

The universalism of human rights transcends time. Equity must be intergenerational.

- Young leader, Nigeria

At a time when trust is being destroyed within our societies, our institutions are stranded in the past, and governments fight among themselves rather than work towards common ends...

A shared commitment to future generations can help us to rise above an exhausting cycle of never-ending crises; foster solidarity between people of all ages and cultures; and shape a better future for people and planet.

[10.9 billion people](#) are yet to be born this century - many more than are currently alive. They will inherit the consequences of our action **and** inaction.

Every global crisis that we fail to prevent erodes the legacy and prospects we leave to our children and their descendants, and hampers our ability to plan for the long term.

But every step we take to tackle the problems of today and invest in the future allows us to fulfill our responsibilities towards future generations and be better ancestors.

Today, as we reflect on [50 years of global action](#) to protect the environment, we are grateful for the progress that has been made. We are also aware of how much remains to be done to afford future generations opportunities to thrive.

As young people, some of us will live to see the end of this century, while our children and grandchildren will live far into the next. We are a bridge to the future, uniquely positioned to be both recipients and designers of a better tomorrow.

We are determined therefore, to build on the [Secretary-General's vision](#) to expand our understanding of "we the peoples" to include the 10.9 billion people yet to be born this century, as well as the peoples of centuries to follow.

And in this spirit, we present this Contract for Our Future to invite and inspire collective action for future generations.

Humanity is one long line of ancestry that must learn to take care of one generation after another, in order for us to thrive and for our planet to thrive.

- Young Leader, USA

Digitally sign the Contract for Our Future here:



ourfutureagenda.org/stockholm50

A CONTRACT FOR OUR FUTURE

As leaders of today and tomorrow, we commit to:

- **Fulfill** our role as custodians of our planet and humanity, capturing the learning from indigenous cultures and movements to deliver intergenerational justice.
- **Build** a future of freedom, justice, peace, and well-being, whilst dismantling systems of violence, colonization, patriarchy, and inequity.
- **Empower** those with the greatest stake in the future, correcting the power imbalances experienced by places where the majority of future generations are projected to be born.
- **Think** scientifically and creatively about the future, putting ourselves in the shoes of the people of tomorrow, and challenging entrenched assumptions about the way the world should operate.
- **Collaborate** with leaders from all generations and cultures to act in the short, medium, and long-term interests of humanity.



Acknowledging the power of intergenerational co-leadership, we call on community, national, and international leaders to:

- **Act** now to deliver the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and to meet global promises we have made on climate change in the [Paris Agreement](#).

[A Decade of Action](#) serves the interests of future generations as much as ours, especially when we accelerate sustainable solutions that reach the furthest behind.

- **Invest** in and provide equal opportunities for the women and girls of today and of the future.

We can only chart a path to a better future by advancing the rights and freeing the potential of women and girls.

- **Reform** and build institutions to be resilient to crises and capable of planning for the future.

Future generations need rapid improvements in the way we prevent and respond to threats and in our ability to prepare for and harness innovation.

- **Create** robust legal and accountability mechanisms, which articulate our responsibilities to protect the rights of future generations.

In today's governance systems, future generations do not have a voice. We must use the law to strengthen intergenerational justice and provide future generations with avenues to exert their power.

- **Rethink** the way we value the future by designing and adopting processes to assess the future impact of decisions made today.

Leaders should work with scientists who study and develop far-sighted strategies to better assess global catastrophic risks, deliver intergenerational public goods, and tear down frameworks that discount the future.



To take forward this contract, we set out a 5 point plan for the international community to start working across time: a new frontier of multilateral cooperation. We ask:

1. Thinkers and activists of all ages to join our mission to champion intergenerational co-leadership, and the interests of future generations, by:
 - Signing this Contract for our Future.
 - Drawing on this Contract as a basis for dialogue and movement building (#ContractForOurFuture).
2. Member States to draft a Declaration on Future Generations in time for the Summit of the Future through far-reaching consultation, culminating in a [Global Citizens' Assembly](#) that draws on imaginative models of dialogue pioneered by the [Future Design movement](#).
3. Member States to finalize and agree on the Declaration at the [Summit of the Future in 2023](#) and to use it as a basis for collective action to advance a common agenda for present and future generations.
4. The United Nations Secretary-General to appoint a [Special Envoy on Future Generations](#) at the Summit of the Future and provide them with the support and resources to:
 - **Advocate** on behalf of future generations during major global events and decision-making processes.
 - **Endorse**, convene, and support national future generations representatives, building on the [Network of Institutions for Future Generations](#) as a platform for learning and coordination.
 - **Create** a plan of action for future generations that builds on the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), proposals in Our Common Agenda, and the success of [existing future generations initiatives](#).
 - **Design** mechanisms to hold the international system accountable for carrying out this plan of action.
5. The United Nations to establish a [Futures Laboratory](#) by 2025 in preparation for the World Social Summit, bringing together experts from all fields to contribute to knowledge on future trends, exchange best practices on long-term policymaking, and support leaders at all levels of governance to better understand and act for the future.