



SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

BULLETIN NO. 60:

Declaration on Future Generations

Comparison - REV 3 vs REV 4



PROJECT TEAM: Eliane El Haber (*Lead Author, Bulletin No. 60*), Fergus Watt, Ishaan Shah, Jebilson Raja Joslin, Jeffery Huffines, and Mwendwa Kiogora.

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.

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](#)