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Zero draft of the Declaration on Future Generations: Written inputs for consideration by Member States

Submitted by: International Science Council (ISC) and Global Young Academy (GYA)

Date: 22 January 2024

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[Question on guiding principles for the Declaration on Future Generations]

These inputs are submitted on behalf of the International Science Council (ISC) and the Global Young Academy (GYA). The ISC's global membership brings together more than 250 international scientific Unions and Associations, national Academies and Research Councils, and importantly, Young Academies and Associations, including the GYA. The GYA develops, connects and mobilizes young talent from six continents, and empowers young researchers to lead international, interdisciplinary and intergenerational dialogue.

The ISC and the GYA emphasize that the Declaration on Future Generations represents a critical opportunity for Member States to acknowledge and leverage **science as an essential tool to support youth and future generations**.

Here, "science" refers to the systematic organization of knowledge that can be rationally explained and reliably applied, tested against reality and the scrutiny of peers, referring to a knowledge community inclusive of natural sciences and social sciences as well as humanities, medical, health, computer, and engineering sciences. Interdisciplinary scientific inputs (integrating multiple disciplinary approaches) are essential to identifying long-term trends and impacts, enhancing human potential, and addressing issues affecting the delivery of global public goods and the protection of commons that will impact the ability of future generations to thrive.

For example, scientific inputs are key to:

- **Foresight analysis** and anticipatory action to mitigate future consequences of today's actions, both direct and indirect; enhance long-term resilience and transformation; and safeguard the rights and interests of youth and future generations;
- **Capacity-building** among youth and future generations, including women and other underrepresented groups, by creating opportunities and helping to solve future social, environmental, and economic challenges and improve well-being;
- **Systems leadership** among young and future leaders, by providing critical tools to identify systemic approaches to solving future challenges and by fostering diversity, inclusivity and equity;

- **Evidence-based approaches** to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing the impacts of global challenges such as climate change, and harnessing new technologies for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Declaration also presents a critical opportunity to advance the **engagement of young and early career scientists** in evidence-informed policy-making. Early career scientists are often at the cutting edge of research and stand at the forefront of scientific advancements and innovative leadership. Intergenerational conversation and collaboration incorporating young and early career scientists are vital to evidence-informed decision-making aligned with the rights and interests of future generations.

The ISC and the GYA therefore call on the Declaration to be guided by:

- **Commitment to ensuring evidence-informed decision-making** across the multilateral agenda, based on meaningful engagement with the global scientific community, including young and early career scientists from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

[Question on concrete actions]

The ISC and the GYA recommend that the Declaration:

- **Explicitly acknowledge the central importance of interdisciplinary science** to safeguarding the rights and interests of youth and future generations, including through foresight analysis and achievement of the SDGs;
- **Encourage increased support of education, research, and collaboration** at all levels to build capacity among youth and future generations;
- **Reflect Member States' commitment to engaging the global scientific community**, including young and early career scientists, in the development of mechanisms for knowledge-building, knowledge-sharing, impact assessment, monitoring, and reporting to advance accountability to future generations.

[Question on overall aims of the Summit of the Future]

The ISC and the GYA call upon Member States to ensure the Summit:

- Advances **progress toward a stronger multilateral science-policy interface** that meaningfully engages young and early career scientists, to ensure better use of foresight as well as better exchange of scientific knowledge and data for future generations.

The ISC and the GYA stand ready to support Member States to ensure meaningful engagement of early career scientists in the Summit and related processes, in order to deliver an impactful Summit bringing about positive change for youth and future generations, firmly grounded in the latest and best available scientific knowledge.