

Canada Canadian Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development	
History	During its 132-year history, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada has conducted many audits of environmental and sustainable development matters. Since 1995, it has had a specific mandate in this area, thanks to amendments to the <i>Auditor General Act</i> and the <i>Federal Sustainable Development Act</i>
Structure	Situated within the body of the Auditor General of Canada; the Commissioner reports to the Auditor General and directly to a Parliamentary Committee. The Commissioner has a staff of approximately 35 people.
Function	The purpose of the Commissioner is to provide sustainable development monitoring and reporting on the progress of category I departments towards sustainable development, which is a continually evolving concept based on the integration of social, economic and environmental concerns, and which may be achieved by, among other things, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the integration of the environment and the economy; (b) protecting the health of Canadians; (c) protecting ecosystems; (d) meeting international obligations; (e) promoting equity; (f) an integrated approach to planning and making decisions that takes into account the environmental and natural resource costs of different economic options and the economic costs of different environmental and natural resource options; (g) preventing pollution; and (h) respect for nature and the needs of future generations.
Authority	<p>The Auditor General Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gave the Commissioner specific monitoring and reporting duties, on the Auditor General's behalf; • Added environmental impact to what the Auditor General takes into account when determining what to report to the House of Commons; • Required federal departments and agencies to prepare <u>sustainable development strategies</u> and update them every three years; and • Authorized the Auditor General to receive <u>petitions on environmental and sustainable development matters</u> and required ministers to respond to them. <p>The Federal Sustainable Development Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviews the draft Federal Sustainable Development Strategy
Scope	Future generations are not defined for the work of the institution
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development as a conceptual platform. Environmental reports by topic: <u>air, biodiversity, climate change, environmental assessment, land, sustainable development, toxics, water, industry, SDGs</u> • International level: plays an active role in the Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA), which is part of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), by helping to produce guidelines and reports, and by helping to develop and implement training for environmental auditors: http://www.environmental-auditing.org/ • Petitions: In addition to providing information to petitioners, petitions have prompted such action by federal departments as new environmental projects, follow-up on alleged violations, and changes or clarifications in policies and practices. The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development reports annually to Parliament on the petitions process. – but does not conduct them on its own?
Research	Monitoring, and performance auditing – auditors are specialized in environment and SD

Wales Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institution was created by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, by the Welsh Assembly Government; Preceded by a Welsh Commissioner for Sustainable Futures established in 2011 following the abolition of the UK Sustainable Development commission.
Structure	The Well-being of Future Generations Act creates a legal duty on 44 named public bodies in Wales (including Welsh Government and local authorities) to maximise their contribution to 7 well-being goals using 5 ways of working which reflect the sustainable development principle. The Act established the position of a Future Generations Commissioner. The Commissioner has an office of approximately 20 staff including secondments from other public organisations, and an advisory panel. It also established Public Services Boards through which the various public bodies governed by the Act coordinate with each other and other stakeholders at a local level (19 PSBs across Wales).
Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Future Generations Commissioner has a statutory duty to promote the sustainable development principle, acting as the guardian of the ability of future generations to meet their needs, encouraging public bodies to take greater account of the long-term impact of the things that they do, and monitoring and assessing progress towards these ends. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner reports annually to the Welsh ministers and produces a Future Generations Report every 5 years (the first of which is due in 2020) She provides advice and guidance to the 44 named public bodies, the Welsh Government, the Auditor General for Wales, Public Services Boards and any person who can contribute to the achievement of the 7 well-being goals. Her Office supports her in this role by: (i) Highlighting the big issues, challenges and opportunities facing future generations; (ii) Supporting and challenging public bodies to consider the long-term impact of what they do; (iii) Engaging with other stakeholders to drive the change required; (iv) Walking the talk – i.e. using the ways of working to maximise its own positive impact on future generations.
Authority	The Commissioner is appointed for 7 years by the Welsh Government after consultation with the National Assembly for Wales. The Commissioner is a corporation cannot reverse decisions made by public bodies but can conduct reviews into the extent to which public bodies are carrying out sustainable development, and make recommendations based on this. Public bodies must take all reasonable steps to follow these recommendations.
Scope	Future Generations are not defined, but the well-being goals establish a vision of ‘the Wales we want’ which takes a broad and holistic view of sustainable development, i.e. the pursuit of environmental, social, economic and cultural well-being.
Topics	<p>The topics covered by the Commissioners remit are broad, reflecting the scope of the 7 well-being goals which relate to prosperity, resilience, health, equality, community cohesion, culture & language, and global responsibility. These are each defined in more depth within the Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within this broad remit the Commissioner identifies specific priorities for her Office: the first set of these are currently being defined (2017). The role also pays specific attention to the means by which sustainable development can be pursued, addressed in the Act by the definition of 5 ways of working which the public bodies governed by the Act must adopt in carrying out their duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term – looking to the long term implications of decisions and actions taken today; Prevention – seeking to limit or avoid future problems rather than waiting to resolve them later; Collaboration – working across institutional and sector boundaries to act in a coherent and strategic way for the well-being of future generations; Involvement – involving all the relevant stakeholders in shaping the decisions and actions that affect their futures; Integration – acting to maximise contribution to all goals in all actions: the goals are indivisible and cannot be traded off against each other.
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner’s Office carries out research as needed to support her in her duties, doing this in collaboration with research institutions and other stakeholders as far as possible; This may relate to any area of the Commissioner’s remit but is particularly driven by her priorities (developing or delivering on them) and issues emerging at a particular time; A key research focus is on understanding future trends and scenarios, and developing better methods and resources to ensure that decisions taken today maximise the possibilities for future well-being.

Hungary Ombudsman for Future Generations	
History	<p>The Parliamentarian Commissioners Act¹ established the Institute of Ombudsman in Hungary in 1993. An independent Commissioner for Future Generations position was established in 2008 through amendments to the Act.² Between 2008 – 2012, the Commissioner for Future Generations had an independent mandate and was appointed by the Parliament.</p> <p>In 2011, a new Act reformed the Hungarian Ombudsman system as of 2012. It established the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights³, to whom the Ombudsman for Future Generations serves as a deputy. The other Deputy Commissioner is responsible for rights of minorities living in Hungary. The Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights is an NHRI with an ‘A’ status accreditation.</p>
Structure	<p>The Ombudsman for FGs is appointed by the Parliament for a 6-year long mandate on the recommendation of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. The Ombudsman for FGs as well as the Commissioner report to the Parliament, however, they act independently in their daily work.</p> <p>The Ombudsman for FGs holds a mandate for 6 years and may be reappointed once again.</p> <p>The Secretariat of the Ombudsman for FGs has 9 employees and has a strong co-operation with the Environment Department of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights.</p>
Function	<p>The Ombudsman for FGs is entrusted with the following under Hungarian law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regularly informs the Commissioner, the institutions concerned and the general public about its experiences regarding the implementation of the interest of the future generations; • informs the Commissioner, the institutions concerned and the public about violations affecting significant amount of people; • can recommend the Commissioner to initiate ex officio investigations into environmental matters; • takes part in the investigation of the Commissioner; • can propose that the Commissioner turn to the Constitutional Court; • monitors the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy accepted by Parliament; • can propose the adoption and the amendment of legislations promoting the interests of future generations; <p>it takes active part in disseminating its experience on the international plane through The Ombudsman for Future Generations along with the Commissioner submits an annual report to the Parliament on their work, which the Parliament has to vote annually signalling its acceptance.</p>
Authority	<p>See the above bullet points..</p> <p>In the course of his or her inquiries, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights may (i) request data and information from the authority subject to inquiry (ii) may invite the head of an authority to conduct an investigation (iii) may participate in a public hearing, and (iv) may conduct on-site investigations without giving prior notice.</p>
Scope	<p>The term ‘the interests of future generations’ is not defined by law, however, the 20-year-work of the Ombudsman and the Hungarian Constitution and later on, Basic Law (as adopted in 2011) help specify its content. The Hungarian Basic Law explicitly refers to future generations in its Preamble, and in Article P: “Natural resources, in particular arable land, forests and the reserves of water, biodiversity, in particular native plant and animal species, as well as cultural assets shall form the common heritage of the nation; it shall be the obligation of the State and everyone to protect and maintain them, and to preserve them for future generations.”</p>
Topics	<p>In to the current work of the Deputy Commissioner for FGs the main focus is: sustainable development; biodiversity; conservation of clean air; animal protection; forest protection; energy efficiency; soil protection; community development (green planning and construction).</p>
Research	<p>Apart from the investigations, monitoring and reporting duties, members of the office do not conduct independent or academic research.</p>

¹ Act No LIX. of 1993 on the parliamentary commissioner for civil rights

² Act No. CXLV of 2007 on the modification of the Act No LIX. of 1993. on the parliamentary commissioner of civil rights., 10.§.

³ Act CXI of 2011 on the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights

Israel Israeli Commission for Future Generations – former	
History	2001: Commission for Future Generations of the Knesset (the Parliament of Israeli): first establishment designed explicitly to protect the rights of future generations. ⁴ Little public campaign or discussion, mainly top-down: personal political initiative: leader middle-class liberal party: Shinui – Joseph Tommy Lapid Operated with a five-year mandate (till 2006) ³ , after that no new appointment
Structure	The Knesset's own internal body, funded from the Knesset's own budget Staff of 12 members
Function	Main function: “(1) Giving assessment of bills and regulations of issues that have relevance for future generations (2) Advise the Knesset on issues that have relevance for future generations 3) Veto power to stop the legislation process until his report will be discussed in the Committee More precisely: ^{5,6} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinion on bills, secondary legislation, regulations of interests of future generations • Provide the Knesset recommendations on issues considered being relevant for future generations • Demand any information from institutions subject to inspection by the State Comptroller • Request reasonable time to collect data & prepare evaluation regarding bills, consider each issue separately. Install mechanisms that consider long-term interests and ensure that they are protected by law. Main role: keeping the decision-making mechanisms away from the direct influence of political interests
Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand information from any controlled establishment under the State Comptroller Act. • Request reasonable time to prepare opinionated position about bills. • Cannot stop legislation created through democratic process, but can put pressure on the parliament and the government by raising awareness.
Scope	‘Future generations’ was not defined in the law; however, the Commission’s role was viewed as a protector of current generation of children as well. It considered next generation as ‘the next baby to be born tomorrow’ – relates to immediate future generation. /goes with the idea of calling them ‘succeeding gen.s.
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its main focus was initially on the environment and children. Later the area of interest broadened and included almost everything that has a considerable influence on fut.gen.s: env.& natural resources, science, technology, education, health, national economy, demography, planning & construction, law, etc. Later pension funds: became a hot topic worldwide, a classic fut.gen. issue. • Comprehensive approach: Sustainable Development as a conceptual platform • Defense and foreign affairs are excluded!
Research	Not conducted on their own. Received from individual researchers or academia. Research focus on political-institutional problems.

⁴ Handbook of Intergenerational Justice

⁵ Göpel, M. Guarding our future: how to protect future generations

⁶ WFC & CISDL: Legal Working Paper: National Policies and International Instruments to protect the rights of future generations. A legal research paper.

New Zealand Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment	
History	It was set up under the Environment Act 1986; Top-down: roots in the 1980s reform of the country's environmental administration. Recommended changes including strengthening the environmental advice to government, and establishing an environmental body with a separate audit and oversight function. Bottom-up: Widespread public consultations on changes.
Structure	Staff of 16, wide range of disciplines.
Function	<p>Functions are drawn from the <u>Environment Act</u>⁷:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the system of agencies and processes set up by the Government to manage the country's resources, and report to the House of Representatives • investigate the effectiveness of environmental planning and management by public authorities, and advise them on remedial action • investigate any matter where the environment may be or has been adversely affected, advise on preventative measures or remedial action, and report to the House • report, on a request from the House or any select committee, on any petition, bill, or any other matter which may have a significant effect on the environment • inquire, on the direction of the House, into any matter that has had or may have a substantial and damaging effect on the environment • undertake and encourage the collection and dissemination of information about the environment • encourage preventive measures and remedial actions to protect the environment.
Authority	<p><u>The Commissioner:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the House of Representatives. • It is an office of Parliament, and holds mandate for 5 years (may be reappointed). <p>The Comm. - can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain information; summon people and examining them under oath; protect sources of information and maintaining confidentiality; employ staff and consultants; report on finding and make recommendations. • Cannot make any binding rules, or reverse decisions made by public authorities.
Scope	Future generations are not defined for the work of the institution
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance and restoration of ecosystems • areas, landscapes, and structures of aesthetic, archaeological, cultural, historical, recreational, scenic, and scientific value: • land, water, sites, fishing grounds, or physical or cultural resources, which are part of the heritage of the tangata whenua • effects on communities • whether any proposals, policies, that are likely to: result in or increase pollution; result in the occurrence of natural hazards; in the introduction of species or genotypes not previously present in New Zealand; or in the allocation or depletion of any resources • all reasonably foreseeable effects of any such proposal, or policy on the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, short term or long term, direct or indirect, or cumulative
	Staff sometimes works on major investigations for several months

⁷ Environment Act: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1986/0127/latest/DLM98975.html>

Norway Norwegian Ombudsman for Children	
History	Was established in 1981 (the first Children's ombudsman in the world)
Structure	Independent human rights institution; The ombudsman's mandate is 6 years.
Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby governments and the United Nations, Provide training or education on child rights, Work directly with children, Work with media and press. • Ensure that the opinions of children and young people are heard and that their rights are upheld. • Ensure that the authorities in Norway comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is enshrined in Norwegian law. <p>The Ombudsman for Children is an independent body. This means that we form our own opinions and decide what areas we are going to focus on.</p>
Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has statutory powers to investigate individual complaints; • Monitors legislation and policy, and engages in human rights education. It seeks incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into all areas of society, and is particularly attentive to vulnerable children • Advisory role: cannot reverse decisions that have been made by other governmental authorities such as, for example, Child Welfare Services, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, schools or courts of law.
International Relations	ENOC: The European Network of Ombudsmen for Children was formally established 1997. ENOC links independent offices for children from thirty three countries in Europe.
Scope	No mandate on 'future generations' Receives public complaints
Topics	Children and the media, children with disabilities, education and cultural rights, family and alternative care, health and welfare, implementation, justice, minority or indigenous children, refugee and unaccompanied children, rights based programming, sexual exploitation and abuse, violence
Research	Every year, the Ombudsman for Children directs special attention to one or more areas within which they have identified the need to reinforce the rights of children

Germany Parliamentary advisory council on sustainable development^{8,9}	
History	Top-down: established by the German Bundestag in 2009; Joint effort: had been called for by the CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP and Alliance 90/The Greens in a joint motion. Stressed the necessity, against the background of the challenges posed by globalisation, for the Bundestag to make clear its commitment to SD
Structure	Works within the Parliamentary system; has 22 full, and 22 substitute members. Intended to lend a parliamentary dimension to the national strategy on SD. It's a multi-stakeholder body.
Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serves as the advocate of long-term responsibility • supports the Federal Government's National Sustainable Development Strategy in the parliamentary process. • present recommendations on medium and long-term planning. • carries out an evaluation of the sustainability impact assessment that is mandated for all legislation and statutory orders. • plays a role in developing goals, measures and instruments and defining them in concrete terms. • enters into dialogue with other parliaments, particularly in the European Union, and underpins the discussion within society on the subject of sustainable development. • seeks to create SD a fundamental goal in politics • seeks to broaden discussion within society
Authority	The Council is to present a report to the Bundestag on its work at least once every two years on ways in which the Federal Government's sustainability impact assessment can be improved.
Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong commitment to maintaining the life-conditions of future generations • sustainability should be a guiding principle of political action
Topics	The Sustainability Impact Assessment is based on the national sustainable development strategy, and encompasses four areas: <u>fairness between generations</u> , <u>social cohesion</u> , <u>quality of life</u> , and <u>international responsibility</u> . However, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on sustainability assessments <u>remain advisory in nature</u> , because the relevant parliamentary rules do not specify to what degree its recommendations must be taken into account by other parliamentary committees.
Research	Evaluation of the sustainability impact assessment

⁸ http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/bundestag/committees/bodies/sustainability/index.html

⁹ http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/bundestag/committees/bodies/sustainability/17_6680.pdf

Finland Finnish Committee for the Future	
History	Top-down process: In 1992 the Members of Parliament approved a legislative motion suggesting that the Government should provide Parliament with a report concerning national long-term development trends and related options. Parliament appointed a Committee for the Future on a temporary basis in the same year for the purpose of evaluating and replying to the Government's decisions. Permanent status from 2000.
Structure	Functions as a parliamentary organ, one of the 16 committees: reports drafted by committees provide the basis on which Parliament takes nearly all of its decisions. Each committee deals with matters that fall within the scope of a corresponding ministry. Committees are appointed for 4 years & each committee reflects the relative strength of the parliamentary groups. Separate from the Finnish Ombudsman and the Human Rights Center.
Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare submitted parliamentary issues, such as the report on the Government's Futures White Papers; • make statements to other Parliamentary Committees on request, • process issues relating to future development factors and development models; • undertake analyses pertaining to future-related research and its methodology; • assessing technological development and its societal consequences.
Authority	
Scope	does not receive complaints from the public
Topics	Matters related to development factors and models, futures research and assessment of the social impact of technological development and technology: statements are made on future-related issues especially long-term issues: climate policy, population policy, energy policy and information society policy. future of work and the prospects of a welfare society, competence and expertise, as well as the challenges of the Finnish information society (incl. science and technology policy)
Research	Publishes memoranda, conference and forum reports, technology assessment reports. Networking activities: has access to qualified expert resources.