

NETWORK OF INSTITUTIONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



2018 Mission Statement

Vision

The Network of Institutions for Future Generations “NIFG” envisions a world where the interests, rights and well-being of future generations are valued, protected and promoted.

Mission

The main mission of NIFG is:

- a) To ensure the interests, rights and well-being of future generations are endorsed and realized by decision makers in all sectors of society, in national, regional and international policy making and practice;
- b) To increase membership and build capacity for institutions at all levels to promote the interests, rights and well-being of future generations;

Institutions:

We recognise the following defining principles for institutions for future generations

1. **Independent, legitimate, impartial and unbiased.** The office and mandate should be established by national or regional legislation and be legally independent from government with its incumbents(s) elected or appointed by a legislative body;
2. **Effective,** resourced to sufficiently carry out its duties with extensive authority including access to information and empowered to make legislative or administrative recommendations;
3. **Transparent,** with a clear and direct mandate and reporting periodically to the Parliament or a regional Assembly on its work and findings;
4. **Mandated** specifically to include a reference to safeguarding the interests, rights and well-being of future generations, or some of its essential elements as listed hereunder;
5. **Approachable, accessible and accountable** with full, open access from civil society and citizens/public.

Striving for the following are all understood as essential elements of **safeguarding the interests, rights and well-being of future generations**:

1. well-being of future generations, on environmental, cultural, social sustainability, including working towards realization of SDGs;
2. protecting the fundamental right to a healthy and clean environment or its constituents, also as an enabler to realising other human rights;
3. long term governance;
4. integrating future generations rights and interests in policy making;

General Goals

- a) To share institutional best practices and encourage learning among members;
- b) To encourage the establishment of institutions worldwide whose mandate includes safeguarding the interests, rights and well-being of future generations;
- c) To raise awareness in the local, national, regional and global arena (throughout both public and private sectors) and promote the concept and means of safeguarding the interests, rights and well-being of future generations (in all areas of policy making and public discourse);
- d) To work with the United Nations and other key international organizations and stakeholders as well as with member states towards better safeguarding and manifestation of the interests, rights and well-being of future generations

General Activities

The NIFG endeavors to achieve its General Goals through the following activities:

- a) Developing methodology and operating online platforms to facilitate an exchange of information and experiences between members for professional development (thematic mailing lists identifying common interests and challenges, regular newsletters, etc);
- b) Monitoring developments and opportunities worldwide, offering encouragement and support to related initiatives and established institutions;
- c) Organizing conferences, educational programs, trainings, workshops, webinars;
- d) Providing input to influence public policy, preparing policy papers to raise awareness of policy makers of the need for representation of future generations, commissioning studies, research and analysis on the key issues of safeguarding the rights of future generations;
- e) Offering comprehensive support in terms of legal, economic, holistic knowledge to initiatives regarding safeguarding the rights of future generations (including training, mentoring, consulting)

Membership

Full members of the NIFG shall be institutions of countries, states and regions established to be advocates for safeguarding the interests, rights and well-being of future generations in line with the above listed defining principles for institutions. NIFG recognizes that different concepts and models are being developed for that purpose and aims to reflect such diversity in its membership.

Supporting members of the NIFG shall be representatives of countries, governments, states, regions, peoples, NGO's, academic institutions, think tanks, advisory committees, individuals, etc who have an interest in, experience of or wish to support the development of institutions and/or governance structures for the interests, rights and well-being of future generations

Applications and any other membership matters will be decided by the leadership of NIFG.

Leadership and Secretariat of the NIFG

Chair: Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner, Wales

Vice-Chairs: Catherine Pearce, Jan van de Venis, Shlomo Shoham

Honorary Chair: Marcel Szabó

The Secretariat shall be located at the Office of the Ombudsman for Future Generations, in Budapest, Hungary with a branch office “the Lab for Future Generations” at the WorldConnectors Association in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Other branch Offices shall be established in other regions as deemed necessary by the leadership of NIFG.

This document will be reviewed and updated as needed, at least biannually.

For more information, please see <http://futeroundtable.org/> or contact us at info@futeroundtable.org