

UNESCO Chairs Seminars Towards a Pact for the Future Youth and Future Generations

Date and time: Wednesday 26 June 2024, 14:00 to 15:30 (Paris time)

Languages: English and French

Format: Zoom – [Please click here to register](#)

Future generations can be defined as ‘all those generations that do not yet exist, are yet to come and who will eventually inherit this planet’¹. Choices made today will have consequences for the 10 billion people yet to be born this century, most in low- and middle-income countries². While we have unprecedented capacity to understand the intergenerational impact of our decisions, a systematic and consequential approach to think, plan and act with future generations in mind is missing. The Summit of the Future will be key to give a new impetus to those concepts to ensure a better today and tomorrow. An approach to future generations is underpinned by science and innovation, treating data, education and knowledge as global public goods shared across generations, foresight and future-proofing, a valorization of plurality of voices and inclusive representation of youth and the interests of future generations in decision-making. The UN High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) have developed a set of [UN System Common Principles on Future Generations](#)³ to further advance action in this regard. Concern for future generations is preconditioned on upholding the needs and rights of present generations, and thus is set in a context of Sustainable Development Goal acceleration. While youth are part of present generations, their lives extend further into the future than those of adults and they will be more affected by short-term thinking and poor decisions. According to the World Youth Report (2020), there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16% of the global population. Youth have demonstrated over again their ability to drive positive and future-oriented change, but they alone should not bear the burden of representing the interests of future generations. Intergenerational dialogue and youth engagement can help present and future generations to acknowledge and fight against multidimensional challenges for a more sustainable planet and future.

In line with these intentions, Chapter 4 of the draft [Pact for the Future](#) is dedicated to Youth and Future Generations, with a [Declaration of Future Generations](#) to be annexed. It focuses on investing in social services for young people; promoting equal opportunities, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized, protecting them from violence, and fostering social inclusion and integration; as well as promoting meaningful youth participation in national policy and decision-making, including in UN intergovernmental processes. In turn, the Declaration, which builds on the pioneering [1997 UNESCO Declaration on the Responsibility of the Present Generations towards Future Generations](#), aims to establish guiding principles and specific commitments to safeguard the interests of future generations. UNESCO has been contributing to reinforcing the focus on youth and responsibilities towards future generations, aiming at an ambitious Declaration anchored in human rights, resilience and an ethics of the future, integrating UNESCO’s unique capability-based approach to futures.

This UNESCO Chairs Seminar will identify opportunities for cooperation between young people, UNESCO Chairs, UNITWIN Networks and other experts to take the commitments of the *Pact* and the *Declaration* forward, to think and act with future generations in mind, and to contribute to implementation at local, national and global levels. It will consider the role that academics can play in ensuring science, data and strategic foresight are leveraged and shared to safeguard the interests of future generations, and how intergenerational collaborations can be built. The Seminar will also explore how investing in capacities can better prepare for future global shocks and mitigate risks, and how education systems and life-long learning societies can be better built and tailored to the needs of young people today and in the future. It will also focus on the role young people specifically can play to ensure that the commitments of the *Pact* and the *Declaration* are fulfilled.

¹ <https://www.un.org/pga/76/wp-content/uploads/sites/101/2022/09/Elements-Paper-Declaration-for-Future-Generations-09092022.pdf>

² [Our-common-agenda-policy-briefs-a-quick-summary.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

³ <https://unsceb.org/united-nations-system-common-principles-future-generations>

Provisional Agenda

Youth and Future Generations Wednesday 26 June 2024, 14:00 – 15:30 (Paris time)	
14:00-14:10	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Opening remarks by Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO (video message)</p>
14:10-14:15	<p>Introduction to the UN System Common Principles on Future Generations</p> <p>Caroline Siebold, Co-Chair of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) Core Group on Duties to the Future, and Executive Officer, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO</p>
14:15-14:55	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Paula Razquin, Policy Research Lead, Future of Learning and Innovation Division, UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Brennan, Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Global Citizenship Education for Sustainable Peace through Youth and Community Engagement, The Pennsylvania State University, United States of America • Curmira Gulston, Hazard Mitigation Specialist, ESD Young Leader, UNESCO Youth Climate Action Network Member, 13th UNESCO Youth Forum participant, Trinidad & Tobago • Daniel Mahadzir, Social Entrepreneur on Food Security, Digital Health and Planetary Health, UNESCO Youth Climate Action Network Member, Malaysia • Marleen Temmermen, Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Youth Leadership in Science, Health, Gender and Education, Aga Khan University, Kenya
14:55-15:25	<p>Open discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Paula Razquin, Policy Research Lead, Future of Learning and Innovation Division, UNESCO</p>
15:25-15:30	<p>Closing remarks</p>

**** [Register here](#) ****