

## Expert Panel on Intergenerational Solidarity

Thursday May 9th, 2013, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Conference Room 3, Conference Building  
United Nations Headquarters New York

### Concept Note

#### *Background*

Intergenerational solidarity and justice is deeply embedded in the concept of sustainable development. Yet many questions remain to be answered. How to define the needs and rights of future generations? What are the duties of current generation to future generations? What can we do to institutionalize the protection of the needs and rights of future generations? A handful of nations have already experimented with certain institutional arrangements for intergenerational equity. A proposal was on the table at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) for the establishment of an Ombudsperson, or High Commissioner, for Future Generations, which gained support from several Member States as well as the Advisory Group on International Environmental Governance. The outcome of Rio+20 kept a space open to continue relevant discussions by inviting the Secretary-General to present a report on intergenerational solidarity, taking into account the needs of future generations, for the achievement of sustainable development.

The expert panel on intergenerational solidarity aims at providing an opportunity to exchange views among stakeholders on the issue of intergenerational solidarity and future generations, including conceptual framework and institutional arrangements. The discussions will inform continued consideration of this issue, including the Secretary-General's report.

#### *Proposed program of work*

<b>Introduction</b> 3:00pm -3:05pm	<b>Opening remarks</b> Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA
<b>Presentations</b> 3:05pm - 4:00pm	<b>Future generations and intergenerational solidarity: conceptual framework and institutional implications</b>  <i>Bridging the Gap between Knowledge and Action: The Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations</i> <a href="#">Prof. Ian Goldin</a> , Director and Professor of Globalization and Development, Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford; Deputy Chair of the Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations  <i>Giving Voice to Future Generations: A Framework for Intergenerational Solidarity</i> <a href="#">Prof. Edith Brown Weiss</a> , Francis Cabell Brown Professor of International Law, Georgetown University Law Centre  <i>Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty and Well-being</i> <a href="#">Dr. Martin Evans</a> , Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF; Research Associate, the Center for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics

	<p><b><i>Representing Youth and Future Generations in the United Nations</i></b>  <a href="#">Ms. Kate Offerdahl</a>, Thematic Expert on UNGA and Sustainable Development, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)</p>
<p><b>Multi-stakeholder discussion</b>  4:00pm - 5:00pm</p>	<p><b>Future generations and intergenerational solidarity: conceptual framework and institutional implications</b></p> <p><i>Interventions from Member States, UN System &amp; IGOs and Major Groups representatives.</i></p> <p><b>Moderated by:</b> Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA</p>

### ***Media coverage***

The expert panel will be available through live webcast available at <http://webtv.un.org>.

Social media discussions will start from the beginning of the week. Interested people can send us views on intergenerational solidarity and justice by commenting under the related post on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UNSDKP> or tweeting to @SustDev using #FutureGenerations by 8 May 2013. Selected questions and comments will be shared with the panelists.

### ***Expected output***

The expert panel aims to produce the following outputs to inform continued consideration of this issue, including the Secretary-General's report:

- 1) A summary of the panel discussion;
- 2) A compilation of presentations or other forms of contributions from panelists.