

Creation of the Ombudsperson for Future Generations

AWARE that the destiny of future generations depends on the decisions and measures taken today, that current problems must be solved in the interests of present and future generations, and that extreme poverty, underdevelopment, exclusion, discrimination and the biodiversity and the climate crisis represent a serious danger for all generations, but particularly for future generations;

RECOGNISING the need to establish new equitable and global links of partnership and solidarity between generations and to promote intergenerational solidarity within the framework of the continuity of humanity, so as to preserve our environment for the benefit of future generations;

RECALLING that the task of guaranteeing the protection of future generations, in particular through education and the policies of equality, inclusion and equity, constitutes an important part of the fundamental ethical mission of institutions;

RECOGNISING that in the Declaration approved in 2011 by the Annual Conference of the United Nations Department of Public Information and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) associated with the United Nations there is a call for the creation of the figure of an Ombudsperson for Future Generations, also proposing the creation in the United Nations of a High Commission for Future Generations to deal with and promote this idea in a healthy world, with intergenerational solidarity and at international, regional and national levels;

RECALLING that sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present generations, without compromising the ability of future generations;

CONCERNED about the climate and global environmental crisis, which is the cause of death and the displacement of millions of people; and

POINTING OUT that the responsibility for future generations has already been mentioned in numerous international conventions and agreements such as the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992, the World Conference on Human Rights of 1993, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, etc.;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, at its session in Marseille, France:

1. URGES the States in general and IUCN State Members in particular to promote the creation and development of Offices of the Ombudsperson for Future Generations at international, national, regional and local levels;
2. HIGHLIGHTS the need to give these Offices of the Ombudsperson for Future Generations a voice in decision-making processes and the right of veto, which will allow them to assert the rights of future generations;
3. ENCOURAGES all governments to identify the people that could act as Ombudspersons for Future Generations; and
4. ASKS the IUCN Director General to put forward this proposal to the United Nations.