stronger emphasis on protecting vulnerable populations. Racial equality and combating racism are also more explicitly addressed in Rev. 2, signaling a stronger commitment to inclusivity and justice.

The Commitments in Rev. 1 focus on ensuring peaceful societies and addressing inequalities, particularly for marginalized communities. It emphasizes the elimination of structural inequalities, promoting cultural diversity, and acknowledging the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Climate justice is prioritized as part of urgent climate action. Rev. 2 builds on these commitments by specifically addressing the needs of developing countries and expanding the scope of gender equality to include harassment and abuse against women. It also strengthens commitments to cultural diversity by emphasizing the protection of languages and traditions. Intergenerational dialogue is given more prominence, along with the role of families in sustainable development.

The Actions outlined in Rev. 1 emphasize institutional reforms for evidence-based decision-making, with a focus on anticipatory planning and collaboration with stakeholders. A whole-of-government approach is advocated, and the appointment of a Special Envoy is suggested, though without specifying the regularity of reporting. Rev. 2 maintains the core focus on collaborative governance but adds specificity to the reporting mechanisms, suggesting periodic updates and meetings to assess the implementation of commitments. It also highlights the importance of the UN's advisory role in supporting member states and ensuring continuous engagement with stakeholders.

In general, Rev. 2 refines the language and broadens commitments to emphasize inclusivity, racial equality, and intergenerational solidarity. It builds upon the foundation laid by Rev. 1, enhancing the role of vulnerable populations, expanding actions on climate justice, and formalizing periodic Reviews and updates. These Revisions reflect a more dynamic and responsive framework for ensuring that future generations are considered in global policy decisions.

Zero Draft vs Rev. 1

The comparative analysis between the Zero Draft and Revision 1 (Rev. 1) of the Declaration on Future Generations highlights significant enhancements in the structure and content of the declaration, addressing the needs of future generations. Key differences are observed in the preamble, guiding principles, commitments, and actions, marking a shift towards a more detailed and inclusive approach.

In the Preamble, the Zero Draft emphasizes reaffirmation to core global frameworks like the UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, focusing on intergenerational dialogue and sustainable development. Rev. 1 expands this by referencing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, international humanitarian and human rights laws, and introducing a broader understanding of the interconnectedness between past, present, and future generations. This Revision underlines the importance of taking actions today that benefit both current and future generations and acknowledges the active role of children and youth as change-makers.

The Guiding Principles in the Zero Draft center on key global values such as international peace, human rights, sustainable development, environmental protection, and technological innovation, while also addressing gender equality and multilateral cooperation. Rev. 1 refines these principles to align them more closely with UN purposes and introduces new elements such as climate justice, living in harmony with nature, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The Revision also emphasizes inclusivity, transparency, and effectiveness in multilateral governance, broadening the scope to ensure these principles are more inclusive.

Commitments in the Zero Draft include pledges to create peaceful societies, promote gender equality, eliminate discrimination, protect cultural diversity, and enhance environmental sustainability. Specific focus areas include climate justice, technology, migration, education, and health. Rev. 1 strengthens these commitments by expanding the focus on cultural diversity and Indigenous Peoples' rights, introducing intergenerational solidarity, and recognizing the role of families in shaping future societies. In addition, Rev. 1 intensifies commitments to climate justice and disaster risk reduction, with an added focus on ensuring the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health.

The Actions outlined in the Zero Draft emphasize the use of science and data, transparency, and the importance of future impact assessments. It calls for investment in capacity-building and the role of the UN in advocating for future generations, including the potential appointment of a Special Envoy. Rev. 1 takes a more systemic approach, emphasizing long-term planning, sustainable practices, and the role of governments in creating a future-focused agenda. It promotes inclusive access to knowledge and innovation, advocating for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to ensure comprehensive engagement in future-oriented decision-making. Rev. 1 also reiterates the need for the UN to mainstream foresight capabilities and cultivate a forward-looking organizational culture.

Mostly, Rev. 1 strengthens the original Zero Draft by refining its principles and commitments and introducing more specific actions and broader inclusivity. This reflects a more comprehensive framework for ensuring that future generations are considered in global decision-making processes, with added emphasis on climate justice, Indigenous rights, family roles, and inclusive governance. The Revised version encourages stronger multilateral efforts, coordination, and foresight, ensuring that present actions positively impact future generations.

RESOURCES:

1. [Letter from President of the General Assembly on DFG Final text on September 9, 2022](#)
2. [Co-Facilitators letter on the 13th of August 2024](#)
3. [REV3 Declaration on Future Generations](#)
4. [Co-Facilitators letter on the 2nd of July 2024](#)
5. [REV2 Declaration on Future Generations](#)
6. [Explanatory note on the concepts](#)
7. [Our Common Agenda Policy Brief on Future Generations.](#)
8. [Issues Paper on the Intergovernmental Process for the Declaration on Future Generations](#)
9. [Letter from the President of the General Assembly – Declaration on Future Generations Roadmap](#)
10. [A Declaration on Future Generation](#)

Keywords:

- Inclusivity
- Intergenerational equity
- Sustainability
- Human rights
- 2030 Agenda
- Climate justice
- Indigenous Peoples' rights
- Environmental protection
- Cultural restitution
- Gender equality
- Long-term planning
- Accountability
- Nuclear disarmament
- Vulnerable populations
- Global risk management
- Technological cooperation
- Knowledge sharing

- Demographic trends
- Multilateral cooperation
- Sustainable development
- Intergenerational partnerships