



Voice of Future Generations: The World Future Council

Annual Report 2008

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The World Future Council

Head office

World Future Council
P.O. Box 11 01 53
D-20401 Hamburg
Germany
Phone: +49(0)40 3070914-0
Fax: +49(0)40 3070914-14
info@worldfuturecouncil.org

EU Liaison Office

World Future Council
Rue Marie-Thérèse 21
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32(0)2 2101780
Fax: +32(0)2 2101789
info.eu@worldfuturecouncil.org

UK Office

World Future Council
Trafalgar House
11 Waterloo Place
London SW1Y 4AU
UK
Phone: +44(0)20 78638833
Fax: +44(0)20 78395162
info.uk@worldfuturecouncil.org

US Liaison Office

World Future Council
660 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, #302
Washington DC 20003
USA
Phone: +1(202)547-9359
Fax: +1(202)547-9429
info.us@worldfuturecouncil.org

India Liaison Office

The WFC is currently looking for new office rooms in Delhi. Please contact the Head Office for more information.
info.india@worldfuturecouncil.org

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Heike Dierbach, Verena Seitz

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Foreword

Early last year we received a letter from Rashi, a 13 year old boy from Ahmadabad, India. He asked us, “Why are people hesitating? It is high time to stop climate change. It is an inconvenient truth, but Calcutta will disappear if we don’t do something. I hope you will take me seriously.” Rashi is afraid and he is right. Calcutta lies only a few metres above sea level. Unless we can curb climate change this city of 14 million inhabitants will be flooded. Children writing to us from Nigeria,

Bangladesh, Colombia and the USA think like

Rashi. In fact, the world’s children seem to know more about the seriousness of the situation than we adults. Yet it is we who have the responsibility to turn things around. The means are there: we just have to use them. We can learn something else from our children: hope. Hope led us to found the World Future Council. Hope accompanied us as we worked through 2008 – because positive change *is* possible and can sometimes happen faster than we think.

As the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh told a group of visiting WFC youths: “You are right, we can do more!”

Last year, Hawaii was the first US state to agree a feed-in regulation so as to speed up the introduction of renewable energy, based on advice from the WFC. Our worldwide advocacy for this ‘best policy’ has brought similar success stories from South Africa, Australia, the UK etc. Last June, an alliance of Members of the European Parliament met with the WFC and agreed to work towards a European energy supply derived 100 % from renewable energies. Willingness to change is now widespread throughout the world! Often, all that decision-makers require is the right advice and sometimes a little nudge to remind them of the urgent need for action!

This is what we do. But our work is only made possible by the support of a great many people in a great many countries. They support us financially, spread the news of our work and give us ideas. On behalf of all these adults, we pledge to Rashi and all the world’s children that we take their concerns seriously. We will do our very best to protect their right to live on a healthy planet!



Jakob von Uexkull

Founder and Chair of the Board of Directors

Bianca Jagger

Chair, Executive Committee

Voice of future generations

Our actions determine what kind of world future generations will inherit. If new coal-fired power stations are approved today, global temperatures will continue to rise. Will there be wars over water resources? Will much of the civilisation achieved by humankind be lost again?

The good news is that we are still able to prevent this from happening. The WFC brings together respected personalities from many countries. With very diverse backgrounds and beliefs we all share a common goal: to preserve our planet with all its diversity for future generations. The WFC works against short-term thinking, greed and indifference and in favour of a sustainable society which honours and preserves our children's inheritance. We work for the courage to take new pathways, to not only develop solutions, but to actually implement them.

How does the World Future Council work?

The WFC is a global organisation which identifies global challenges and solutions: what are the best proposals for regulating international financial markets, the best models for low-cost public transport, or the most successful laws to promote renewable energies? Which key players might be interested in these **best policy** solutions for similar problems in their own countries?

The WFC brings them together at national and international workshops and seminars. Policy-makers unable to attend these meetings in person can find information and guidance on the World Wide Web – for example, an on-line toolkit for a renewable energy feed-in tariff legislation. In short, the WFC makes it as easy as possible for policy and decision-makers to close the gap between thought and action.

Institutions and individuals committed to change need a supportive **political framework**. The WFC works to provide this. For example, entrepreneurs who build new solar arrays need to know how much they will earn for the electricity they generate. The WFC assists legislators to pass a suitable renewable energy law. The judge wishing to penalise a polluter needs a law which also covers the long-term effects of such actions. The WFC enlists legal experts to establish criteria for such offences. This work requires global thinking which can only be achieved by a global institution.



Annual General Meeting 2008

“We cannot continue living today as though there were no tomorrow.”

The WFC's Annual General Meeting (18–22 May) in Hamburg was attended by 32 Councillors, one Honorary Councillor, 23 advisors as well as staff members from around the world. After four days of deliberations about future projects and new expert commissions, the WFC called for an international change of perspective in politics, economics and science in relation to our conduct towards coming generations.

The AGM adopted a declaration entitled “Nurturing the Future” which was presented to the media by Bianca Jagger, Jakob von Uexküll, Vandana Shiva and Herbert Girardet in the presence of Hamburg Senator Herlind Gundelach. Key points included continued efforts to reduce climate change, prevent crimes against future generations, create sustainable cities and agriculture as well as promoting ethics in politics, economics and the sciences. To this end, the WFC adopted a detailed work programme for 2008/2009.

The most important WFC bodies for this very practical work are its **Expert Commissions** – “think-and-do tanks” for the future. Each commission comprises both Council members and external experts; their work is co-ordinated by WFC staff. They focus on key challenges faced by humanity: e. g. ‘future justice’, climate and energy, cities and climate change, ‘future finance’, living economies, science and ethics. Through its Council members, the WFC can swiftly and effectively reach national and international decision-makers.

Future Justice – preventing crimes against future generations

Technicians now depositing nuclear waste in unsafe storage sites will not live to see the day, in 150 years perhaps, when radioactivity could devastate large areas. Their victims will not be able to hold them accountable, nor crucially, can future generations do anything to prevent this occurring. Therefore it is up to us to prevent this happening to them. We must protect their right to inherit a healthy planet – and hold accountable those who destroy or endanger this. Therefore, the WFC set up its Future Justice Commission in April 2008.

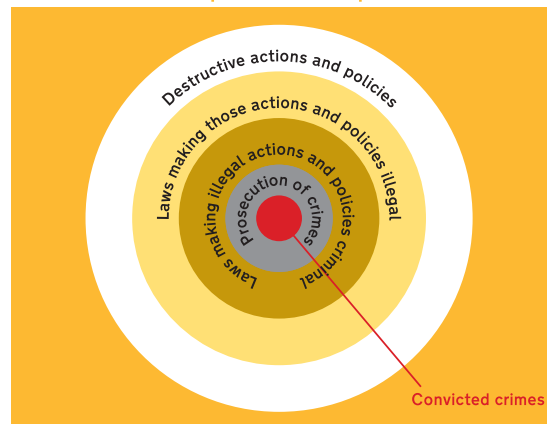
This Commission works to establish a legal framework for “crimes against future generations” similar to that already existing for “crimes against humanity”. The Commission identifies current legislation offering ways of protecting future generations. Where no such legal means are available, the Commission will work to morally and publicly outlaw potential crimes against future generations.

It consults closely with judges and prosecutors at the existing international courts.

Politicians, what about your great-grandchildren?

What would policies look like if they had to take into account not only present generations but also those who will inhabit the earth in 50 or 100 years time? This was the focus of a WFC-organised **public seminar held in April 2008** at the University of California in Santa Barbara. Which systemic changes are required and which policies need to be modified or discarded?

Levels of societal response to unacceptable behaviour



The Future Justice Commission

Chairs: Marie-Claire Cordonnier Segger and Christopher G. Weeramantry | **Councillors (2008):** Dr. Scilla Elworthy | Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Dürr | Dr. David Krieger | Ylva Lindberg | Dr. Rama Mani | Prof. Stephen Marglin | Prof. Dr. Manfred Max-Neef | Dr. Katiana Orluc | Count Hans-Christof von Sponeck | Francisco Whitaker | **Honorary Councillors:** H.E. Arthur Robinson | Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker | **Advisors:** Ole von Uexkull | Rüdiger Kuehr | Patricia Hübner | Cyril Ritchie | **External Experts:** Neshan Gunasekera, Co-Chair of the Weeramantry International Centre for Peace Education and Research | Sébastien Jodoin, Fellow at the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law | **Representative of the Board of Directors:** Jakob von Uexkull | **Representative of the Executive Committee:** Bianca Jagger | **Coordination:** Dr. Maja Göpel



WFC Founder Jakob von Uexkull, Councillors Stephen Marglin, Scilla Elworthy, Hans Peter Duerr, Count Hans-Christof von Sponeck, and Rama Mani



“The acorn has a 400 year business plan. Humans ought to be able to do at least as well as an acorn.”
Councillor Dr. Scilla Elworthy, Founder of the Oxford Research Group

A “**Crime against Future Generations**” is a military, economic or cultural act causing extensive, long-term and severe damage to the environment or endangering the health, livelihood and security of a human population or the survival of a species or ecosystem. The authorisation of such an act would also be punishable.

It was urged that inventions with potentially devastating long-term effects, such as nano-technology, should require long-term impact studies before being put on the market. The seminar also discussed how the needs and rights of future generations could already be protected under international law. For example, if an army targets and destroys an oil refinery, causing immense pollution, this act can already be tried as a crime under current international law dealing with conduct during armed conflicts. However, the same principle needs to apply to those who cause pollution in times of peace.

The Commission has drawn up **seven Future Justice policy principles** for policy making worldwide, thereby assisting politicians and legislators to represent the interests of all stakeholders.

These principles include: the sustainable use of natural resources, equity, a precautionary approach to human health and ecosystems, public participation and access to information and justice, good governance and human security, the integration of needs, rights and responsibilities (human, social, economic, environmental), and the principle of common but differentiated obligations of industrialized and developing countries, of rich and poor.

This last principle highlights the fact that rich countries have greater resources for action, e.g. to tackle climate change – and that they are also chiefly responsible for causing these problems by the process of accumulating their wealth.

Crimes against future generations are punishable offences!

We can no longer tolerate individuals or companies getting away with destroying drinking water supplies with toxic waste, wiping out habitats of entire species through deforestation, or depleting fish stocks and coral reefs through bottom trawling, thereby destroying current and future food resources of many already impoverished people.

The Future Justice Commission advocates making “**crimes against future generations**”

a punishable offence. Those responsible could then be criminally prosecuted – both in their respective countries and before the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

In November 2008 WFC invited judges from the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and the other international courts based in The Hague to attend a **joint workshop with WFC experts**. The Council presented legal studies it had commissioned on how a crime against future generations could be defined. The discussions aimed at the eventual incorporation of such crimes into the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

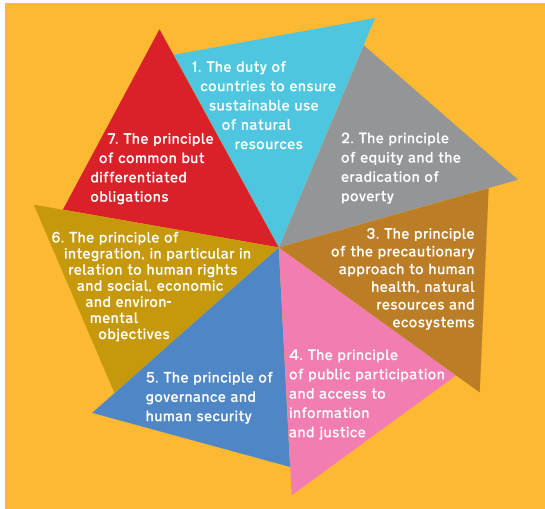
Outlook for 2009: World Future Award – the Oscar for policies that help secure our common future

Exemplary political approaches to solving humanity’s pressing problems already exist all over the world but many do not receive sufficient attention, being frequently unknown outside their



The Future Justice expert commission in Santa Barbara

Future Justice Policy Principles



own countries. Yet decision-makers elsewhere could learn a lot from these proven positive examples.

To plug this gap, WFC has created an instrument for honouring and publicising groundbreaking legal initiatives – the (non-monetary) annual World Future Award. The prize is to be conferred upon exemplary laws which protect future

generations and presented to representatives of the respective country or region. Each year the Council will choose a special area of focus.

As the number of people suffering from food insecurity is rising dramatically – reaching one billion at the end of 2008 – the inaugural prize to be given in 2009 is dedicated to food security. Five laws have been nominated: from Asia, Africa, Central America, South America and Europe.



Jakob von Uexkull at the Berlin Stand Up Event

Council members for the Millennium Development Goals

In July 2008, the United Nations asked the WFC to support the „Stand Up & Take Action” campaign for implementing the Millennium Development Goals. While endorsed by 189 states at the turn of the millennium, implementation of these humanitarian goals has so far been very inadequate.

The WFC immediately agreed to support the campaign. In video messages, eight Council members called on governments around the world to stand by their pledges. On October 17, 2008 (the International

Day for the Eradication of Poverty), these video messages were shown on large public screens in Berlin. The videos also appeared on United Nations web pages and *Deutsche Welle* broadcast them as part of its worldwide programme. At a rally in Berlin, WFC founder Jakob von Uexkull demanded that “Governments should use the same amount of effort to fight poverty as they currently expend trying to end the global financial crisis.”



“As a business leader I can and must take responsibility. Not just for our staff members, but also for society as a whole and its wider values. With the World Future Council, Hamburg is sending a strong signal to this end.” WFC supporter and entrepreneur Dr. Michael Otto

Climate and energy: The triumph of FIT legislation



"I am working with a group of advocates in Minnesota on a Renewable Energy Payment (FIT) bill. Your materials and [PACT] site are very helpful."
State Representative
David Bly,
Democratic Farmer Labor Party,
Minnesota (USA)

If we fail to curb global warming, our children and grandchildren will have to confront potentially life-threatening problems. Deserts will spread and coastal areas disappear under the encroaching seas while many millions will be on the run from the impacts of climate chaos.

The good news is that this can still be avoided. The present generation has the tools with which to save our climate – renewable energies! But we must use them! The WFC invests a lot of energy in promoting the expansion of renewable energies. "Feed-in tariffs" (or renewable energy payments) – laws that guarantee fixed prices for electricity derived from renewable energy fed into the power grid – have proved to be among the most successful instruments for doing this. Only if investors have this guarantee does it make sense for them to build new installations.

In Germany alone, this strategy boosted the share of renewables in total energy supplies to 15 percent in just a few years. While FITs already exist in more than 40 countries, the work of the World Future Council in 2008 convinced many additional countries and regions of the benefits of this "best policy".

Supporting Africa, the continent already most affected by climate change, to develop forward-looking energy generation and supply systems is another key WFC strategy. Initial efforts have focussed on co-operation with Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa where the WFC has promoted the rapid expansion of renewable energies to achieve sustainable development.

The Climate and Energy Commission

Chairs: Bianca Jagger, Hermann Scheer MP
| **Councillors:** Nicholas Dunlop | Anders Wijkman MEP | Prof. C.S. Kiang | Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish | Kaarin Taipale | Tony Colman | Dr. Tewolde Berhan Egziabher | Fabio Feldman | Rae Kwon Chung | Frances Moore-Lappé | Maude Barlow | Pauline Tangiora | **Staff members:** Prof. Herbert Girardet | Bianca Barth | Dr. Axel Bree | Dirk Hendricks | Randy Hayes | Manu Sankar | Ansgar Kiene | **Coordination:** Stefan Schurig

United States: World Future Council's work leaves its mark

First US state plans a feed-in law

Amongst the industrialised nations, the United States has the highest per capita carbon dioxide emissions – over 20 tonnes per year. In comparison, Europeans emit an average 12 tonnes, Asians only 4.5. The high level of US emissions coupled with the new political direction emerging there have led the WFC to be especially active there.

The results of one year's targeted action are clear: in October 2008, Hawaii authorities signed an agreement to implement a feed-in tariff policy in 2009. The agreement commits Hawaii to complete a regulatory review by March 2009 and to implement the resulting feed-in tariffs by July. A similar regulation came into effect in the city of Gainesville, Florida on March 1st, 2009. These two examples show that the move away from oil, coal and gas is possible in the short term if legislators and politicians really want it to happen. Throughout 2008 at numerous events in the United States the WFC consistently provided legislators and advocates with the key information and arguments in favour of FITs.

US politicians in talks with the World Future Council

"The threat of a global climate disaster is no longer up for debate. The majority of scientists are in agreement. Governments have previously been reluctant to accept this reality. However, notwithstanding all this sobering information, the agreements reached in Bali were extremely weak and inadequate." This was Bianca Jagger's clear message to members of the US Congress. Addressing the **House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming in March 2008**, she urged the United States to change direction and abandon its environmentally harmful pathway. "We are running out of time", she stated.

In co-operation with US Congressman Jay Inslee, the WFC demonstrated what a renewable energy policy tailored for the United States could look like in practice during the **Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC)** in March. As *Renewable Energy World*

put it: *“Talk about FITs seemed to be everywhere at WIREC, a policy-oriented event sponsored by the U.S. government. Helping drive the discussion was an entourage of FIT supporters from the World Future Council who are doing everything in their power to spread awareness about the law.”*

US energy experts take lessons from Germany

The renewable energy supplement for a whole family per month costs no more than “a cup of coffee”. This was just one of the surprising facts 31 US energy utility representatives learned on their **solar energy fact-finding mission** to southern Germany last June. The mission was organised by the WFC in cooperation with the Solar Electric Power Association, manufacturer First Solar and the Northwest Solar Center at Washington State University.

How is solar energy funded in Germany? Which new technologies are available? Are feed-in tariffs possible in the US? The utility executives visited Munich, Freiburg and solar installations around the country to find out for themselves. Their conclusion? Feed-in tariffs are a vital part of the solution because they ensure long-term supply and investment security. An intense working relationship has since developed between WFC and the many contacts made during this fact-finding tour.

“The US has more sunshine than countries like Germany but we’re not capitalizing on our solar potential like they are.” Raju Yenamandara, US Sales Director of SolarWorld Group put it in a nutshell. He was one of several speakers at the WFC’s **Renewables Workshop** in San Diego, California.

At this event, some 100 high-level industry experts, decision-makers, politicians, public authority representatives, environmental activists and top executives of leading solar companies discussed feed-in tariffs. Clearly emerging from these debates was the recognition that renewable energies not only protect the environment; they also generate jobs and create a more democratic, secure energy supply. In this type of energy supply, power is generated not just by a few big corporations but also by farmers with wind generators in their fields and kindergartens with rooftop solar arrays.



Participants at the WFC workshop in San Diego



Solar fact finding mission in June 2008. From left to right: Mike Taylor, Research Director, Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA); Cara Libby, Program Manager, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI); Mike Nelson, Director, Northwest Solar Center at Washington State University; Mike Ross, Director Product Management, First Solar; John Kosub, CPS Energy; David Rubin, Director, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)



Councillor Vandana Shiva at the conference “Gandhi, Globalisation and Climate Change”

India: let us not repeat the mistakes of the West!

“First they ignore you. Then they laugh at you. Then they fight you. And then you win.”

Mahatma Gandhi showed humanity that it is always possible to foster change – even if there are many obstacles in your way and the goal sometimes seems to be a distant dream. His philosophy remains timelier than ever. With this in mind, the WFC dedicated an international conference to the great visionary. In February 2008, 160 experts and activists met in Delhi to discuss “**Gandhi, globalisation and climate change.**”

Working groups reviewed topics such as how farmers in off-grid regions can generate their own power by using solar technology. One of the conclusions was that they need micro-loans similar to those already available in Bangladesh.

The conference served both to kick-start the WFC’s work in India and to **launch its New Delhi office.** Our focus issues on the sub-continent are renewable energy and sustainable farming. With the second largest population in the world and as an emerging economic power, India is facing the tough challenge of meeting a dramatic increase in its energy requirements.

The WFC aims to demonstrate that these requirements can be met using renewable energies. Although India’s market for wind energy is relatively

well developed, a lot of scope for growth remains. Furthermore, India’s enormous solar energy potential has hardly been tapped so far.

Europe: parliamentarians reaching for the stars

20 percent renewables by 2020

In 2008, the European Union faced the challenge of enshrining this voluntary target in European legislation. The corresponding legislative process within EU institutions was accompanied by a fundamental debate about which system – feed-in tariffs or tradeable certificates – was the most suitable for reaching this target.

Staff at the WFC’s EU office continued their intensive debate with members of the European Parliament and with EU governments, advocating that national feed-in laws, which have been proved to guarantee the fastest and most effective expansion of renewables, be maintained and further promoted.

The WFC welcomes the resulting compromise on the new *Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources*. This directive marks a fundamental change in EU energy policy: renewables are now an essential component of the European energy mix. The required expansion of infrastructure and measures to fund renewable energies will pave the way for a rapid increase in the share of electricity supplies derived from this source. A big success – almost in time for the

Feed-in tariff in South Australia
New ideas generate new solutions. The State of South Australia thus regularly invites well-known personalities to become “thinkers in residence” – living and working in the state capital of Adelaide. The very first guest in 2003 was Prof. Herbert Girardet, who later went on to co-found the World Future Council. He relentlessly advocated a feed-in tariff during his time there ... and he succeeded: in early 2008 South Australia became the first Australian state to adopt feed-in tariff legislation.



“Emerging nations such as India, Brazil and China have an opportunity to show the world how to design energy solutions that can rapidly improve the lives of their people while minimizing the carbon footprint of their economies.”

Councillor Ashok Khosla, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Councillor Anders Wijkman, MEP, and WFC Founder Jakob von Uexkull at the reception in the European Parliament in Brussels on occasion of the WFC EU Liaison Office launch

official **celebration to inaugurate the WFC's EU Liaison office** in December 2008. In the UK, pressure from a coalition of MPs and organisations advised by the WFC also paid off: the government began its work on a national feed-in tariff in the second half of 2008.

100 percent renewables for Europe

Sounds utopian? Not to WFC Councillors Nicholas Dunlop (e-Parliament) and Anders Wijkman (European Parliament). A high voltage direct current (*HVDC*) power grid (a so-called *supergrid*) could transport electricity from renewable sources to end users with hardly any transmission losses.

Extended storage capacities (for example pumped storage hydropower stations) can provide a constant and guaranteed power supply. WFC representatives regularly meet with parliamentarians from major EU political parties to place this idea on the EU's political agenda. In co-operation with MEPs such as Rebecca Harms (Germany), Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland), Vittorio Prodi (Italy) and Graham Watson (UK), they show other decision-makers that putting this idea into practice is only a question of political will – from a technical point of view, it is already possible today.



Solar houses in Freiburg, Germany

Designing feed-in tariffs simply and quickly online!

What are the pros and cons of feed-in tariffs for electricity derived from renewable energies? What factors need to be considered? How can they be funded? Politicians wishing to promote renewable energies in their countries have a lot of questions. The answers

are only a mouse click away – the WFC provides all the required tips and facts at www.onlinepact.org. Those who want to forge ahead can even build their own draft feed-in tariff law from text blocks designed by energy and legal experts from around the world. It could not be simpler! These pages get an average of 10,000 hits a month and are explicitly mentioned as a source in the new FIT regulations for Hawaii and Gainesville, Florida.





Electricity generation in non-grid connected areas

Outlook for 2009: yes we can – so let's do it!

The change of administration in the US brings great opportunities for climate protection. President Barack Obama has announced that **billions of dollars will be invested in renewables**. The WFC will submit plans setting out in detail the most efficient way to use these funds.

To stimulate the South-South exchanges of experience for the promotion of renewable energies in Africa, WFC is organising a **fact-finding trip to Bangladesh with Nigerian energy authorities**. Bangladesh has already acquired successful experience in lending to rural residents for the installation of solar panels and biogas plants. This renewable energy investment makes sustainable cooking and learning possible, opening up a multitude of business opportunities – in short, it creates new perspectives!

The PACT on-line toolkit will be expanded to include **energy efficiency**.

Further international parliamentary hearings are planned in **Costa Rica, Fiji and Mozambique**.

The WFC is calling for the creation of an **Arctic World Park** similar to the World Park in Antarctica.



WFC Chair Bianca Jagger is interviewed at the UN Climate Talks in Poznan

Competency at conferences

International conferences offer important opportunities for conveying arguments, influencing decisions and forming new alliances – as well as for initiating conversations with those who have previously doubted the potential of renewable energies. The WFC is accordingly present at many major conferences worldwide, organising workshops, publishing reports and statements and briefing the press. Those attended in 2008 include: Sustainable Energy Summit in Delhi, India | City to City Conference in Yokohama, Japan | ICLEI Europe conference on sustainable city development in Rovigo, Italy | China Power Alternative Energy Summit in Peking, China | International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) in Abuja, Nigeria | UN Climate Change Conference, Poznan, Poland

Helping members of parliament protect our Earth

Politicians wishing to advocate climate protection need more than just good will. They need support, expertise and contacts with other political pioneers in their region and around the world. The WFC organises this in co-operation with the e-Parliament at **international parliamentary hearings**. Experts at these hearings convey facts and strategies – for example, how best to reforest previously wooded areas – while working groups develop concrete solutions and action plans and alliances are formed. In 2008, the WFC and e-Parliament co-organised six international parliamentary hearings in Asia (Taipei), Africa (South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana), Europe (Poland), and the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago). Among other things, the latter meeting allowed representatives of island states to discuss strategies on how to be more assertive in negotiations to obtain support from industrialised countries.



WFC Co-Founder Herbert Girardet at the press conference during the Annual General Meeting 2008

Cities and climate change: Think global, act urban!

Every second human being lives in an urban area. In rich countries, this is closer to 80 percent. Cities only occupy three percent of the earth's surface area – yet use 80 percent of its resources. Thus they are among the leading causes of climate

change – but they are also among its first victims since many densely populated areas are situated on the coast or in low-lying areas. Sustainable global development therefore largely means sustainable urban development. In co-operation with Hamburg's HafenCity University, the WFC set up the Cities and Climate Change commission in October 2008. Our vision is a city that obtains all its energy supplies from renewable energy. To make this vision a reality, we inform members of parliament and local governments about how they can reduce their cities' carbon footprints and stimulate the use of renewable energies. Furthermore, we show how achieving this goal can go hand in hand with meeting other challenges such as the provision of clean drinking water, public transport or waste management. Many cities around the world have already found good solutions which can often be effectively applied elsewhere – to spare every city from having to reinvent the wheel. The new WFC commission assumes this task. We bring together politicians, publicise innovative projects and provide persuasive arguments to convince sceptics that these solutions can work.



The expert commission at its first meeting

The Commission on Cities and Climate Change

Patron: Dr. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Director of UN-HABITAT | **Councillors:** Prof. C. S. Kiang | Kaarin Taipale | Cyd Ho, MLC | Rae Kwon Chung | Tony Colman | Ashok Khosla | Fabio Feldman | **Advisor:** Alexander von zur Mühlen | **External Experts:** Tatiana Bosteels, Director of Responsible Property Investment, Hermes Real Estate, London | Prof. Peter Droege, Professor at the UrbanSCAPE / Institute of Architecture & Planning, University of Liechtenstein | Bill Dunster, Director of Bill Dunster architects ZEDfactory Ltd | Prof. Dr. hc. mult. Meinhard von Gerkan, Senior partner, gmp architects | Nicky Gavron, former Deputy Mayor of London | Prof. Dr. Hartmut Graßl, former Director of the UN World Climate Research Programme | Peter Head, Director Planning and Integrated Urbanism, ARUP | Prof. Jeffrey Kenworthy, Professor at the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute, Curtin University of Technology | Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Knieling, Professor for Urban Planning and Regional Development, HafenCity University, Hamburg | Prof. Dr. Dieter Läpple, Professor emeritus at the HafenCity University, Hamburg | Dr. Eric Martinot, Institute for Sustainable Energy Policy, Tokyo | Prof. Peter Newman, Professor at the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute, Curtin University of Technology | Fatima Shah, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank | Prof. Suani Teixeira Coelho, Professor at the CENBIO – Brazilian Reference Center on Biomass, Institute of Electrotechnics and Energy, University of São Paulo | Henning Thomsen, Director of the Danish Architecture Centre, Copenhagen | Nicholas You, Chief of Policy and Strategic Planning, UN-HABITAT | **Representative of the Board of Directors:** Prof. Herbert Girardet | **WFC staff members:** Dirk Hendricks, Randy Hayes | **Coordination:** Iris Gust, HafenCity University; Stefan Schurig, WFC

Outlook for 2009: cities learn from each other

The Commission focuses on cities with 500,000 or more inhabitants. It will collect examples of good political practice and make them available to cities worldwide – through direct contact, workshops and conferences as well as via the media and dedicated WFC publications. Best practices which should be replicated abound: for example, 36 percent of Copenhagen's citizens cycle to work while Bogotá has managed to tackle its traffic chaos by introducing a fast bus system. The Commission will place special emphasis on cities achieving energy supplies derived 100% from renewables.



Smog in Hong Kong



"Cities, especially those in flat coastal regions and on river plains, should form a global alliance so they can put pressure on their governments to actively promote effective climate protection and set a good example." Prof. Dr. Hartmut Graßl, climate researcher and professor emeritus at Max Planck Institute of Meteorology

KidsCall: 14,000 messages to politicians

“We promise to do everything in our power to help sustain life on earth with all its beauty and diversity for future generations” – this was the commitment made to all children on the World Future Council’s founding day. For it is one of the WFC’s main aims to stand up for the rights of future generations. However, children and youngsters themselves also have a say at the WFC via the KidsCall campaign.

To publicise the existence of KidsCall and spread its message, the campaign team set out on a global promotional tour in early 2008. In India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, Australia, Canada and in the US, WFC representatives met with schools, initiatives and institutions run for and by children and young people. Many spontaneously decided to contribute to KidsCall, for example the Young Ecologists from India, and the American Youth Movement.

Politicians face the next generation

“Save the rainforest,” “Do you want to leave us a dying planet?” “Why do you feed your cars with our food?” “Keep our earth clean and healthy!” These were only some of slogans on numerous banners several metres high erected outside the German Federal Chancellor’s office in Berlin on June 1, 2008. KidsCall spent an entire year collecting messages which children from around the world had written to politicians. The goal was to present their demands directly to the world’s leaders at the G8 summit in Japan.

However, achieving this goal turned out to be even more difficult than foreseen. Strict security measures did not stop at children, thus making a personal presentation in Japan impossible. However, the young KidsCall activists were undeterred. In early June, they travelled to the **preparatory meeting for the G8 summit in Berlin** to hand over the messages there instead.

As Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel was welcoming the Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda at her office in Berlin, KidsCall showed its colours – flying banners several metres high announcing demands from children around the



KidsCall appeals are handed over to the Japanese ambassador to Germany

world. “I can’t believe we’re really here and doing something,” said Stella (13). “Maybe Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Fukuda will finally take action if all the kids of the world ask them to!”

State Secretary Dr. Bernd Pfaffenbach, Chancellor Merkel’s envoy to the G8 summit, received the KidsCall delegation at the **Federal Ministry of Economics**, accepted a ten metre long scroll covered with messages and answered the young people’s questions for almost an hour declaring “I can say that not only I, but also the German government as a whole supports your efforts.”

The children also received a warm welcome at the **Japanese Embassy**. Ambassador Toshiyuki Takano said, “I am very pleased that these young leaders understand the issues and are helping us provide solutions.” All the government leaders of the remaining G8 member states and the five



Michelle (14),

Kenya:

“I fear for our earth. I’m scared that one day I’ll wake up and won’t see any blue sky, won’t feel any cool breeze because everything has been destroyed by climate change. Let us join hands to stop climate change, once and for all. Think about us and our future.”

Tobias (10),

Germany:

“I think it’s important that we stop cutting down so much rainforest so that fewer animals lose their home. And that we use more public transport so that the environment is less polluted with fumes.”

The Youth Expert Commission

Chair: Pauline Tangiora | **Councillors:** Hafsat Abiola-Costello | Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish | Maude Barlow | Jared Duval | Dr. Tewolde Berhan Egziabher | Dr. Riane Eisler | Dr. Scilla Elworthy | Dr. David Krieger | Cyd Ho, MLC | Ylva Lindberg | Dr. Rama Mani | Dr. Katiana Orluc | Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger | Prof. Dr. Vandana Shiva | Prof. Motoyuki Suzuki | Judge C. G. Weeramantry | Francisco Whitaker | **Advisors:** Anita Herrdum | Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel | Barbara Seiller | **WFC Staff:** Holger Guessefeld | **Coordination:** Ansgar Kiene

developing countries invited to the summit received their KidsCall scrolls by mail.

“We, the future generation of India, want to see our country as an environmental protection pioneer, not as a latecomer!” was the message which young members of KidsCall personally handed over to India’s **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** last August. They also presented six concrete demands for more climate-friendly energy and agricultural policies. The Prime Minister was impressed by the young people’s knowledge saying, “we do a lot on renewable energy, but you are right that we can do more!”

Young KidsCall members did not rest after the G8 Summit was over; they presented their collected messages again as a touring exhibition. In October 2008, two hundred flags were printed and flown as a “**Corridor of Hope**” outside the Hamburg planetarium. This idea was inspired by the Japanese tradition, whereby people write their wishes on temple flags. The exhibition was subsequently displayed in the European Parliament building so that no EU politician could avoid the pressing demands of the next generation.

The Corridor of Hope will be displayed at several international events in 2009 including at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.



KidsCall in front of the German chancellor’s seat in Berlin

Children debating at kidscall.info

Children in Johannesburg have similar hopes and fears to children in Dhaka, Chicago or Hamburg. Since October 2008, they can exchange their views and ideas with each other as well as with WFC members – at the kidscall.info forum, the new on-line platform on the KidsCall website. Current campaign information, news and messages from our youngsters are posted in four languages and most importantly, their thoughts about climate protection and their future. “We should appreciate the food we receive.” “I think it’s important that everybody does something, whatever age they are.” “Nuclear power plants are simply too dangerous; has anyone thought about all the effects one mistake could have?”



KidsCall delegation visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh



Councillors Pauline Tangiora and Sulak Sivaraksa with children at the KidsCall workshop in May 2008

Samyak (16), India:

“What the world needs is an attitude change. The leading global politicians should improve their way of thinking, not just towards their own country but towards all the countries, even those less developed. They mustn’t always put economic development above everything else but should look at what’s more important: Our planet is at a point of no return.”

Report by the Board of Directors

The WFC was active in 30 countries during 2008, supporting the KidsCall project for children and young people, the Future Justice, Climate and Energy and Cities and Climate Change programmes. Our achievements prove that our strategic planning has worked.

Giving a voice to future generations

As part of the KidsCall project, children and youth from more than 45 countries answered the WFC's call to address messages to the "G8+5" leaders. A delegation handed more than 14,000 letters and drawings to decision makers. The WFC also displayed the children's appeals in the "Corridor of Hope" exhibition at the Hamburg planetarium, at the European Parliament in Brussels and during the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan.

Future Justice

The WFC has developed Future Justice best policy principles to guide the development of sound and integrated frameworks at all levels of governance. These principles help identify those global, national and regional policies which already protect the rights of future generations and also those policies which need to be modified or discarded. We promote the dissemination of these best policy principles in all our main areas of work.

Which standards and practices can we no longer accept due to their negative effects on the future? The WFC combines the best of scientific practice with human rights principles to shift the focus of political discourse. Thus, for example, we developed a legal definition of "crimes against future generations" in co-operation with the *Centre for International Sustainable Development Law*. In consultation with judges and prosecutors of the international courts at The Hague, we investigated the legal possibilities of prosecuting individuals and organisations using this definition.

Climate and energy

The WFC's work combines critical research, public awareness raising, advocacy and direct assistance to policy makers.

During 2008 we extended our political advocacy in the area of climate and energy to further promote feed-in tariffs for renewable energies as a means of climate protection. We developed an on-line toolkit to assist the drafting of related laws and published it on a dedicated website (www.onlinepact.org). The WFC also organised workshops and expert consultations at international conferences to provide information about groundbreaking political initiatives and discuss the best ways of implementing them. In co-operation with the e-Parliament, the WFC advised policymakers from 37 countries at parliamentary hearings.

One of WFC's strengths lies in bringing together parties involved in a particular issue and then generating the momentum required for change. In particular, WFC's efforts to convince energy suppliers and policy makers in the US of the necessity of effective feed-in tariff laws produced concrete results during 2008: Hawaii signed an agreement on renewable energy production, and California, Oregon, Michigan, Minnesota and Indiana proposed feed-in tariff bills. Other US states have also expressed an interest.

The WFC was also politically instrumental in paving the way for feed-in legislation in the UK and Australia.

Cities and climate change

During 2008 the WFC set up the Cities and Climate Change Commission which works closely with Hamburg's HafenCity University. The Commission has awarded its first research contracts to identify the best political approaches in this subject area.

New World Future Council offices in Brussels, New Delhi and Washington

The WFC set up offices in three strategically important locations during 2008, launching its work in India with the opening of its New Delhi office and the “Gandhi, Globalisation and Climate Change” conference.

In December, the EU office was officially opened with a reception at the European Parliament. Our presence in Brussels enables the WFC to have direct contact with European decision-makers. In the new Washington office, the WFC works closely with representatives of the US Congress to promote renewable energy legislation and other key aspects of the WFC’s work programme.

WFC co-operation with the United Nations

WFC Councillors and staff worked together on a publication on innovative policies (*Green Breakthroughs – Solving Environmental Problems through Innovative Policies and Law*), issued by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in February 2008.

During 2008 the WFC was asked by the UN to support the call for achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. Co-operating closely with the UN Millennium campaign, eight Councillors addressed video messages to politicians urging them to stand by their commitments. The messages were broadcast on the United Nations web sites and by Deutsche Welle TV.

Led by Bianca Jagger, a WFC delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan promoted an emergency action plan to reduce greenhouse gases.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue from donations totalled € 2.45 million in 2008, compared to € 2.61 million in 2007. This revenue comprised the institutional funding from the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Dr. Michael Otto / Otto GmbH & Co KG, the



Jakob von Uexkull at a charity concert for the WFC with musicians from the Berlin Philharmonic

proceeds from a charity concert at the Berliner Festspiele, funding by several foundations and numerous individual donations.

In addition, HafenCity University financed 1.5 co-ordinating staff for the Cities and Climate Change commission. A full list of supporters can be found on page 27.

The WFC’s expenditures in 2008 amounted to € 2.05 million, compared with € 1.61 million in 2007 (see Financial Report page 24).

Outlook

A highlight of 2009 will be the first **World Future Award** ceremony. The WFC will confer this prize for the best policy in the area of food security. In June 2009, the Council will publish the book “A Renewable World”, a thorough analysis of current solutions to diverse crises as well as of ways of overcoming our dependence on fossil fuels.

Further areas of focus for 2009

Future Finance

The Future Finance Commission is developing proposals for a sustainable and just financial system. What would such a system look like which supported sustainable activities for promoting well-being and social justice for both present and future generations on this planet? In the light of the current global crisis answers to this question are now more pressing than ever.

Living economies

The transformation of our economic development models is closely linked to issues of finance and future justice: they must benefit human well-being and be in harmony with nature. How can *real prosperity* be measured? How can urgently needed innovation be financed? What type of tax reforms ensures the efficient, just and clean utilisation of natural resources? The WFC will develop new economic standards and promote their implementation.

Science and spirituality

In co-operation with the Fetzer Foundation (USA) the WFC is initiating a dialogue on science, spirituality and values.

Sustainable development for Africa

The WFC plans to increase its regional presence in Africa during 2009. To fight poverty and promote sustainable development, we will support the dissemination of renewable energies in selected African countries including Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa.

Transparency and quality control

The WFC will increase its communication with the public and invest in evaluating the effectiveness of our work – already assessed and controlled at regular intervals through project management reports and evaluations by the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Councillors' Assembly. The Head Office in Hamburg exercises financial control, plans and undertakes fiscal reporting and prepares balance sheets and business plans. The WFC is externally controlled through annual audits by BDO Deutsche Warentreuhand AG. For 2008, the auditor confirmed the adequate and economical use of funds according to the foundation's charitable objectives. We provide regular detailed reports to the City of Hamburg, other major donors and to the Hamburg Charity Commission.

The future needs your support

As the agreed start-up funding from the City of Hamburg ends in 2009, the World Future Council needs your support. Help us promote long-term thinking and action in politics and economics and give a voice to future generations!

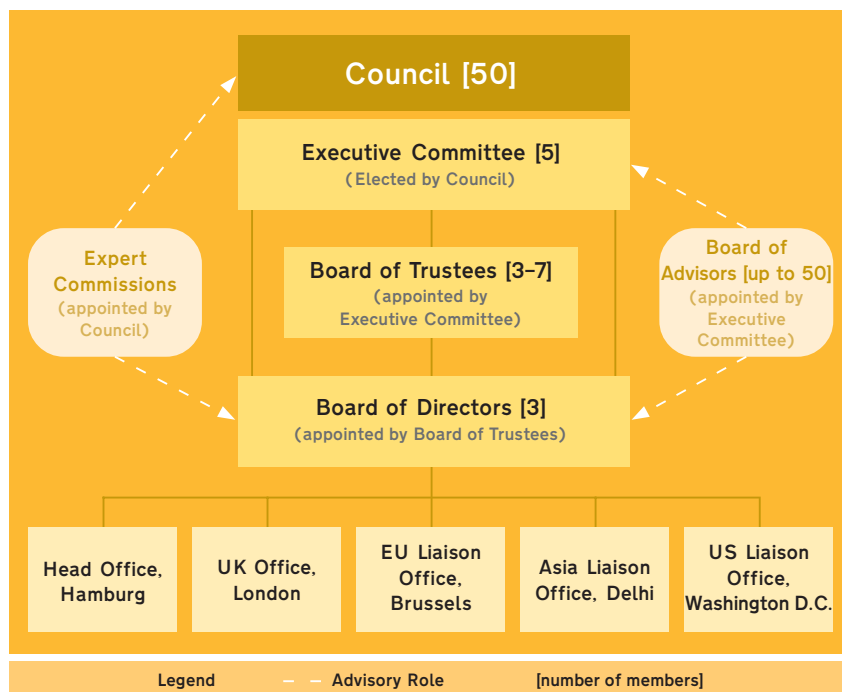
Your support will be much appreciated!

Jakob von Uexkull, Chair, Board of Directors
Dr. Farhad Vladi, Deputy Chair, Board of Directors
Alexandra Wandel, Member, Board of Directors
Hamburg, February 22nd, 2009



Elias from Hamburg has discovered his message on one of the flags in the Corridor of Hope

Structure of the World Future Council



The WFC's **General Assembly** meets in Hamburg once a year to determine the organisation's annual work programme. The Council delegates the programme's implementation to its various organs. Reciprocal control mechanisms ensure that their work conforms with the Councillors' goals and with the WFC's founding mission.

The **Expert Commissions** are the leading organs for implementing the WFC's work. Each Commission comprises Council members and external experts appointed by the Council. Several Expert Commissions have already begun their work, and further commissions dealing with some of humanity's most important challenges are planned. The commissions identify the key elements of a problem, and existing action gaps and then analyse the effects of proposed solutions. They develop draft "World Future Reports" and define proposals which can be implemented, such as model laws.



The **Board of Directors** is responsible for the day-to-day management of the World Future Council and represents it legally. It develops detailed plans and proposals and reports to the Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly. Its three members are nominated by the Board of Trustees.

Members of the Board of Directors:
Jakob von Uexkull (Chair)
Dr. Farhad Vladi (Deputy Chair)
Alexandra Wandel (Development Director)



The **Board of Trustees** advises, supports and supervises the Board of Directors and approves the annual budget, the annual financial statements and the report on operations.

Members of the Board of Trustees:

Barbara Seiller (Chair)

Dr. Ulrich Theune (Deputy-Chair, since 22 January 2008)

Gerhard Geerdts (until 28 November 2008, Deputy-Chair until 22 January 2008)

Dr. Katiana Orluc

Timo Sieg

Count Hans-Christof von Sponeck (from 28 November 2008)

The five members of the **Executive Committee** are elected by the Council. The Executive Committee oversees the ongoing work of the Council and ensures that the agenda agreed by the General Assembly is implemented.

Members of the Executive Committee:

Bianca Jagger (Chair)

Dr. David Krieger (Deputy Chair, from 24 October 2008)

Cyd Ho, Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong (from 24 October 2008)

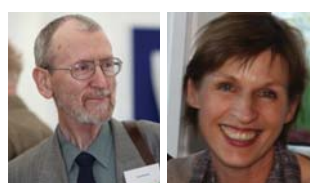
Dr. Hermann Scheer, Member of German Parliament (from 24 October 2008)

Prof. Dr. Vandana Shiva

Beate Weber (Deputy Chair, until 21 May 2008)

Tariq Banuri (until 28 July 2008)

Prof. Stephen Marglin (until 24 October 2008)



The **Board of Advisors** is composed of external experts, respected personalities and major WFC supporters from a wide variety of backgrounds. It advises and supports, facilitates contacts and submits proposals to the Council and to the individual commissions. Advisors are appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Board of Advisors:

Chair: Cyril Ritchie

Deputy Chair: Dr. Barbara Doll

The WFC head office is located in **Hamburg**. There are further **offices in London, Brussels, Delhi and Washington D.C.** with a total of 17 full-time and freelance staff. With exception of these staff members and one Executive Director all other WFC members serve on a *pro bono* basis.

WFC is a **charitable foundation registered** in Germany. Its finances are subject to strict auditing by external auditors and by the Hamburg Charity Commission.



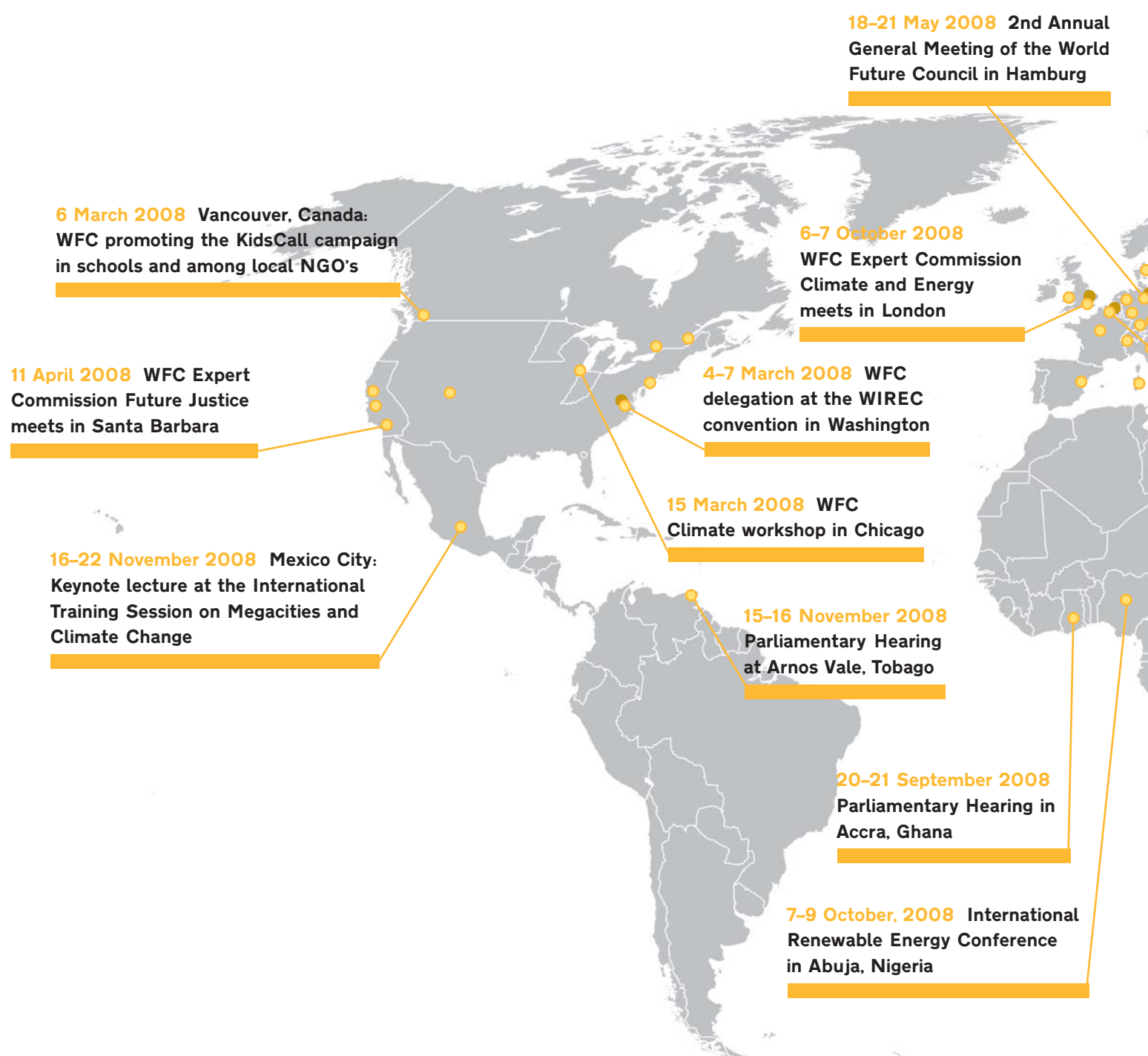
Members of the World Future Council

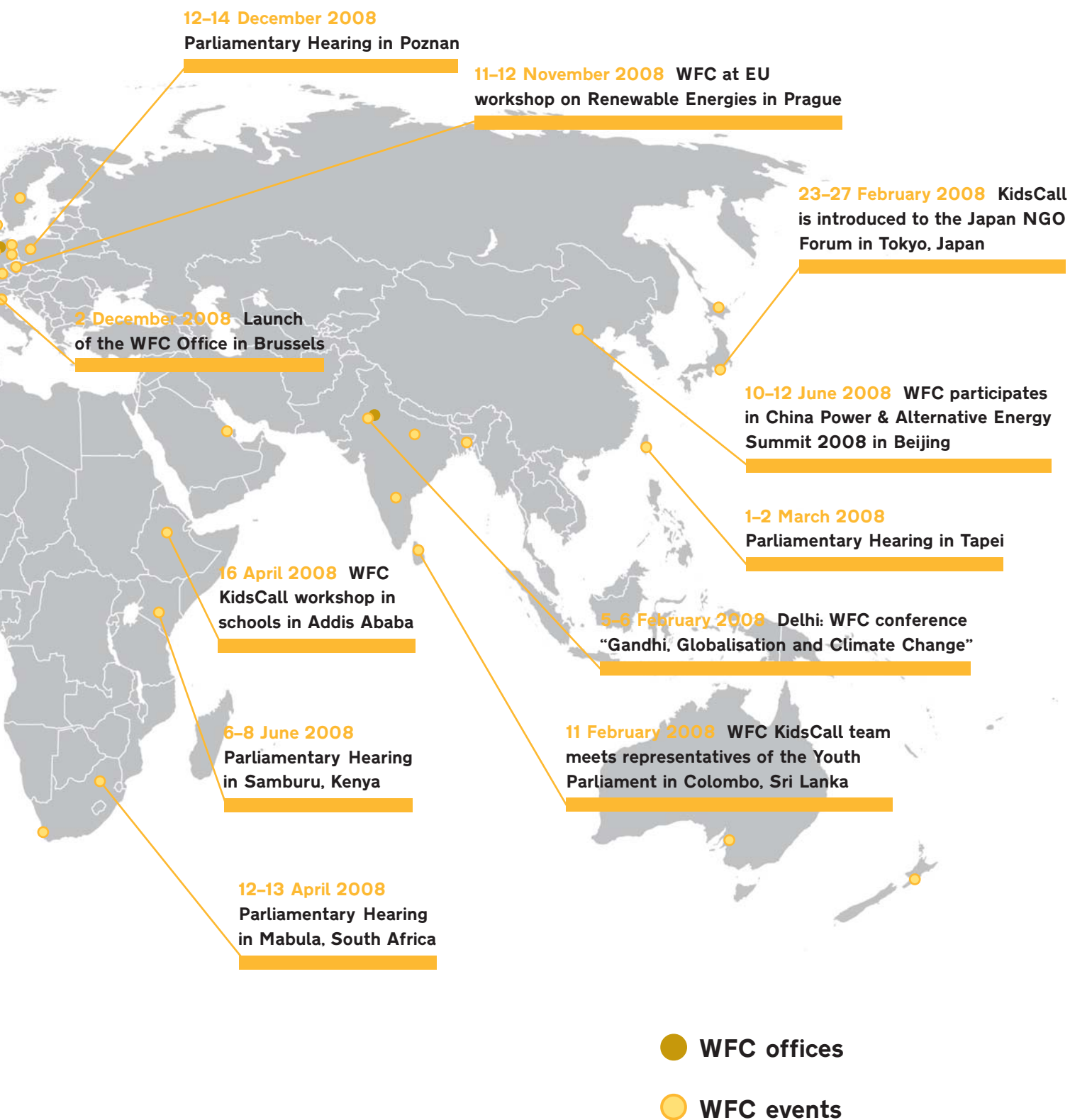
- **Hafsat Abiola-Costello (Nigeria)** Founder, Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND)
- **Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish (Egypt)** Founder, SEKEM enterprises
- **Tadatoshi Akiba (Japan)** Mayor of Hiroshima
- **Maude Barlow (Canada)** First Senior Advisor to the UN on water issues; Chairperson, The Council of Canadians
- **Rae Kwon Chung (Korea)** Director, Environment and Sustainable Development Division of UNESCAP; Ambassador for Climate Change
- **Tony Colman (United Kingdom)** Former MP; Director, Africappractice
- **Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger (Canada)** Director, The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)
- **Nicholas Dunlop (New Zealand)** Co-Founder and Secretary General, eParliament
- **Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Dürr (Germany)** Nuclear physicist and philosopher
- **Jared Duval (USA)** Author and Senior Fellow, ecoAmerica
- **Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher (Ethiopia)** General Manager, Environmental Protection Authority
- **Dr. Riane Eisler (USA)** President of Centre for Partnership Studies; Author
- **HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal (Jordan)** President of the Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue (FIIRD); Chairman of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF); President Emeritus of the World Conference of Religions for Peace
- **Dr. Scilla Elworthy (United Kingdom)** Founder, Oxford Research Group
- **Fabio Feldman (Brazil)** Environmental legislator
- **Tim Flannery (Australia)** Scientist, explorer, author and conservationist
- **Prof. Rafia Ghubash (United Arab Emirates)** President, Arab Gulf University
- **Olivier Giscard d'Estaing (France)** Chairman, INSEAD Foundation; Chairman, the European League for Economic Cooperation, France; Chairman, COPAM (Comité pour un Parlement Mondial)
- **Prof. Prabhu Gupta (Switzerland)** Executive Director, UBS Wolfsberg Centre
- **Cyd Ho (Hongkong/China)** Member of the Legislative Council
- **Wes Jackson (USA)** Co-founder and President, the Land Institute
- **Bianca Jagger (Nicaragua)** Human rights advocate, Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador
- **Baroness Helena Kennedy (United Kingdom)** Barrister and QC; President, School of Oriental and African Studies (London University); Member of the House of Lords
- **Ashok Khosla (India)** President, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Co-President, The Club of Rome; Director, Centre for Development Alternatives
- **Prof. C. S. Kiang (China)** Founding Dean, College of Environmental Sciences, Beijing
- **Prof. Dr. Rolf Kreibich (Germany)** Scientific and Managing Director, Institute for Future Studies and Technology Assessment
- **David Krieger (USA)** Founder and President, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF)
- **Ylva Lindberg (Norway)** Founder and Managing Director, SIGLA; Board Member of the Sophie Foundation
- **Dr. Rama Mani (India)** Advisor, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, New York; Associate Fellow, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- **Prof. Stephen Marglin (USA)** Economist, Harvard University
- **Prof. Dr. Manfred Max-Neef (Chile)** Pioneer of 'Barefoot Economics', Former Rector, Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia
- **Frances Moore-Lappé (USA)** Founder, Small Planet Institute; author
- **Youssou N'Dour (Senegal)** Musician
- **Dr. Katiana Orluc (Germany)** Middle East expert; visiting professor, Harvard University
- **Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania)** Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in West Africa
- **Dr. Vithal Rajan (India)** Social activist and writer
- **Dr. Hermann Scheer (Germany)** MP President, EUROSOLAR; Founder, World Council for Renewable Energy
- **Prof. Dr. Vandana Shiva (India)** Founder, Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology
- **Sulak Sivaraksa (Thailand)** Co-Founder, International Network of Engaged Buddhists
- **Count Hans-Christof von Sponeck (Germany)** Former UN Assistant Secretary General; Chairman, Centre for the UN Millennium Development Goals
- **Prof. Motoyuki Suzuki (Japan)** Chairman, Central Environmental Council of Japan
- **Kaarin Taipale (Finland)** Sustainable urban development expert
- **Pauline Tangiora (Aotearoa / New Zealand)** Maori elder from the Rongomaiwahine Tribe
- **Judge C. G. Weeramantry (Sri Lanka)** Former Vice-President, International Court of Justice
- **Francisco Whitaker (Brazil)** Co-Founder, World Social Forum
- **Anders Wijkman (Sweden)** MEP President, GLOBE EU; former UN Assistant Secretary-General

Honorary Councillors

- **Walter Cronkite (USA)** Broadcast Journalist
- **Dr. Herlind Gundelach (Germany)** Senator for Science and Research, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
- **Dr. Michael Otto (Germany)** Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Otto Group, Germany
- **The Hon. Arthur N. R. Robinson (Trinidad and Tobago)** Former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker (Germany)** Co-Chair of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Economic Instruments for Energy Efficiency and the Environment

The WFC – active around the world

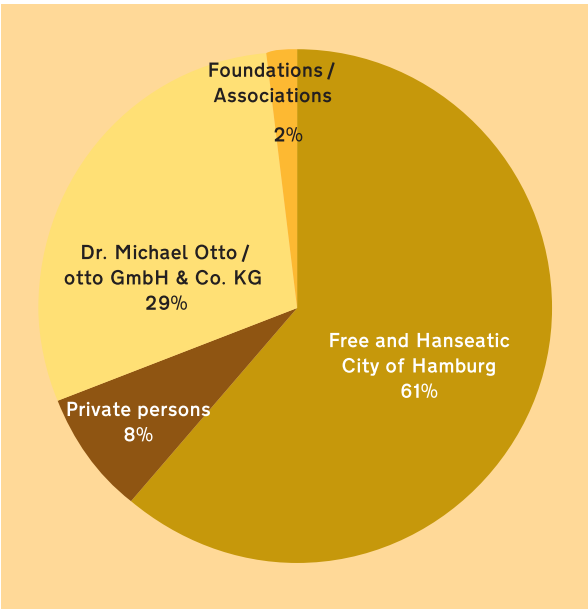




Financial report 2008

The WFC completed a year of substantial international expansion. Donations worth 2.5 million euros – slightly below the 2.7 million euros received in 2007 – enabled both the organisation and its individual projects to expand. Due to office openings in Belgium, the US, and India as well as the enlargement of the head office in Germany, the number of full-time employees rose to ten and freelance staff increased to seven. The number of WFC events also rose by a third, and the amount of expert presentations and parliamentary hearings worldwide grew significantly.

In the year under review, the WFC received 2.452 million euros in donations, approximately 64,000 euros in income from asset management, and roughly 11,000 euros from lectures. Reflecting the priorities in its work, the WFC’s expenditures were focused on the programmatic areas: climate and energy security, Kids Call/youth, ‘future justice’, cities and research on best policies. The annual budget was also used to cover core costs, including the Annual General Meeting of the Council, the expenses of the head office in Hamburg and the offices in London, Brussels, Washington and Delhi, communication and PR work as well as fundraising.

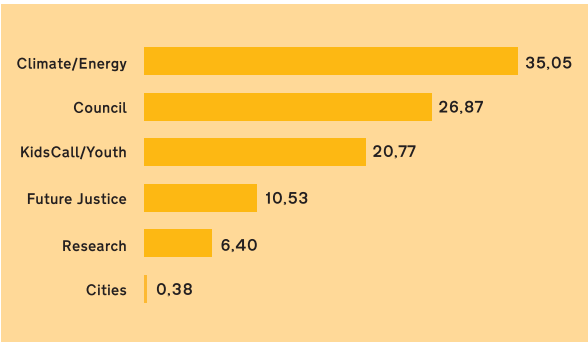


Origin of donations (percentage)

The World Future Council’s intangible assets consist of the WFC website, licenses for software and databases while tangible assets mainly include office equipment. Based on a conservative portfolio asset management strategy, the WFC’s financial assets are invested in short-term, low-risk time deposits.

Increased liquid funds from the previous year, resulting from the annual surplus, were allocated to reserves. Unlike those accrued reserves from untied donations, the foundation capital of 112,000 euros has been invested on a long-term basis.

The BDO Deutsche Warentreuhand Aktiengesellschaft audited the 2008 accounts, dated December 31, 2008, in accordance with the German Commercial Code and issued an unqualified audit certificate on 27/02/2009. The auditors thereby confirmed that the annual report for 2008 complies with legal regulations and accurately presents the Council’s financial situation. The auditors confirmed that the “foundation’s expenditures were spent efficiently in accordance with the attainment of the foundation’s goals as set out in its statutes.”



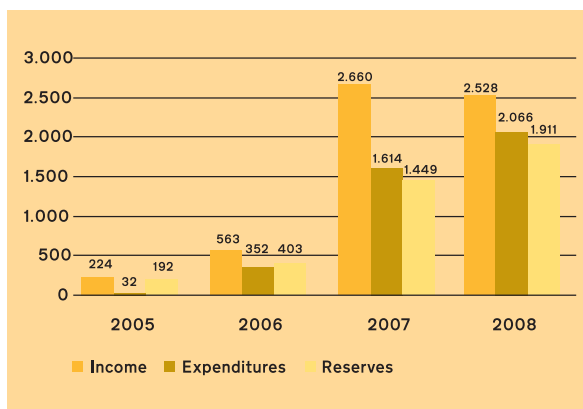
Comparison of project expenditure in percentage

Financial contribution by HafenCity University for Cities: 38,500 euros

The future of the WFC is, however, still uncertain because the major part of the financing provided by the City of Hamburg and Dr. Michael Otto comes to a close at the end of 2009. In light of the financial crisis, attracting new donations is likely to become more difficult, making it harder for the Council to continue its work.

The following steps have been taken to try to ensure that the World Future Council's operations remain viable:

- a full-time staff member was hired solely for fundraising, and fundraising activities were made a high priority within the WFC
- cost cuts were implemented, reducing the 2008 budget by 23 percent (604,000 euros)



Financial development of the WFC 2005 to 2008 (in Euro thousands)

ASSETS

	31.12.2008 €	31.12.2007 €
A. Fixed Assets		
I. Intangible assets:		
Licenses and similar rights and licenses to such rights	50.215,92	43.879,97
II. Tangible assets: Other equipment, operational and office equipment	68.230,91	63.906,84
III. Financial assets		
1. Shares in associated companies	4.127,23	4.127,23
2. Securities in capital asset values	85.209,00	83.885,60
3. Other lendings	14.294,84	0,00
	222.077,90	195.799,64
B. Current assets		
I. Receivables and other tangible assets	1.008,00	21.174,99
II. Cash in hand and credit at banks	1.873.114,34	1.564.600,44
	1.874.122,34	1.585.775,43
	2.096.200,24	1.781.575,07

LIABILITIES

	31.12.2008 €	31.12.2007 €
A. Equity capital		
I. Foundation capital		
1. Endowment	100.000,00	100.000,00
2. Donations	11.951,59	11.951,59
II. Reserves from earnings	1.923.408,71	1.449.090,01
III. Carry-over of funds	0,00	0,00
	2.035.360,30	1.561.041,60
B. Provisions		
Other provisions	23.938,00	43.433,08
	23.938,00	43.433,08
C. Liabilities		
1. Liabilities towards banks	0,00	6.900,00
2. Liabilities from funds not used for foundation's purpose	1.051,30	0,00
3. Other liabilities	35.850,64	170.200,39
	36.901,94	177.100,39
	2.096.200,24	1.781.575,07

Comparison balance sheet 2007/2008

Annual General Meeting, Hamburg, May 2008



WFC Councillor Frances Moore-Lappé at the public event "The Future in our Hands"



WFC Councillor Pauline Tangiora at the KidsCall workshop



Children presenting their appeals in the Hamburg City Hall



WFC Councillors Scilla Elworthy and Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger



WFC Councillors discussing the work programme – front row from left to right: Nicholas Dunlop, Cyd Ho, Kaarin Taipale



WFC Councillors Beate Weber, Cyd Ho, Sulak Sivaraksa, Pauline Tangiora, WFC Director of Programmes Herbert Girardet and WFC Founder Jakob von Uekull at the KidsCall workshop

On behalf of future generations, thank you!



A huge thank you to our supporters and donors in 2008

Core funding:

Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg
Dr. Michael Otto /
otto GmbH & Co. KG

Other supporters:

Angelica Foundation
Artists Project Earth (APE)
As You Sow Foundation
BP Solar
First Solar
GLS Bank
HafenCity University
Heinrich Böll Foundation
KBB GmbH – Department Berliner
Festspiele
Max & Anna Levinson Foundation
Livingry Fund of the Tides
Foundation
Frank Otto
Nexant
Northwest Solar Center at
Washington State University
Planetarium Hamburg
Schweisfurth Foundation
Azad Shivdasani
SolarWorld California
Dieter von Specht
Foundation Third Millennium
Whole Systems Foundation
Barbara Woschek
Ann and Dr. Hans-Rudolf Zulliger

and to any other unnamed generous supporters.

The World Future Council's successful ongoing work is only made possible by the support of many people around the world – through their ideas, the work they contribute and their donations. Together, we will ensure that our children and grandchildren inherit a world worth living in!

You can support us in the following ways:

You can assist the work of the World Future Council in general or support a specific Expert Commission that you feel passionate about. Please donate by bank transfer or cheque.

Bank transfer:

World Future Council
GLS Bank
Account Number: 200 900 4000
Sort Code: 430 609 67

IBAN: DE70 4306 0967 2009 0040 00
BIC (SWIFT-Code): GENODEM1GLS

Cheque:

Please make cheques payable to
"World Future Council" and send
them to:
World Future Council
P.O. Box 11 01 53
20401 Hamburg, Germany

Tax deduction:

Your charitable donation is tax-deductible in Germany. In order to make a tax-deductible donation from other countries, please contact the WFC's Head Office.



Your contact:

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



"Hamburg has a duty to provide a high quality of life for our children and grandchildren. For that reason, the City supports the World Future Council, which stands for responsibility towards future generations."
Ole von Beust, First Mayor of the City of Hamburg



"Now is the time to tackle our generation's problems at full speed to ensure that our Earth remains a place well suited for life."
Barbara Seiller, founding donor



"I am happy to support the WFC and in particular its research and policy goals, because of the WFC's commitment to understanding and implementing what really works in the struggle to a sustainable future for the Earth and its precious inhabitants."
Azad Shivdasani, Chairman, Inlaks Group

