

World Future Council | Fact Sheet Crimes against Future Generations

The Challenge

As the environmental devastation of our planet continues to gather momentum, the need to protect the earth, its species and its resources for future generations grows ever more urgent. Ignoring the long-term consequences of human activity is no longer an option.

The World Future Council takes the view that conduct that will destroy livelihoods and eliminate species in the future must be punished today; its continuance must be deterred. When individuals or organizations approve activities in full knowledge of their harm to the planet this must be considered an offence punishable by law.

The World Future Council has therefore developed a definition of Crimes against Future Generations as, “Acts that cause long-term, severe and widespread damage to the natural environment and the health of human populations or threaten to destroy entire ecosystems and species of life.”

Our Goal

The World Future Council aims to bring justice to future generations by raising public recognition of the concept of



Crimes against Future Generations and by laying the legal groundwork for their eventual prohibition in domestic and international criminal law. While raising the level of urgency in public discourse immediately, the long-term goal is the inclusion of a specific reference to Crimes against Future Generations in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, enabling international jurisdiction to sentence their perpetrators.

Our Strategy

The World Future Council is identifying and exposing the devastating effects of widely accepted economic, scientific and political activities and framing them as “criminal conduct.” Meanwhile, it is engaging key legal experts and civil society organizations in the field of criminal law to refine the concept, improve its acceptance and build momentum for its official adoption in the national or international legal frameworks.

Target Group

The target groups are policy makers, government representatives, members of national judiciaries and members of the Assembly of State Parties to the International Criminal Court. Leaders of civil society groups working on

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international justice and legal academics are key stakeholders in this endeavor and will be involved early on.

Activities

Advocacy

The World Future Council promotes the definition of Crimes against Future Generations as Crimes against Humanity under international law. We are active at human rights summits and research conferences and initiate discussions with leaders of human rights and environmental organizations.

Investigative reports

The World Future Council compiles dossiers on activities that qualify as crimes, such as bottom trawling, gas flaring or ground water poisoning and identifies individuals that would qualify as criminals in these cases. These will be made public.

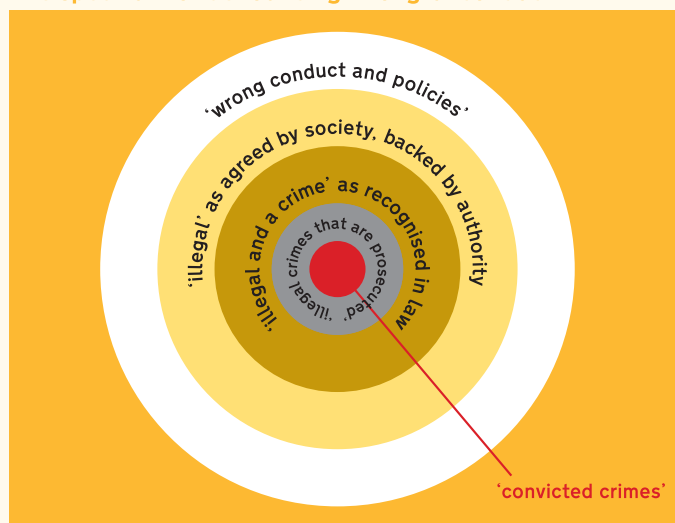
Books

The WFC produces two books; first an academic book by renowned international lawyers on the genealogy of the concept and second a book informing world citizens about the overall rationale and its relevance to global policy developments.

Committed Councillors

The World Future Council Commission on Future Justice includes Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger (*Director of the*

The spectrum of denouncing wrongful conduct



Centre for International Sustainable Development Law), Prof. Hans Peter Dürr (*Nuclear Physicist and Peace Activist*), Dr. Scilla Elworthy (*Founder of the Oxford Research Group*), Bianca Jagger (*Human Rights Advocate*), Dr. Rama Mani (*Scholar, Activist and Policy Analyst*), H. E. Arthur Robinson (*Former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*), Count Hans von Sponeck (*Former United Nations Assistant Secretary General*), Prof. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker (*Dean of the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California*) and Judge Christopher Weeramantry (*Former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice*).

Project Management and Evaluation

The World Future Council strives for excellence in the conduct of its projects and aims for optimum effectiveness, efficiency and improvement. The Future Justice Project Manager will evaluate the goals, activities and budget at regular intervals against specific indicators. An evaluation report will be compiled and reviewed by the Board of Directors of the World Future Council, whose recommendations are presented to the Annual General Meeting.

About us

The World Future Council brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making. Its 50 eminent members from around the globe have already successfully promoted change. The Council addresses challenges to our common future and provides decision-makers with effective policy solutions. In-depth research underpins advocacy work for international agreements, regional policy frameworks and national lawmaking and thus produces practical and tangible results.

World Future Council | P.O. Box 11 01 53 | D-20401 Hamburg

Visit our website and subscribe to our newsletter: www.worldfuturecouncil.org

For more information please contact

Lars Knöpke | Director Donor Relations | +49 (0)40 3070914-17 | lars.knoepke@worldfuturecouncil.org

Maja Göpel | Campaign Manager | +49 (0)40 3070914-23 | maja@worldfuturecouncil.org