

# GLOBAL POLICY ACTION PLAN

## Incentives for a Sustainable Future



# WORLD EMERGENCY: TIME TO ACT!

## A Message from the Founder of the World Future Council



We are now on a collision course with our own future. There are many who criticise our current course and warn of impending doom. Others describe beautiful visions of possible futures, if only we could get there. Many focus on individual crises and fail to see the interconnections.

But our most urgent need is for a map and compass to guide our journey ahead. We need a box of tools to mend our faulty navigational equipment and alter our course. We need an instruction manual showing us how to steer between the looming tipping-points and find pathways to sustainable futures. The Global Policy Action Plan (GPACT) is an attempt to assemble such a toolbox and write such a manual.

On the following pages, we identify the most urgent interlinked challenges facing us and present coherent policy responses to initiate a change of course. The Global Policy Action Plan does not prescribe a path to “the” future or even assume that we know it. It opens the doors to a diversity of futures. It shows what needs to be done to ensure that we can choose between them.

The Global Policy Action Plan lays out the policy incentives required to build a world of growing solutions, rather than growing problems. It presents the minimum policy parameters for a grown-up humanity guided by the values of care, trust and justice for present and future generations.

The change of course now needed is unprecedented. As the most powerful generations who have ever lived, whose decisions will impact our planet and future as never before, there is no doubt we can make it. These pages provide the tools. The World Future Council looks forward to working with you to refine and use them to regenerate our wounded Earth and build a flourishing future for all!

  
Jakob von Uexküll

# THE GLOBAL POLICY ACTION PLAN

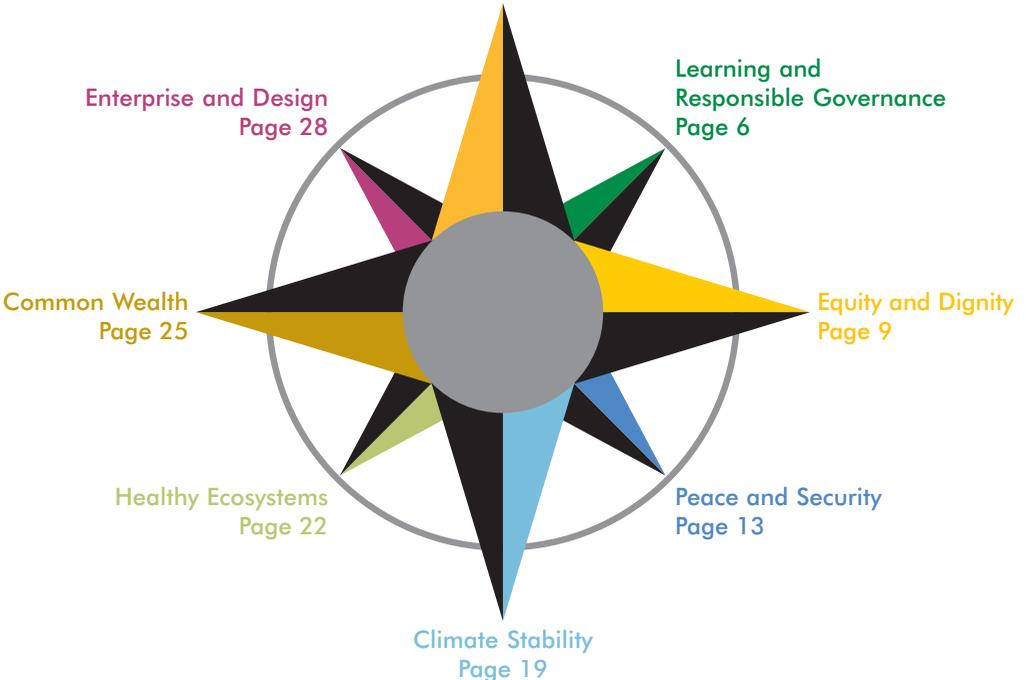
## Changing Course NOW

We can overcome the rule of immature and irresponsible dogmas that have created an unsustainable, unfair and increasingly unstable world order. Maturing into responsible global citizens will require a cultural, societal, economic and moral change of perspective.

These interlinked policy reforms can provide the incentives for the change of course required to end our world emergency.

## A World of ...

GPACT!



# A SHARED GLOBAL FUTURE

The Global Policy Action Plan provides a best policy guide for policymakers worldwide. Twenty-two interlinked policy

reforms will enable us to progressively build a shared sustainable human future.

## The Interlinked Policy Solutions

Broaden Educational Curricula  
Reform Economics and Business School Agendas  
Ban Private Funding and Ensure Equal Media Access for Candidates for Public Office  
Adopt Alternative Indicators in Government Decision-Making

Protect Basic Rights and Responsibilities  
Help Ensure every Child Born is Wanted  
Elect Guardians for Future Generations  
End Impunity for Crimes against Future Generations

Re-direct Military Spending  
Outlaw Nuclear Weapons

Initiate an Inclusive Global Transition to Renewable Energies

Secure the Right to Food and Water  
Protect Biodiversity and Reverse Soil Erosion  
End Deforestation and Forest Degradation  
Restore the Health of our Oceans

Legalise Debt-Free Money Creation to Fund Eco-Production  
Implement a Green Tax Shift and Green Budgeting  
Ensure that all Financial Instruments serve the Real Economy  
Enforce Divestment Laws against Unethical Practices

Mandate Ecologically Intelligent Design and Production  
Progressively ban Inefficient Products  
Legalise Benefit Corporations with Broader Social Mandates

# OUR UNIQUE CHALLENGE

Today we are the guardians of all future generations of life on Earth. The consequences of our decisions and actions will have greater and longer-term consequences than ever before. There are many signs that the damage to our Earth is now approaching irreversible tipping-points, overwhelming the resilience of our natural environment. The interlinked crises now facing us threaten all our achievements, plans and hopes. The Global Policy Action Plan provides a coherent policy guide to overcome this unprecedented World Emergency.



## Identify Solutions

The World Future Council works to highlight, adapt and spread the best and most effective laws and policies from around the world, which can overcome and reverse the challenges we face.



## Engage

With the right policy incentives, we can redirect human innovation and enterprise to promote human development, a healthy planet, peace and security.



## Enable

The best policies are those that help create the positive tipping-points essential to securing our shared future. The World Future Council works to assist policy makers worldwide in implementing such policies.



## WHAT IS HOLDING US BACK?

Those profiting from the current global (dis)order work together very effectively, pooling their resources to lobby for preserving their privileges. Yet those working to change course have so far failed to build an efficient alliance to utilise the joint capacities and strengths of civil society, progressive policy-makers and forward-looking entrepreneurs. As a result:

- In 2009, G20 countries made a commitment to phase out “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption.” As of today, not a single one of those countries has honoured this commitment.
- During discussions at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancun in 2010, a decision was made to create a Green Climate Fund (GCF). Yet no convincing solution has been found as to where the estimated \$100 billion required each year will come from.

The most effective and fastest way to achieve our goals is the spread and implementation of best policy incentives already in existence. We are identifying the most important such policies in this Global Policy Action Plan.

# COHERENT SOLUTIONS TO INTERLINKED CHALLENGES

By presenting coherent policy solutions to interlinked challenges, the Global Policy Action Plan offers policy-makers a common basis for successful action. These policies are detailed on our specialist website.

**FuturePolicy.org** presents policy solutions and essential tools for decision-makers to build sustainable, peaceful and just societies and protect the rights of future generations to a healthy and intact world.

Good policy solutions already exist for most of our essential challenges. The **FuturePolicy.org** website provides helpful tools, such as background information, sample legal texts, checklists, case studies and further links.

Complementing **FuturePolicy.org**, the Global Policy Action Plan is a quick

reference tool for every politician, policy-maker, policy-shaper and policy activist around the world interested in creating a shared and sustainable global future.

The Global Policy Action Plan identifies the minimum policy changes required for achieving this. The breakthrough policies described here represent a combination of tried and tested policy solutions that have been successful in one or more countries, and the most urgent policy innovations identified by World Future Council research.

These interlinked policy reforms will enable us to progressively build a political culture of transformation, preserve a habitable planet and create a true global society for present and future generations.



# LEARNING AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE

Our elected officials must be informed to understand and decide upon the complex challenges we face in our imminent and long-term futures. We too, through a continuous learning process, must be equipped to question their choices. Educating ourselves on sustainable development will allow us to meet both these challenges and embark on our pathway to a better future.

Higher environmental literacy will lead to an improved general understanding of how our decisions today can influence our world tomorrow. Such choices must be made with authenticity. They must reflect the real value of our shared natural and social capital.

To insure against the risk of political paralysis, or a failing state collapsing under the weight of growing climate chaos and other interlinked crises, the Global Policy



“The rights of future generations need to be preserved by today’s inhabitants. Future generations cannot survive on history, they need the same pristine resources that we enjoy today. We simply cannot let economic greed deprive them.”

**Kehkashan Basu**, World Future Council Youth Ambassador  
UNEP Governing Council Closing Ceremony, on behalf of Children and Youth, 2013

Action Plan aims for more than just good governance. It aspires to achieve responsible governance by inspiring and eco-literate leaders.



# BEST POLICIES

## Broaden Educational Curricula



Primary and secondary schools and universities must include environmental literacy, human rights and responsibilities and peace education in their curricula to foster environmental awareness, cross-cultural understanding and mediation skills.

### Maryland's Environmental Literacy Standards, 2011

In 2011, Maryland became the first US State to pass an 'Environmental Literacy Standards and Environmental Education' by-law which requires all high-school students to take an environmental literacy test in eight thematic areas in order to graduate.



By educating children about the world they live in, they can learn how to preserve healthy ecosystems, ensure climate stability

and implement equitable economic policies. These are fundamental first steps towards a mature system of governance.

## Reform Economics and Business School Agendas



Environmental literacy testing, as well as an understanding of how to invest in the care of people and nature, to be mandatory for economics and business school graduates as well as candidates for public office.

### Exeter University: The One Planet MBA

Sustainability is at the core of this MBA, developed in partnership with WWF International whilst engaging multinationals, UK companies, the public sector and the voluntary sector. Such a course prepares students for a world of business where sustainability is a key priority.



We must build the interconnections between the education of young people and adults and a world of enterprise and common wealth. Targeting economic and

business school graduates will allow the formation of future-competent business and political leaders.

## Ban Private Funding and Ensure Equal Media Access for Candidates for Public Office



Candidates for public office to be given public funding and equal media access, once they can demonstrate sufficient public support.

### Act No 23/2013 on the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service

In Iceland, all valid candidates in parliamentary and presidential elections, as well as referendum groups, are given equal opportunity to present their policies on television. The National Broadcasting Service is obliged to provide the allotted time by law in order to fulfil its democratic remit.



A balance in favour of citizens, rather than money, must be restored by reducing the incentives for corruption as well as the

undue influence of private funding in our governance system.

## Adopt Alternative Indicators in Government Decision-Making



Valuing and accounting for natural and social capital to be given at least equal weight to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in government decision-making.

### BRAINPOoL (Bringing Alternative Indicators into Policy)

The WFC is a partner of the BRAINPOoL project which aims to enhance the uptake of alternative indicators and give the public, the business world and political decision-makers an informed basis for implementing this change. See: [www.brainpoolproject.eu](http://www.brainpoolproject.eu)



For half a century governments have allowed a single indicator, GDP, to assume total dominance as the key measure of a nation's progress. A broader range of indicators will help to implement a wider set of policy objectives in the pursuit of a more equitable and dignified future.

Whether these alternative social and environmental indicators take the form of a subjective well-being indicator or are composite indices, they can bring the issues of equality, sustainability and genuine well-being to the centre of policy-making.



## EQUITY AND DIGNITY

Our current economic activity and productivity is endangering the natural world on which we depend. By reducing biodiversity and climate stability, we are not only endangering our quality of life but our very existence.

We need Future Justice to change our relationships – with ourselves, with each other and with our planet – to ensure a sustainable, fairer and more inclusive future. We have a responsibility to consider the consequences of our daily actions upon future generations. Securing their protection and representation can overcome the ruling short-termism and help us re-connect with the Earth.

A world of equity and dignity can only be realised by tackling the connected challenges of safeguarding human rights

Future Justice aims to reverse unsustainable trends and promote policy solutions that create fair conditions and a better quality of life

for current and future generations. Find out more from our online resources and blog at [www.futurejustice.org](http://www.futurejustice.org).



and security, ecological integrity, social equity and peaceful relations. Together, we can create a world that is equitable, sustainable and peaceful by ensuring that our solutions address the root causes of the current crises.

# BEST POLICIES

## Protect Basic Rights and Responsibilities



Nations to develop binding social contracts that safeguard and promote our rights as citizens, including protection from discrimination and violence, equal opportunities, access to resources and justice, as well as our responsibilities as trustees of future generations.

### UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006

The UN CRPD marks a major shift in the understanding of disability: persons with disabilities are no longer “objects” of charity but “subjects” with rights. To protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the WFC is a partner of the Zero Project ([www.zeroproject.org](http://www.zeroproject.org)) that identifies and promotes policies that advance the implementation of the UN CRPD.



To ensure that future generations and the planet can thrive, we need to end one of the most pervasive human rights violations in today’s societies: violence against

women. The World Future Council’s **2014 Future Policy Award** focuses on identifying and promoting the best policies and laws that address this global challenge.

## Help Ensure Every Child Born is Wanted



Universal access to sexual and reproductive health rights to be ensured to achieve a future just world where every pregnancy is wanted and every birth is safe.

### A holistic vision for sexual and reproductive health rights

The principles of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), including its emphasis on an individual’s sexual and reproductive health rights, marked a paradigm shift in the way we think about population policy.



## Elect Guardians for Future Generations



Ombudspersons or Guardians for Future Generations to be established at all governance levels in order to ensure that the interests of future generations are taken into account when political decisions affecting them are made.

### Ombudsperson for Fundamental Rights Act, Hungary 2007

The Act clearly mandated an environmental focus for a “green Ombudsman”, enabling the interests of future generations to be protected at the same level as the rights of people today. Such an institution places future generations at the heart of advocacy and investigative procedures.



**What is an Ombudsperson?** An Ombudsperson acts much like an auditor, an independent, external post that keeps an eye on policy developments, intervening and

exposing the long-term implications of today’s decisions, with the advantage of direct citizen and judicial access.

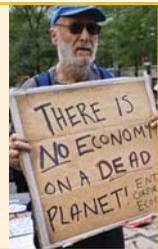
## End Impunity for Crimes against Future Generations



Actions to be outlawed which could cause widespread, long-term and irreversible damage to the natural or human environment, including the conditions for the survival of an entire species, sub-species or ecosystem, or those which could gravely or irreparably imperil the health, means of survival or safety of a given human population.

### Philippine Supreme Court case, *Minors Oposa v. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (“DENR”), 1993*

This case was decided under the principle of intergenerational equity in the context of public forest land. The Court permitted a class action by Filipino children on their own behalf, as well as that of future generations, and ruled in their favour citing the need for a healthy environment.



**Will this require new laws or courts?** No. We welcome initiatives such as the Eradicate Ecocide campaign, but existing

laws and courts can be used to protect future generations.

“ the **WORLD**  
is **OVER-ARMED**  
and **PEACE**  
is **UNDERFUNDED.**”

BAN KI-MOON,  
United Nations Secretary-General

**Daily Military Expenditure**

**\$ 4,383,561,644**

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$141  
BILLION**

Overseas  
Development  
Assistance <sup>2</sup>

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$28.4  
BILLION**

Overseas  
Development  
Assistance <sup>3</sup>

to Least Developed Countries

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$2.7  
BILLION**

UN Regular  
Budget <sup>4</sup>

for Peace, Security,  
Development, Human Rights  
and Humanitarian Affairs

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$11  
MILLION**

UN Budget for  
Disarmament <sup>5</sup>

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$1600  
BILLION**

Military  
Expenditures  
Worldwide <sup>1</sup>



(1) Source: SIPRI, 2010  
(2) Source: OECD, 2010  
(3) Source: OECD, 2010  
(4) Source: UN, 2010  
(5) Source: UN, 2010

# PEACE AND SECURITY

Every year, more than 1.6 trillion US\$ is spent worldwide for military purposes. How can this be justified when over one billion people lack food security? Many more do not even have the most basic access to clean water, education or health care.

**There is no doubt:** to achieve human and environmental security, we urgently need to re-direct military spending. In 2013, the Future Policy Award highlighted exemplary policies in the field of sustainable disarmament which can help us achieve these objectives.

The continuing existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a threat to life on Earth as we know it. Conventional weapons consistently undermine peace processes and fuel armed violence. Explosive remnants of war are still capable of destroying lives and the environment long after a conflict has ceased. Achieving

## Winners of the Future Policy Award 2013 on Disarmament

**Gold:** Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, Treaty of Tlatelolco, 1967.

**Silver:** Argentina's National Programme for the Voluntary Surrender of Firearms, 2006.

**Silver:** New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act, 1987.



sustainable disarmament on all these fronts and building a culture of peace is essential to the tackling the interlinked challenges we describe in the Global Policy Action Plan.



## BEST POLICIES

“By recognizing proven policies for sustainable disarmament, the 2013 Future Policy Award provides a road map which can inspire policymakers around the world. I trust that the Award will help fuel global efforts to abolish all weapons of mass destruction and achieve a world without nuclear weapons.”

UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**



### Re-direct Military Spending



Military expenditure to be re-directed to advancing environmental, food and water security through treaties and agreements which promote a culture of peace.

#### **Costa Rica’s Abolition of the Army, Art. 12 of the Constitution, 1949**

Resources that would have otherwise been spent on the military have been invested in education, healthcare and environmental conservation. Costa Rica now has some of the highest living standards in the region.



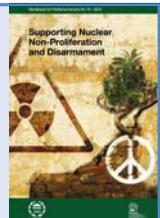
### Outlaw Nuclear Weapons



Nuclear weapons to be outlawed in national and regional legislation. The nuclear weapons possessing States to fulfil their obligation to negotiate a treaty, or framework of agreements, to ban and eliminate all nuclear weapons.

#### **Handbook for Parliamentarians supporting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament**

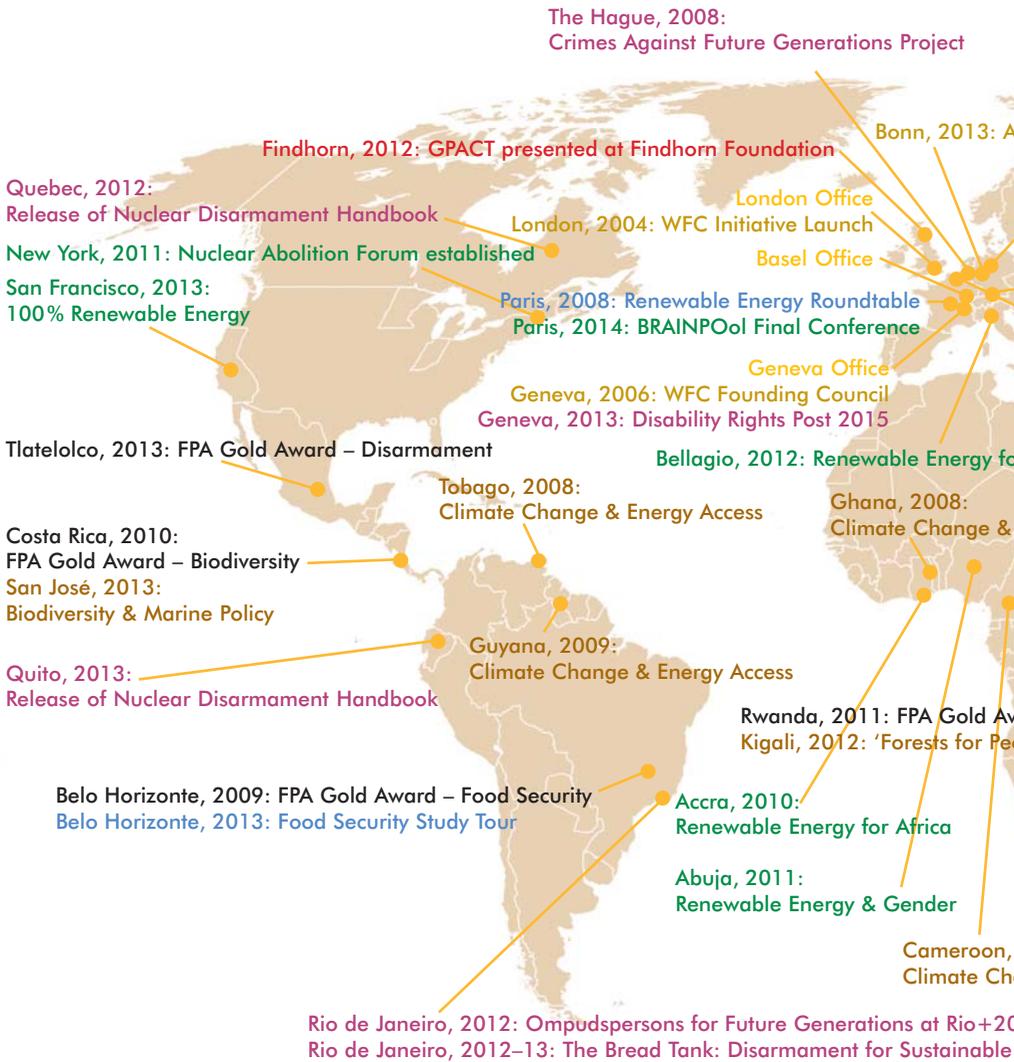
This handbook, produced by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in cooperation with the World Future Council, is full of best practices and available for download on the World Future Council website. Send it to your Parliamentarian today in English, French, Spanish or Russian!





VOICE  
OF FUTURE  
GENERATIONS

# A WORLD OF IMPACT – A VIEW OF OUR WORK



- WFC Founding Events
- Offices
- GPACT History
- Future Policy Award
- Parliamentary Hearings
- Conferences
- Workshops
- Events



The World Future Council consists of up to 50 eminent global change-makers from governments, parliaments, civil society, academia, the arts and business. We work to pass on a healthy planet and just societies to our children and grandchildren

with a focus on identifying and spreading effective, future-just policy solutions. The World Future Council was launched in 2007 and operates as an independent foundation under German law and finances its activities from donations.

## COUNCILLORS AND HONORARY COUNCILLORS



Dr. Hafsat Abiola-Costello



Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish



Shawn A-in-chut Atleo



Patrus Ananias



Monique Barbut



Dr. Maude Barlow



Dipal Chandra Barua



Prof. Ana Maria Cetto



Tony Colman



Prof. Dr. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger



Thais Corrat



Tahia Devisscher



Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif



Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Dürr



Nicholas Dunlop



Dr. Riäne Eisler



Dr. Scilla Elworthy



Dr. Maria Fernanda Espinosa



Anda Filip



Dr. Sándor Fülöp



Prof. Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher



Prof. Rafia Ghubash



Prof. Herbert Girardet



Dr. Olivier Giscard D'Estaing



Luc-Marie Constant Gnacadja



DBE Dr. Jane Goodall



Daryl Hannah



Dr. Ashok Khosla



Prof. Dr. Rolf Kreibich



Dr. David Krieger



Prof. Dr. Dr. Alexander Likhota



Jan McAlpine



Sir James R. Mancham



Dr. Rama Mani



Julia Marton-Lefevre



Wanjira Mathai



Prof. Dr. Manfred Max-Neef



Dr. Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella



Dr. Frances Moore Lappe



Anna Oposa



Dr. Katiana Orlic



Dr. Michael Otto



Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah



Dr. Vithal Rajan



Prof. Dr. Vandana Shiva



Sulak Sivaraksa



Pavan Sukhdev



Prof. Motoyuki Suzuki



Pauline Tangiora



Alyn Ware



Judge C. G. Veeramany



Prof. Dr. Emt Ulrich von Weltzien



Francisco Whitaker Ferreira



Dr. Anders Wijkman



## CLIMATE STABILITY

Using already-available technologies, solar power could provide almost four times the world's current energy use. Yet 80% of our energy still comes from massively subsidised fossil fuels that increase CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, trigger climate chaos, disrupt nature, and further concentrate wealth at the expense of the global poor and future generations.

With the right policy incentives we can rapidly spread abundant renewable energies. We can abandon centralised energy monopolies in favour of decentralised energy production, bringing power to the people.

Growing cities have a special responsibility to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Not only are they the primary agents of climate change by burning most of the world's fossil fuels. They are also its primary victims and are uniquely vulnerable to disasters like flooding and heat waves.



In a recent study, "The Monetary Cost of the Non-Use of Renewable Energies", the World Future Council calculated that, by under-using potential renewable energies, we are wasting between 3.2 and 3.4 trillion US Dollars per year!

As the majority of the world's population now lives in cities, sustainable development must focus on future urban development. Future cities must become regenerative cities, a concept first outlined in the World Future Council's 2010 report "Towards Regenerative Cities" (available online).

# BEST POLICIES

## Initiate an Inclusive Global Transition to Renewable Energies



Energy transition is not a lifestyle choice but absolutely essential in order to preserve a liveable planet. It is one of the biggest challenges humanity has ever faced. But, with the right incentives, 100% renewable energy is feasible.

### Feed-in Tariffs

Feed-in Tariffs (FiT) oblige energy companies to buy renewable energy from producers, and set the price that these companies pay per unit of electricity. By guaranteeing

access to the grid and setting a fair price, FiTs ensure that renewable energy is a sound long-term investment and that our renewable energy potential is not wasted.

### Germany's Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), 2000

According to this law, producers of renewable energy are entitled to payments for electricity exported to the grid. The revised 2012 EEG sets a minimum requirement for the share of renewable energies in the electricity supply to be at least 35% by 2020, 50% by 2030, 65% by 2040, and 80% by 2050. The German 'Energiewende' [Energy Transition] Minister has committed to targets of at least 40% by 2025 and 55% by 2035.



The African Renewable Energy Alliance (AREA), founded by the WFC, works to

spread Feed-in Tariffs in Africa. Find out more at [www.area-net.org](http://www.area-net.org).

### Full energy cost accounting

Full energy cost accounting to include all subsidies and the cost of burning non-renewable fuels which have alternative uses. Energy-saving and CO2 reduction

mandates favouring national producers to be exempt from "free-trade" challenges at the World Trade Organisation.

### Ontario's Green Energy Act, 2009

Originally this law required a minimum of 60% of equipment or services to be sourced in Ontario in order for energy producers to receive the feed-in tariff. However, in 2013, the Energy Minister scrapped this requirement, citing a ruling of the World Trade Organisation.



## Solar Building Codes

As part of a 'green building' approach, the sustainability of all stages of a building's life cycle to be considered, from design and

construction to operation and maintenance to renovation and demolition.

### Spain's Technical Building Code (Royal Decree 314/2006)

Solar panels are now compulsory on all new and renovated buildings in Spain in an effort to improve energy efficiency. The building code also contains an obligation to provide between 30% and 70% of water using solar power, depending on the building's location and water usage.



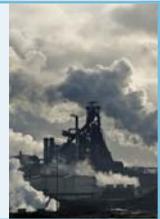
## Fossil fuel and nuclear subsidies

These subsidies to be redirected towards supporting the research and implementation of the transition to renewable

energies, including technologies such as solar home systems, lanterns and cooking solutions.

### President of the Government of Indonesia, Presidential Decree No. 9/2002

An intention to gradually phase out fuel subsidies was announced in 2002. To mitigate the effects of energy price increases, the government made cash transfers to poor households, increased spending on social programmes, and introduced tax exemptions for some industries and agriculture.



Unfortunately, world price increases in 2010 caused the above fuel subsidies to be reintroduced following social unrest.

This shows the need to pursue interlinked energy and economic reform.

## Energy audits

Buildings account for 30–40% of the world's energy consumption. In any given year, only 1% of buildings are newly

constructed – making existing buildings the biggest energy consumer.

### Greener Greater Building's Plan – Local Law 87, New York, 2009

Owners of New York City buildings larger than 50 000 ft<sup>2</sup> are required to conduct energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits. The audits are mandatory on a once-a-decade basis and require retrofits that are cost effective, defined as a five-year payback period.





## HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

In today's world, we are consuming the very foundations of our existence – the forests, the oceans, freshwater systems and the soil, at a rate much faster than our planet can replenish them. Our Earth is losing species at an unprecedented rate as a consequence of habitat destruction, pollution and climate change.

Our oceans, the planet's blue heart, are under severe threat from overfishing, pollution, climate change and ocean acidification. Forests that are essential to protect watersheds and help maintain topsoil are being decimated. They regulate the climate and store carbon whilst also acting as a source of food and fuel.

The sustainable use of natural resources and effective management of ecosystems, including oceans and forests, is therefore critical to our shared future, to the reduction of poverty and the promotion of human development. Every year the World

Future Council chooses one topic on which policy progress is particularly urgent. Our Future Policy Award is the first award that celebrates policies rather than people on an international level. With the policies promoted by this award, we can help speed up policy incentives towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies.

### Future Policy Awards: 2009 to 2012

- 2009 – Food Security
- 2010 – Biodiversity
- 2011 – Forests
- 2012 – Oceans and Coasts

Our annual brochures, with further policy examples, are available online.



**FUTURE POLICY  
AWARD**

# BEST POLICIES

## Secure the Right to Food and Water



Policies that ensure access to safe food and water to be adopted, based on the Future Policy Award 2009 winning best policies:

### Gold Award:

#### Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Food Security Programme

This policy ensures access to food through the affordable pricing of produce and supports local production. It led to a 60% decrease in child mortality compared to 10 years ago, with a reduction of 75% in child malnutrition after just five years! Effectively hunger has been eliminated for just 2% of the city budget.



### Highly Commended:

- Cuba's Law-Decree No. 142 establishing the Basic Units of Cooperative Production on state lands, 1994, ensures access to land necessary to grow enough food and encourages participation in urban agriculture.
- Tuscany's Regional Law No. 64 of the protection and valorisation of the heritage of local breeds and varieties of agricultural, livestock and forestry interest, 2004, ensures access to seeds, supports farmers and protects seed variety.

## Protect Biodiversity and Reverse Soil Erosion



Policies that ensure the protection of biodiversity and reverse soil erosion to be adopted, based on the Future Policy Award 2010 winning best policies:

### Gold Award: Costa Rica 1998 Biodiversity Law

Costa Rica's Biodiversity Law embraces the three objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity: 1) conservation of biodiversity, 2) sustainable use of resources, and 3) the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, and effectively applies them at the national and local levels.



## End Deforestation and Forest Degradation



Policies that ensure the reversal of deforestation and forest degradation to be adopted, based on the Future Policy Award 2011 winning best policies:

### Gold Award: Rwanda National Forest Policy, initiated in 2004

The National Forest Policy has the ambition of making forestry one of the bedrocks of the Rwandan economy and of the national ecological balance. Its guiding principles are to reduce negative ecological impacts of man-made forests, develop agroforestry, nurture fragile ecological zones, involve all stake-holders in decision-making and protect endangered plant species.



## Restore the Health of our Oceans



Policies that restore the health of our oceans to be adopted, based on the Future Policy Award 2012 winning best policies:

### Gold Award: Palau Protected Areas Network, 2003 and Shark Haven Act, 2009

Palau has excelled in creating a network of marine and terrestrial protected areas incorporating local communities' resource needs and traditional management systems. Declaring its entire exclusive economic zone a sanctuary for sharks, Palau has taken a global lead in counter-acting the dramatic decline in shark populations.



The **World Future Council Oceans Survey**, available online, presents existing, sustainable solutions in the areas of:

- Integrated Policies for Oceans and Coasts
- Marine Protected Areas
- Sustainable Fisheries Management
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Species and Biodiversity Conservation

# COMMON WEALTH

Our ruling economic system is unsustainable, unfair, unstable and no longer improves our quality of life. The recent financial crisis forced governments to spend trillions to avoid a global collapse. Unemployment has reached unacceptable levels in many countries. Young people have been left without hope. Millions are on the move to find decent work.

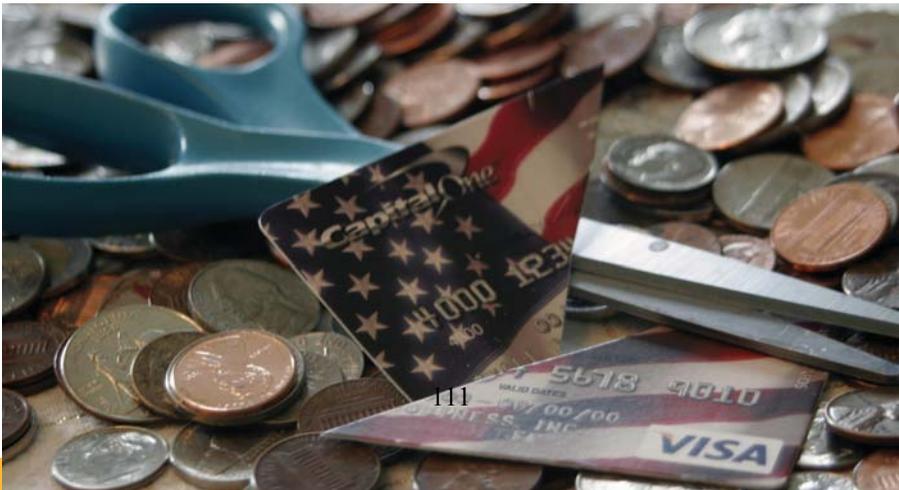
Environmental costs externalised at the expense of future generations must now be accounted for. Many of our “assets” and much of our “wealth” will disappear once these costs are internalised. But if they are not, economic “growth” becomes uneconomic growth, increasingly spent on damage repair and prevention. Our value creation today is dwarfed by our creation of future debt.



A reformed financial system that facilitates real wealth creation must become the new core of our economy. With the right policy initiatives, we can achieve an equitable distribution of income and wealth, as well as reverse climate change and the destruction of natural resources.

To tackle the interlinked financial, food, social and ecosystems crises, a fundamental re-think is needed. Reassessing the rules of finance, the World Future Council has identified best policy solutions to guide our global transition towards sustainable and equitable development.

Our economy and financial markets can provide opportunities for individual development, social security and wellbeing for all, including future generations, whilst promoting behaviour that is environmentally and socially responsible. It simply depends on the policy framework.



# BEST POLICIES

## Legalise Debt-Free Money Creation to Fund New Eco-Production



Debt-free money creation by central banks to be introduced to fund environmentally sustainable development, job creation and infrastructure investment. Adapted, interest-free IMF Special Drawing Rights can provide further funding for a rapid shift to renewable energies in less industrialised countries.

### Money as our Servant, Not our Ruler

New money against performance is not inflationary. With controls to ensure that new money is used for investments and the amount is capped, governments can issue money and spend it directly within the economy. This can create new employment and tackle environmental challenges.



### “Breaking the Funding Deadlock – Financing climate protection”

Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) are an international monetary reserve currency which act as a supplement to reserves of IMF member states. A WFC study shows how to use SDRs to provide immediate funding for a rapid shift to renewable energies in less industrialised countries.



## Implement a Green Tax Shift and Green Budgeting



Taxes on labour to be gradually reduced and replaced by the taxation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, non-renewable resources and financial speculation. Government budgets to prioritise a social-environmental transformation of our societies and economies.

### “Carbon Tax Shifting”

Canada’s Green and Liberal parties have proposed a green tax shift policy plan to tax more carbon intensive items in combination with more equitable taxation measures across society by, for example, decreasing payroll taxes, allowing income splitting, supporting old age pensioners and helping low income Canadians.



## Ensure that all Financial Instruments serve the Real Economy



New financial instruments to be tested according to the precautionary principle before they are allowed to be sold as legally enforceable contracts.

### A Preventive Testing of Financial Innovations

Financial institutions must prove that proposed new financial instruments will benefit the real economy and are the most welfare-enhancing options. Only financial innovations shown to support real wealth creation should become legally enforceable.



In many countries, gambling debts are not legally enforceable. Until 2002, this was the case in e.g. Germany, Austria and Switzerland for “financial gambling” – i. e. pure

bets on future prices, as opposed to hedging to protect against price fluctuations on real assets (e. g. harvests). Abolishing this law contributed to the financial crisis.

## Enforce Divestment Laws against Unethical Practices



Divestment laws banning investments of public money in corporations involved in unethical practices, which harm present and future generations, to become the basis of a global investment treaty, in order to ensure that our invested savings do not threaten us.

### Norway's State Pension Fund Ethical Guidelines, 2004

At the core of the Norwegian model for ‘investment in ethics’ lies the belief that the country’s pension fund should not make investments that carry an unacceptable risk of contributing to unethical acts or omissions, such as violations of fundamental humanitarian and human rights principles, gross corruption or severe environmental damage.



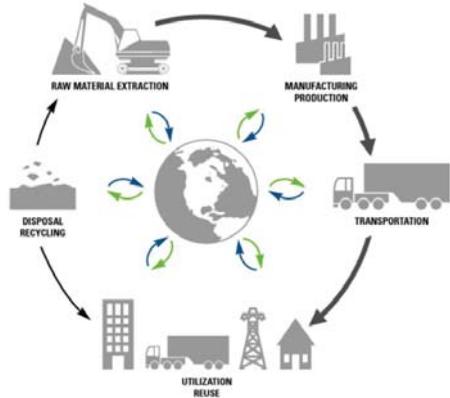
Much current “wealth” consists of debts to future generations. While financial debts can be re-negotiated, environmental debts cannot: melting glaciers do not negotiate! Forcing funds to divest from so-called

“stranded” assets, which cannot be used without threatening our future, will safeguard our economic and ecological well-being.

# ENTERPRISE AND DESIGN

To address the challenges we face in today's world, entrepreneurship is invaluable. Economies, employment and indeed, the future of our planet, depend on entrepreneurs – those capable, innovative, inspiring and driven individuals and organisations that can effect change and make things happen.

Entrepreneurship consists of the added value of creativity and innovation that enhances and fosters a 'can-do' attitude for turning ideas into action. More than just requiring an ability to take risks, entrepreneurship means planning and managing projects to achieve objectives. It can be found not only in the private sector but also in civil society and among policy-makers.



Policy incentives must promote and not stifle or block the entrepreneurship we need to transform our economies. Policies for sustainable production are required at every stage of the process, from design and manufacture to purchase and use.



# BEST POLICIES

## Mandate Ecologically Intelligent Design and Production



The Cradle to Cradle® principle of ecologically intelligent design and production to become the legal norm, in order to incentivise a transition to circular economies. Externalising production costs to be outlawed as unfair competition.

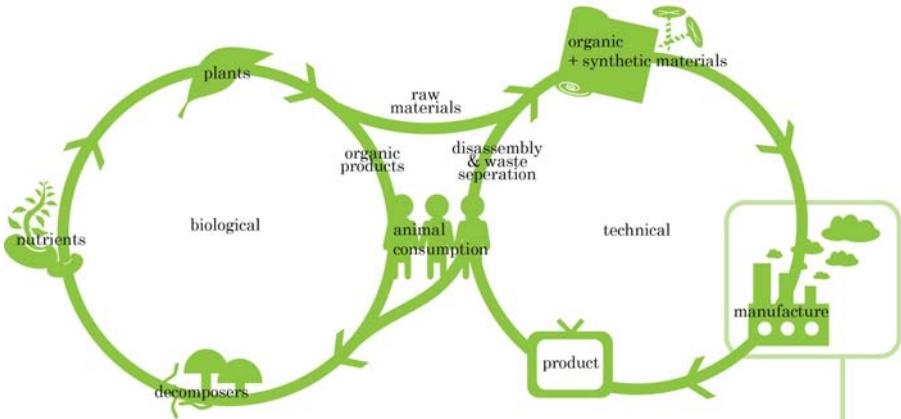
### Successful Cradle to Cradle® Certified Design

So far, over 400 products have been issued certifications by the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute<sup>SM</sup>. These products range from carpets and shoes to cars. Benefits to companies who use these design principles have been both environmental and financial.



Cradle to Cradle® design can help drive sustainable development. We must learn to consider the entire life cycle of a product – from its creation using sustainable materials

to its recycling at the end of its lifetime – and maximise closed circle production rather than designing for landfill.



- 1 100% Renewable Energy Use
- 2 Water Stewardship clean water output
- 3 Social Responsibility positive impact on community
- 4 Material Reutilization recyclability / compostability
- 5 Material Health impact on human & environmental

5  
criteria

## Progressively Ban Inefficient Products



The “Top Runner” policy, mandating on-going resource-saving product improvements in the manufacturing process, to become legally binding, banning the least efficient products.

### Section 6 of Japan’s Energy Conservation Law, 1998

To improve the energy efficiency standards of appliances and the fuel efficiency of vehicles, Japan introduced minimum legal standards for manufacturers. Manufacturers, retailers and consumers cooperate in a national movement to promote energy efficient products.



Without sufficiency, i. e. overall demand management, many efficiency gains disappear. Nature is effective rather than

efficient but the waste of scarce materials and energy is increasingly unaffordable.

## Legalise Benefit Corporations with Broader Social Mandates



Benefit Corporations with broader business mandates must be given legal status in order to promote social and environmental entrepreneurship.

### The Maryland Benefit Corporation Act, 2010

Maryland was the first US state to sign into law a new type of corporation required to create benefits not only for shareholders but also for society as well. Decisions affecting employees, the community and the environment must be taken into account to meet social and environmental standards.



This new form of corporation legally protects the social entrepreneur, promoting the

linkages between private and public interests together to create value for society at large.

# FUTURE JUST LAWMAKING

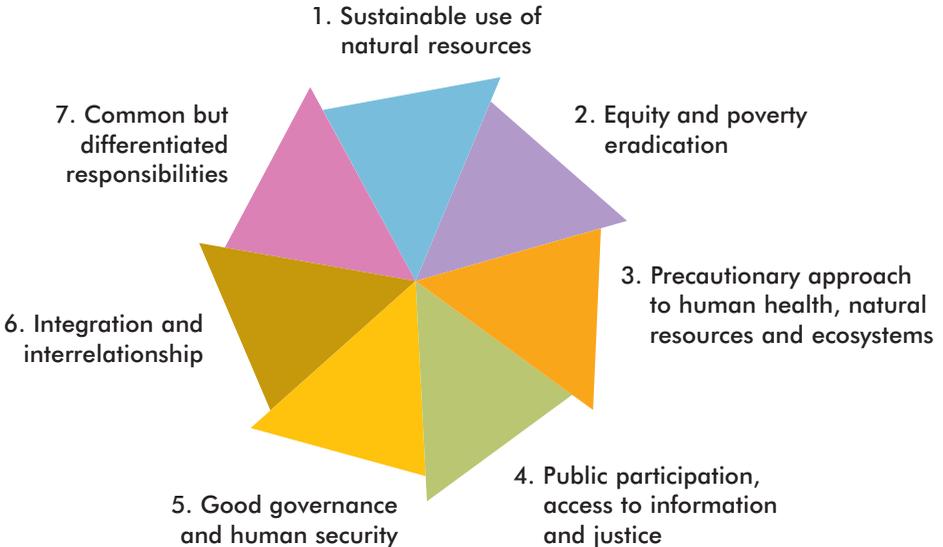
## How does the World Future Council evaluate “Best Policies”?

Our “Best Policies” are those that meet the Future Just Lawmaking Principles and significantly support fair conditions for future generations. The International Law Association adopted Seven Principles for Sustainable Development Law as the result of 10 years of academic work. These were then agreed in 2002 by 192 states participating in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Professionals dealing with policy-making and evaluation regard these principles as the first blueprint for the emerging field of sustainable development law and policy.

The World Future Council uses these principles in evaluating policies nominated for the Future Policy Award, as well as the consideration of policies to be included in the Global Policy Action Plan.

Future Just Lawmaking implies a 360-degree perspective on policy development. The Principles reflect the interconnected nature of the challenges we face and help to avoid unintended inconsistencies and consequences in our reactions to them. We have created a methodology based on the principles that can inspire and support your work for sustainability.



# HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

In this time of world emergency, join us on the pathway to positive change! Inform policy-makers and the public that effective future-just policy incentives already exist – and can be found in this Global Policy Action Plan.

We must learn. We must cooperate.  
We must act. Together we can redirect our world towards a shared, sustainable future for both current and future generations and achieve a better tomorrow, today.



You can:

- Support the global spread of and advocacy for the Global Policy Action Plan by donating via our website to:

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# Future Policy.org

FuturePolicy.org presents policy solutions and essential tools for decision-makers to promote sustainable living and protect the rights of future generations to inhabit a healthy and intact world.

The Future Justice Commission has the goal of analysing and exposing the long-term effects of our decisions today and connecting current problem-solving to a long-term perspective. Browse our publications, literature collection and guest contributions at [www.futurejustice.org](http://www.futurejustice.org).



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## CONTACT US

World Future Council  
Hamburg (Head Office)

Mexikoring 29  
22297 Hamburg  
Germany

[info@worldfuturecouncil.org](mailto:info@worldfuturecouncil.org)  
Phone: +49 (0) 40 3070914-0  
Fax: +49 (0) 40 3070914-14

### Other WFC Offices

London: [info.uk@worldfuturecouncil.org](mailto:info.uk@worldfuturecouncil.org)  
Geneva: [geneva@worldfuturecouncil.org](mailto:geneva@worldfuturecouncil.org)  
Johannesburg: [africa@worldfuturecouncil.org](mailto:africa@worldfuturecouncil.org)  
Basel: [info@baselpeaceoffice.org](mailto:info@baselpeaceoffice.org)