

A Stockholm +50 Signature Event

A COMMON AGENDA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Thursday 2nd June

Ministerial Statement on Future Generations

Stockholm+50, 2 June 2022

We, the assembled Ministers here in Stockholm under the theme “A healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”,¹

Mindful of the determination of the peoples of the United Nations, set out in the Charter of the United Nations, to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”,

Recalling that the responsibilities of the present generations towards future generations have been referred to in various declarations and commitments, including 50 years ago in the Stockholm Declaration adopted at the United Nations’ Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, which stated that “defending and improving the human environment for present and future generations has become an imperative goal for mankind”,

Conscious that, at this point in history, life on earth is threatened,

Concerned by the fate of future generations in the face of the vital challenges facing us presently, in this Decade of Action to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the remainder of this century,

Welcome the invitation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Member States and other stakeholders, in his report Our Common Agenda, to consider specific steps to account for the interests of future generations in national and global decision-making,

Asserting the necessity for establishing new partnerships for promoting intergenerational equity, in particular to involve young people both in their own right and as leaders of future generations,

Bearing in mind that the fate of future generations depends to a great extent on decisions and actions taken today, and that today’s challenges, including climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution as well as poverty, inequality, and discrimination, must be solved in the interests of both present and future generations,

Agree to:

¹ Sweden, Kenya etc

1. Preserve the needs and interests of future generations

There is a moral imperative to ensure that future generations of humanity can live full and healthy lives, underpinned by the dignity and rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in international human rights law. However, due to the triple planetary crisis, unsustainable consumption and production and increasing global inequality, the window of opportunity to leave a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and a safe and fair world to future generations is rapidly closing. In order to consider their needs, we must look upon the decisions we take today through the eyes of future generations and allow our actions to be guided by intergenerational equity.

2. Meaningful participation

The present generations have the responsibility of ensuring that the needs and interests of future generations are fully safeguarded, and we will work to give voice to future generations in UN decision-making processes. We also recognize that children and youth have a particular stake in the future and should be meaningfully involved in today's decision-making processes.

3. Safeguard life on Earth

We will take the necessary precautions to leave to future generations an Earth which will not be irreversibly damaged by climate change and other human activity and ensure that the biodiversity and the Earth's ecosystems can continue to support all life on Earth.

4. Increase efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

We commit to mobilize efforts, accelerate implementation, and deliver on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations, leaving no one behind.

5. Help forge a new global consensus on what our future should look like

We will engage with the United Nations' Secretary-General in implementing Our Common Agenda and to prepare for the Summit of the Future in 2023. We will facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue on issues pertaining to intergenerational equity. We commit to provide compelling advocacy on sustainable development and intergenerational equity within and beyond the UN System.