



Definition of Crimes against Future Generations¹

1. *Crimes against future generations* means; any of the following acts within any sphere of human activity including, *inter alia*, political, military, economic, cultural, or scientific activities, when committed with knowledge of the substantial likelihood of their severe consequences on the long-term health, safety, or means of survival of any identifiable group or collectivity:

- (a) Forcing members of any identifiable group or collectivity to work or live in conditions that seriously endanger their health or safety, including forced labour, enforced prostitution and human trafficking;
- (b) Unlawfully appropriating or acquiring the public or private resources and property of members of any identifiable group or collectivity, including the large scale embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion of such resources or property by a public official;
- (c) Deliberately depriving members of any identifiable group or collectivity of objects indispensable to their survival, including by impeding access to water and food sources, destroying or severely depleting water and food sources, or contaminating water and food sources by harmful organisms or pollution;
- (d) Forcefully evicting members of any identifiable group or collectivity in a widespread or systematic manner;
- (e) Imposing measures that seriously endanger the health of the members of any identifiable group or collectivity, including by impeding access to health services, facilities and treatments, withholding or misrepresenting information essential for the prevention or treatment of illness or disability, or subjecting them to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are neither justified by their medical treatment, nor carried out in their interest;
- (f) Preventing members of any identifiable group or collectivity from enjoying their culture, professing and practicing their religion, using their language, preserving their cultural practices and traditions, and maintaining their basic social and cultural institutions;
- (g) Preventing members of any identifiable group or collectivity from accessing primary, secondary, technical, vocational and higher education;
- (h) Causing ecocide, meaning widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment, including by destroying an entire species, sub-species or ecosystem;
- (i) Unlawfully polluting air, water or soil by releasing substances or organisms that seriously endanger the health, safety or means of survival of members of any identifiable group or collectivity;
- (j) Other acts of a similar character gravely imperilling the health, safety, or means of survival of members of any identifiable group or collectivity;
- (k) Any of the above acts which cause serious, widespread and long-term harm to human health and future generations of an indiscriminate and uncontrollable nature.

2. *Crimes Against Future Generations* shall also include any acts which cause, or have a strong possibility of causing, any of the effects identified in Section 1 (a) – (k), and undertaken without due diligence as to the probability of such effects (*pre-cautionary principle*).

3. The expression “any identifiable group or collectivity” means any civilian group or collectivity defined on the basis of geographic, political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious or gender grounds or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law.

¹ The development of the concept and a definition of crimes against future generations was commissioned to Sébastien Jodoin, Lead Counsel, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, CISDL. This process included expert workshops, consultations and meetings organised by the World Future Council and the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law with leading international judges and lawyers from 2007 to 2010. Further comment was also received from members of the World Future Council Commission on Future Justice.