

## 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><i>Opening remarks</i></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>  <b><i>Panelists:</i></b>  <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  <a href="#">Prof. Edith Brown Weiss</a> , Francis Cabell Brown Professor of International Law, Georgetown University Law Centre

	<p><a href="#"><u>Dr. Martin Evans</u></a>, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF; Research Associate, the Center for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Ms. Kate Offerdahl</u></a>, Youth Leadership Coordinator, the Human Impact Institute; Reporter at the 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>

### ***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.