

## What is Future Justice?

Our vision of Future Justice is to change unsustainable trends and create fair conditions for future generations – starting today.

The World Future Council methodology for Future Just Lawmaking offers a new approach to policy analysis providing a coherent, participatory and comprehensive tool for best policy practice in sustainable development.

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The 7 Principles are based on the 2002 International Law Association Delhi Declaration on Sustainable Development Law. They were adopted by the 192 states participating in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The Future Just Lawmaking methodology aims to facilitate implementation of these principles. The 7 Principles reflect the interconnected nature of the challenges we face and help avoid unintended consequences and inconsistencies in our policy-making to address these challenges.

The methodology provides a practical tool to assist policymakers to design, amend or evaluate laws, supporting the work of national, regional and local government, international organisations, public policy institutions and civil society.

Future Justice is about recognizing that the planet and people are interconnected. Current business models are driven by short term profit and stakeholder demands for immediate returns. This is national Law Association Delhi Declaration on Sustainable Development Law. They were adopted by the 192 states participating in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The Future Just Lawmaking methodology aims to facilitate implementation of these principles. The 7 Principles reflect the interconnected nature of the challenges we face and help avoid unintended consequences and inconsistencies in our policy-making to address these challenges.

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# 7 PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE JUST LAWMAKING

Policy principles that build Future Justice.

7 guidelines integral to creating policy that is fit for the present and the future.

Future Policy Award Winner 2011

## National Forest Policy Rwanda

**THE CHALLENGE:** 1.5 million square km<sup>2</sup> of forest cover was lost globally between 2000 and 2012. This is an area equivalent to the size of Germany, France, Spain and Portugal combined.

**THE GOALS:** Stop deforestation and ensure that reforestation and sustainable use of existing forest resources is achieved.

**THE STRATEGY:** 2004 National Forest Policy Rwanda. Making forest policy the bedrock of the national economy, by setting a target of a 30% increase in forest cover by 2020. The policy is based upon including all stakeholders in protecting fragile ecological zones, developing good agroforestry practices, sustainably managing the forest and protecting endangered plant species.

**THE IMPACT:** Forest cover increased by 1,107 square km between 1990 and 2012, the forestry budget has significantly increased, strategies for sustainable use of forest resources have been put in place, agroforestry and the diversification of forest resources have been widely adopted.

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24934790](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24934790)  
[www.fao.org/docrep/013/11757e/11757e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/11757e/11757e.pdf)

Future Policy Award Winner 2009

## Food Security Law Belo Horizonte, Brazil

**THE CHALLENGE:** One billion people in the world struggle to access adequate supplies of healthy food on a daily basis.

**THE GOALS:** Deliver on the human right to food, improve availability and accessibility of local healthy food supplies for citizens of Belo Horizonte.

**THE STRATEGY:** Community food sovereignty programmes that address health, social equity, job creation, diversified agriculture and encourage local food production.

**THE IMPACT:** Greater access to and availability of nutritious fresh produce, a decrease in child mortality, a reduction in childhood and adult malnutrition, expansion of local and organic food production and consumption, increased and stable income for local farmers.

Responsibility towards future generations is at the heart of best policies.

The World Future Council has applied these 7 principles to its annual Future Policy Award.

The Future Policy Award celebrates policies that create better living conditions for current and future generations. The aim of the award is to raise global awareness for these exemplary policies and speed up policy action towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies. The Future Policy Award is the first award that celebrates policies rather than people on an international level. Each year the World Future Council chooses one topic on which policy progress is particularly urgent.

FPA 2014 – Ending Violence against Women and Girls  
FPA 2013 – Peace and Disarmament  
FPA 2012 – Oceans and Coasts  
FPA 2011 – Forests  
FPA 2010 – Biodiversity  
FPA 2009 – Food Security

Read more about this award here:  
[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future\\_policy\\_award.html](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future_policy_award.html)

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## References and Further Information

The World Future Council methodology for Future Just Lawmaking offers a new approach to policy analysis providing a coherent, participatory and comprehensive tool for best policy practice in sustainable development.

Further resources, position papers, legal studies and links can be found at [www.worldfuturecouncil.org/library.html](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/library.html)

Please contact us to assist your work towards intergenerational justice:

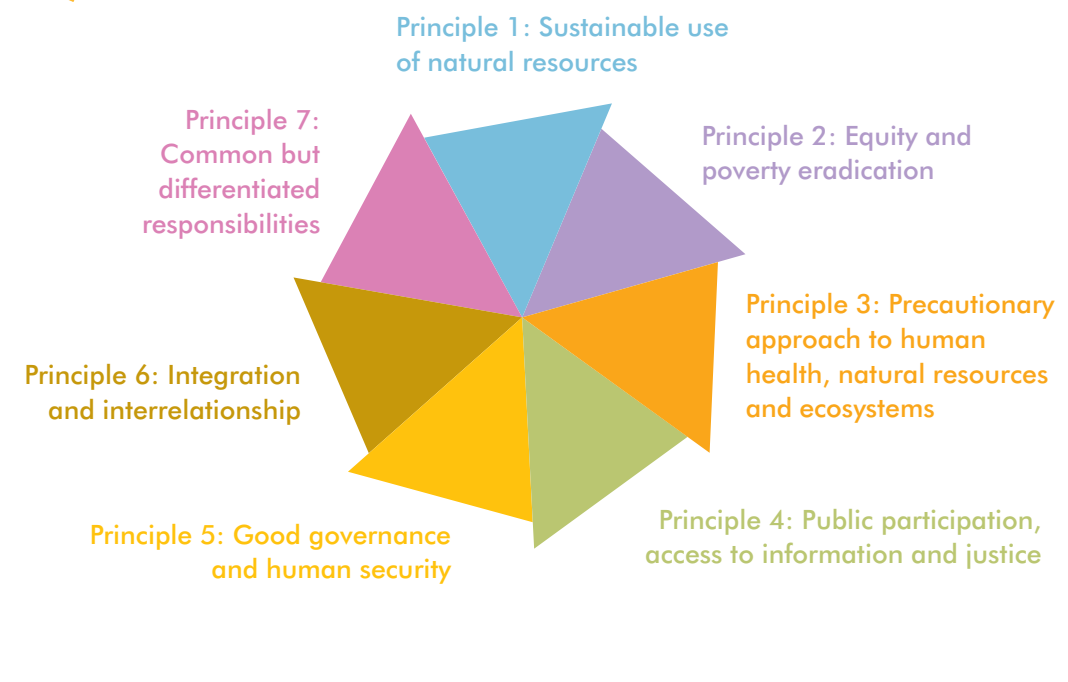
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The World Future Council consists of 50 eminent global change-makers from governments, parliaments, civil society, academia, the arts and business. We work to pass on a healthy planet and just societies to our children and grandchildren with a focus on identifying and spreading effective, future-just policy solutions. The World Future Council was launched in 2007 by Jakob von Uexkull, Founder of the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. It operates as an independent foundation under German law and finances its activities from donations.

# 7 PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE JUST LAWMAKING

The wheel of Future Justice symbolises the interconnected principles for Future Just Lawmaking.



## Principle 1: Sustainable use of natural resources

Our forests, minerals, oil, land and water are not limitless. Nor is the capacity of our world to absorb pollution. Overuse of natural resources and over-burdening of natural systems is becoming an increasing problem and will make life even more challenging for current and future generations.

In order to evaluate whether this principle is being respected the following questions should be asked:

- Will the law result in fair and sustainable use of natural resources?
- Will the law support easing of the global challenges facing all humanity, such as climate change, overfishing and biodiversity loss?
- Will the law mandate respect for nature and encourage citizens to act as its trustees?

## Principle 2: Equity and poverty eradication

While many people are overwhelmed with choice, billions still struggle to survive. Our economic system has tended to concentrate wealth while excluding the poor and vulnerable. Social and economic exclusion increases anxiety, wastes human potential and undermines communities. It hampers wellbeing even in rich societies and will result in instability and tension for future generations. This principle helps create societies in which people are treated with fairness and dignity.

In order to evaluate whether this principle is being respected the following questions should be asked:

- Will the law explicitly address poverty reduction and uphold human rights?
- Will the law improve social justice, gender equity and indigenous rights?
- Will the law acknowledge the needs of future generations, protecting opportunities for them?

## Principle 3: Precautionary approach to human health, natural resources and ecosystems

Humanity has already learned the consequences of unchecked pollution. Resources are wasted, ecosystems are damaged, people suffer and clean-up costs ensue. When a precautionary approach is adopted, the threat of serious irreversible harm is reduced, and technology and the economy are guided to respect human wellbeing and nature. The precautionary approach is a policy principle that saves money and saves lives.

In order to evaluate whether this principle is being respected the following questions should be asked:

- Will the law promote prevention and precaution in the face of scientific uncertainty?
- Will the law place the burden of proof on the economic operator to demonstrate product safety?
- Will the law give people a voice in setting an acceptable level of risk?

## Principle 4: Public participation, access to information and justice

If policy makers don't talk or listen to their constituents, they are missing out on opportunities for public engagement. This means that people cannot hold their policymakers to account. Democracy and the rule of law are likely to suffer. Only with full information can people engage in responsible citizenship. Openness and transparency are fundamental to good governance. This principle is about enabling open, educated and engaged societies.

In order to evaluate whether this principle is being respected the following questions should be asked:

- Will the law provide procedures and opportunities for public consultation?
- Will the law mandate open access to information?
- Will the law uphold the right of appeal and the right to seek redress if citizens feel negatively impacted?

## Principle 5: Good governance and human security

Armed violence and abuse of power undermine trust in institutions and authorities and promote corruption in society at large. The wasted opportunities for development and social justice from impunity, bribery and corruption are eroding secure living conditions. Respect for the rule of law, democratic principles and active post-conflict reconciliation increase people's sense of security. Stable and open democratic government means human potential can flourish.

In order to evaluate whether this principle is being respected the following questions should be asked:

- Will the law mandate specific institutions to implement and enforce the law?
- Will the law promote peaceful conflict resolution and reduce fear and want?
- Will the law prohibit corruption and abuse of power in its implementation?

## Principle 6: Integration and interrelationship

Few problems, whether local, national or international, have simple direct causes. Poverty for example may be caused by environmental degradation, poor education, unfair economic systems, social inequalities, poor government, or more likely a combination of all these factors. Effective policies are those that consider and address all factors influencing the policy outcome, and are bold enough to cut across government departments to provide an integrated approach.

In order to evaluate whether this principle is being respected the following questions should be asked:

- Will the law integrate social justice, environmental protection and economic stability?
- Will the law reflect the environmental and social impacts of development?
- Will the law measurably improve environmental protection and social justice?

## Principle 7: Common but differentiated responsibilities

When addressing global challenges, it is clear that different societies, regions and communities are starting from different situations. While international policy-making has demonstrated the will to set common goals to address the biggest challenges, different nations should assume differing levels of responsibility for bringing the goals to life, depending on their capacities. The same may apply within nations: it is realistic to expect that wealthy partners can contribute more, especially if they profited from harmful activity.

In order to evaluate whether this principle is being respected the following questions should be asked:

- Will the law take into account historical inequalities when imposing obligations?
- Will the law reflect the local reality as regards technology, resources, values and traditions?
- Will the law minimise costs faced by the poorest and most vulnerable?