

U N S U M M I T O F T H E F U T U R E P E A C E C H I L D I N T L . Y F S S U B M I S S I O N

W E L C O M E :

On behalf of all at Peace Child International(PCI), we welcome and congratulate the UN and its Member States for the Summit of the Future initiative. In particular, we welcome the presence of a youth on the High Level Advisory Board, and Secretary-General Guterres' prioritisation of the voice of youth + this YFS initiative to elevate youth voices beyond youth-focused agendas. In our discussions, we have sought youth views on ways to resolve the existential threats faced by this and future generations including, but not limited to, those mentioned in the thematic areas.

The current acceleration of youth and civil society input to UN processes started with the UN75 Global Conversation during which PCI worked with UNA-UK and its LASER branches to create the week-long UN75 Festival investigating different components of security; it continued with the development of Our Common Agenda - for which PCI co-created the Model Citizens' Assembly initiative on existential threats to our future climaxing in the Europe-wide Youth Assembly in Estonia and the Global Citizens' Assembly at COP-26.

The Summit of the Future is the next step in this journey and, though we agree it is a 'once-in-a-generation opportunity' to step off the path to planetary breakdown and on to the road to planetary breakthrough, the Summit must be seen as the start, not the end, of that journey.

V A L U E S :

The UN and this Summit has already gone a long way to fulfil PCI's Mission to "Empower Young People" by appointing a Youth to the Hi-LAB, and prioritising youth in the OCA and Global Conversation. But PCI would like to see the Summit affirm, and reach consensus, on some broader values linked back to the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The triple threats of Climate disruption, biodiversity loss and pollution changes everything: we are now in a battle for human survival - and, as the Secretary-General made clear in introducing the IPCC Report in March 2022, it is a battle we seem almost resigned to lose. That is unacceptable to the young people served by PCI. Very few members of the human family want to commit suicide. The appetite for survival unites us all. So though not all governments will sign up to the UDHR, nor support democracy and the rule of law, the Summit should affirm some basic values on which the future must be based if humanity's survival is to be assured.

What Values? After 40 years exploring values with young people, PCI concludes that "Integrity and Selflessness" are the most helpful for human survival: telling the truth about how things are - not sugar-coating or exaggerating realities; and caring for others, and the planet, rather than just yourself. These values are central to healthy, resilient communities. They are the polar opposite of the values that drive the Dominator Model of governance that attempts to shape the world into a top-down, imperial "full spectrum dominance" world of market leaders, super-powers and elite aristocracies. Instead, we should to promote a Harmony model where we seek harmony within our souls and bodies, harmony with our fellow humans, and harmony between ourselves and nature.

U N D A Y S T A T E O F T H E P L A N E T U P D A T E :

"We need a website or something that tells us -

- 1. how bad the state of the planet is right now?**
- 2. what a safe, sustainable world that works for everyone would look like? - and -**

3. what we have to do to get us from here to there?”

Abigail Wordsworth, Estonia Assembly, August 2021

The foundation for any effective Pact for the Future has to be an agreed way to measure where we are now. It is very hard, if not impossible, to answer Abigail’s first question. As Inger Andersson, head of UNEP, said this year: “*We live in an ocean of information, but retain only little drops of knowledge...*” Several think-tanks and academics, going back to the Rio Earth Summit, have identified ‘Planetary Boundaries’ - but these only measure the boundaries in the biosphere. The failure of the NPT review this summer alerts us to other human boundaries: the threat of nuclear war is just as much an existential threat as climate change; the headlong increase in inequity will eventually lead to war, as would unchecked population or economic growth. Avoiding the threat of Planetary Breakdown must take account of these wider measures. Which is why PCI’s first Proposal to the Summit of the Future is that the UN provide a public- and/or youth-facing State of the Planet Update every year on UN Day (Oct. 24th) on the 5 x PENCIP issues:



PCI’s UK Pilot Programme is far from definitive - but it shows what needs to become a fundamental function of the UN in the 21st Century: a place that gathers, disseminates and promotes basic information about the health of the planet and what we all need to do to bequeath a safe, resource-rich planet, climate stable, resilient planet to future generations.

FUTURE GENERATIONS :

Just as indigenous peoples took their decisions with the needs of the 7th Generation in their minds, so we need to develop strong legal protection for Future Generations by –

- 1. Establishing a UN Envoy for Future Generations**
- 2. Converting the UN Trusteeship Chamber into a UN Commission for Future Generations – and –**
- 3. Setting up Regional Commissions for Future Generations – so that every country in the Global South can be protected by a Commissioner able to shape those protections to local needs and pressures.**

Joana Miranda, PCI State of the Planet Summer School, Luton UK, July 2022

We welcome the SoTF initiative to include a Declaration for Future Generations among its outcome documents and the appointment of the Ambassadors of Fiji and the Netherlands to prepare a draft of it. Such a Declaration will act as the ‘chapeau’ under which all other agreements in the Pact for the Future must sit. However, the elements paper published in September 2022 is sadly vague. Beyond stating the blindingly obvious, it does little to redress, or even to express regret for, their almost total failure of governments to deliver on the promise made in Our Common Future in 1987 to “*meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the*

ability of future generations to meet their needs." The Declaration must start by acknowledging that current human behaviours have severely compromised the ability of future generations to meet their needs - perhaps fatally. It must also acknowledge that the greatest numbers of future generations are likely to arrive in the Global South where governments and economies are least able to prepare for them: it must therefore call for Regional Commissions (not Guardians) for Future Generations with the resources to support and assist governments in their regions to apply the "generational test" to their new policies. It must also make clear suggestions for what a generational test might look like: we propose that it be based on an analysis like that of the Global Footprint Network - and thus be able to assess with some precision the global resources required to maintain the prosperity of future generations and how far any proposed legislation expands or draws down that resource.

S T R E N G T H E N T H E U N :

Strengthen the UN and make it completely Democratic:

- 1. Create an E-democracy Peoples Platform through mobile phone technology;**
- 2. Hold Global Referenda to generate consensus on how to deal with the biggest threats to our future;**
- 3. Create a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN;**
- 4. Give the International Court of Justice power to deploy UN Peace-Keeping Forces to enforce its rulings.**

Abigail Riley, PCI State of the Planet Summer School, Luton UK, July 2022

Everyone seems to agree that "Effective Multilateralism" requires a stronger UN. Many suggest that such strength can come through increased involvement of "We the Peoples..." in whose name the UN was founded. Reform of the Security Council is long overdue: even President Biden called for it in his UNGA speech in Sept. 2022. But to impose the Force of Law rather than the Law of Force by individual governments and member states, there needs to be linkage between the Rulings of the ICJ and the sanctions imposed, or peace-keeping troops deployed, by the Security Council. The inclusion of "We the Peoples..." voices requires a UN E-platform, designed and regulated to enable accurate readings of the global mood of the peoples, as the UN did in initiatives like MyWorld2015. The technology exists to enable full-scale global referenda - which the UN should employ when its member governments demonstrably over-rule the interests of citizens: there is already evidence that some governments don't seem to care if their actions make the world uninhabitable by future generations or cost millions of lives today. The UN must find ways for "We the Peoples..." to stand up for our right to life.

Finally, in a year when one of the UN's P5 member governments makes war to "eliminate" another UN member state, the UN's New Agenda for Peace must reflect on why its institutions and staff were unable to live up to its founding principle to "*save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...*" It must analyse why it was unable to save this one and make bold proposals for how it could do so should a similar conflict arise in the future. The Leichtenstein proposal to make any government that uses their veto explain their reasons for doing so to the General Assembly is a positive step - but giving the General Assembly power to over-ride that veto would be a bolder and more effective one. Also - giving power to the International Criminal Court to try government leaders in absentia for war crimes and breaches of International treaties - would send a signal that the UN will do more to uphold the rule of law. Finally, a stated commitment by the UN to work for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by - say - 2030 would give citizens hope that their very existence would not be threatened by rogue governments with imperial ambitions.

S T R I C T E R R E G U L A T I O N O F M A R K E T S :

Enforce stricter regulation of capitalist markets to outlaw and criminalise

- 1. illicit financial flows,**
- 2. human rights abuse,**
- 3. human trafficking,**
- 4. gang culture – and –**
- 5. industries that are dangerous to humanity and the environment like drugs and fossil fuels**

We also have to incentivise the rapid transition to clean renewable and fusion energy through subsidies and tax breaks and require an immediate end to all subsidies to fossil fuel and environmentally destructive industries, replacing them with punitive taxation.

Aisha Hasan, PCI State of the Planet Summer School, Luton UK, July 2022

The Montreal Protocol of 1987 was effective largely because it was legally-binding in a way that most environmental legislation - including the Kyoto Protocol, the MDGs, SDGs and the Paris Agreement of 2015 are not. The last few years have demonstrated that voluntary agreements are of limited value and, in the face of existential threats, are positively dangerous. As stated in our previous proposal, a stronger and more democratically accountable UN to “We the peoples...” could require UN agreements to have more powerful enforcement mechanisms. A UN with tax-raising power would have less dependence on member government dues and thus be able to argue more strongly in the interests of “We the Peoples...” Those interests must include the complete prohibition of dangerous drugs, and the production, sale and use of fossil fuels. They should also include the elimination of all nuclear weapons. So a move towards “Stricter Regulation” and away from voluntary agreements must be a stated goal in the Pact for the Future.

P R O T E C T A N D R E G E N E R A T E N A T U R E :

We must prioritise the Protection and Regeneration of the Natural World – especially of Tropical Rain Forests. We must do this through Debt Relief and heavy taxation of Palm Oil and other products derived from unsustainable use of Forests. We must introduce legal protections for Forested Areas, oceans, river systems, polar regions and wilderness areas through establishing Ecocide as a compendium of “Crimes against Nature” punishable in the same way as War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity.

Eve Marie Riley, PCI State of the Planet Summer School, Luton UK, July 2022

“The world lacks the institutional infrastructure to protect the global commons,” wrote Sir Partha Dasgupta in his introduction to his Biodiversity Review in 2022. Without such infrastructure, it will be impossible to enforce the protection and regeneration Eve Riley calls for - and which successive IPCC reports and UN Secretary-Generals’ statements have echoed. Establishing the crime of Ecocide would be a good start but, as the ICE Coalition argues, the world requires an International Court for the Environment to try such cases. The Pact for the Future must come up with some robust proposals on this issue.

T R A N S F O R M E D U C A T I O N :

Create an Education Curriculum that creates a passion in our generation to learn about the triple threats of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss and how to resolve them - and a passion to save Life on this Planet by learning the truth about how and why previous generations failed to do so.

Charlie Kirby, PCI State of the Planet Summer School, Luton UK, July 2022

After two UNESCO Decades of Education for Sustainable Development, countless initiatives and pilot projects by imaginative teachers and NGOs, the younger generation is still not being educated in anything like the detail they need to address the scale and urgency of the global crises facing them in their lifetimes. The recent UN Transforming Education Summit delivered a strong Youth Statement calling for more ESD. The Secretary-General's vision statement supported that call - and a Greening Education Partnership was launched by the Governments of UK and Japan. The Pact for the Future must be bolder: it must call for Education on these issues to be at the heart of each year of a child's education - from primary to tertiary: it must be assessed, involve action-learning, field projects and extend into every other subject. For all other education is rendered meaningless should the State of the Planet worsen in the way it is on track to do on current measures.

T H E A C T I O N C O M P O N E N T :

The Stimson Center's *Road to 2023* report recommends that UN Member States "establish follow-through mechanisms to ensure effective coordination, monitoring, financing and other actions to facilitate implementation."

At our meeting on Denmark's Youth Island on Peace Day 2022, the young people agreed that follow-up and Action Implementation of Summit initiatives should be designed and road-tested by young people as part of the Summit's preparatory processes so that young people can see what works and hit the ground running with initiatives as soon as the Summit is over. The International Baccalaureate (IB) programme includes a CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) component which requires students to undertake work that can lead to lifelong interests outside the classroom. We readily agreed that CAS programmes could be Summit-related over the next two years. The following initiatives were proposed by the delegates to the Youth Island UN Peace Day Meeting. They followed 3 x basic principles that are often lacking in schools and educational initiatives:

- I. All young people must have a **PASSION** for solving these issues. Programmes about them thus need to be designed to generate passion - to get young people **ANGRY** about the scandal of ocean pollution, biodiversity loss, mega-profits from consumption of natural capital etc.
- II. Each child must have Education for **Active Citizenship** – with peers and teachers - that embeds the idea of protecting up to Seven Generations hence. Discuss what needs to be in a Declaration on Future Generations: how can it impose consequences on individuals, companies and nations that compromise those generations' ability to meet their needs?
- III. At the bedrock, generate **RESPECT** between past and present and between generations; promote partnerships between elders and youngers + people of different faiths and races;

Educate and Raise Awareness about the Summit

- Do theatrical performances (Krishnan & Joana); Focus the performances on the Summit of the Future being the turning point - as in the *Peace Child* Forum Theatre play; and include discussion of the SDGs, the war in the Ukraine, the Declaration on Future Generations and other issues raised in the State of the Planet programme

- Mount exhibitions: Use Art & Photography to generate that passion (Charlie)
- Do Model UNs, Model ICJs, Model the possible procedures of an International Court on Corruption, fraud and fake news; Do Model Citizen Assemblies on key proposals in the Pact for the Future to generate citizen input to them;
- Do events once a month in schools
- Use fund-raising activity to raise awareness
- Spread this across schools worldwide through student-to-student Communication

Increase Intergenerational Dialogue

- Develop 3-way communications between teachers, parents and their children at home, in school, in communities, in nations and across the world;
- Have small group discussions in classrooms, rather than lectures (Abi & JM)
- Analyse Corruption - ask elders why they tolerate fake news, fraud and corruption; discuss and design legislation that imposes consequences for corrupt and deceitful behaviours;

Action Projects

- More sustainability woven into every aspect of human behaviour from education and healthcare to nutrition, agriculture and industry
- Eliminate unsustainable / single use packaging;
- Reduce and eliminate hunger;
- Use sports like Volleyball to reduce racism, inspire passion and raise awareness