

# PATHFINDER

Our Annual Report 2019 –  
and a look ahead

Green jobs and political participation: **An “Oscar” for the best policies to empower youth**

**100% renewable energy:** An insight into our work

**Disarmament:** How we inspire young people and engage with parliamentarians to abolish nuclear weapons

Sustainable ecosystems and protecting livelihoods: Our commitment to **Marine Protection Areas** and **agroecology**



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and a look ahead

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## IMPRINT

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# PREFACE

**Dear Friends,**

We at the **World Future Council** are working towards a healthy, sustainable planet with peaceful and just societies. This goal is shared by our 50 Councillors from all over the world, and by our dedicated Ambassadors and Sponsors.

In the interest of current and future generations, we identify the best solutions to the challenges facing humanity. We make them visible and promote their worldwide implementation in cooperation with our partners and decision-makers.

Many excellent solutions for people and the planet already exist at the local, regional, or international level. We honour some of these each year with our "Policy Oscar", the Future Policy Award to promote better living conditions for current and future generations.

Holistic and interlinked thinking and action are essential for the complex challenges of our time. For 2019–2020 our work priorities are:

- Climate Protection and Renewable Energy
- The Rights of Children and Youth
- Sustainable Ecosystems and Livelihoods
- Peace and Disarmament

On the following pages we invite you to learn more about our projects and our impact, our solutions and our activities, our way of working, and our worldwide network.

Without the continuous support from our donors, institutional partners and volunteers, we would not be as strong as we are today. Thank you very much for your support. Please stay in touch and let us continue making the world a better place!

In the words of our founder Jakob von Uexkull: **„The good news is that solutions already exist for the major threats facing us. It is now time to spread these solutions in the interest of current and future generations.“**

Warmest wishes,



*Alexandra Wandel*

**Alexandra Wandel**  
Chair  
Management Board



*T. Boitor*

**Theodor Boitor**  
Management Board



*F. Gottwald*

**Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald**  
Chair  
Supervisory Board



# OUR HIGHLIGHTS

Our aim is to leave a healthy planet and a fair society to our children and grandchildren. We envision a sustainable, just, and peaceful future where universal rights are respected. To achieve this, we identify, research, and spread the best and most sustainable policy solutions around the world. Here are the highlights of our work.



## 100 % RENEWABLE ENERGY!

Our ambition is 100 per cent renewable energy – worldwide. We promoted cooking with renewable energy in Sierra Leone, supported Costa Rica in achieving its goal of decarbonising the country by 2050, and raised awareness among decision makers in Bangladesh about the effects of climate change on the erosion of coastal land and river banks. For more information, see [pages 6–7](#).



## MORE CLIMATE FINANCE!

To find out how central banks could reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 37 per cent by 2030, see [page 8](#).



## EMPOWERING YOUTH!

In 2019, our “Oscar” for best policies was dedicated to empowering youth. Learn how they can be supported with green jobs and political participation on [pages 10–11](#).



## LESS WEAPONS!

We inspire young people and engage with parliamentarians to abolish nuclear weapons. For more information on our work towards peace and disarmament, see [pages 16–17](#).



### **MORE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS!**

We are committed to the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and for 30% of the oceans to be protected by 2030. Find out how we engage in the protection of our oceans on [pages 14–15](#).



### **MORE AGROECOLOGY!**

At our events, we have inspired and informed more than 1,000 decision makers and representatives from politics, science, business, and civil society about the best agroecology solutions. Read more on [pages 12–13](#).



### **LESS CHEMICALS!**

Our upcoming Future Policy Award will highlight the best policies for protecting current and future generations from hazardous chemicals. Learn more on [page 9](#).



### **MORE ACTION!**

Our Councillors have called on world leaders to take immediate action to address the world's greatest challenges. Many solutions already exist – all we need to do is to spread them! Read more on [pages 18–19](#).

## INTERVIEW:

# COUNCILLOR DR. C. OTTO SCHARMER

Our Councillors come from many different countries and regions of the world. They are all united by their outstanding achievements in their areas of work. In 2019, six new Council members joined us: the Ecuadorian diplomat Maria Fernanda Espinosa, the German political economist Prof. Dr Maja Göpel, the Tanzanian economist Dr Frannie Leautier, the South African human rights expert Dr Nkatha Murungi, the Canadian researcher Andrea Reimer and the German-American researcher and author Dr C. Otto Scharmer.

In this year's Path Finder, we talk to Dr. Scharmer about his work with the **World Future Council**, the challenges of our times and his hopes for the future. He is a senior lecturer at the **MIT Sloan School of Management** and co-founder of the **Presencing Institute**. He chairs the **MIT IDEAS programme** for cross-sector innovation and introduced the concept of "presencing"—learning from the emerging future—in his bestselling books *Theory U* and *Presence*. His most recent book, *The Essentials of Theory U*, outlines the core principles and applications of awareness-based systems change.



**In 2019 you joined the World Future Council and we are so delighted to have you on board. Why are the rights of future generations so close to your heart?**

I am glad myself to be part of the **World Future Council!** Our work is more important than ever. There was never a generation on earth whose decisions have such a profound impact on future generations. And that is why it is foundational for everything that we contemplate our future in our current decision making.

**Cross-sector innovation, transformation, societal renewal – these are the topics you are working on as a researcher. In which way would you like to use your skills, knowledge, and ideas to the work with the WFC?**

I think most people across countries and continents would agree on the following three statements. First, the way we live and work today is not sustainable. Second, people want to participate and be part of a different story of the future that they can feel good about. And third, the problem is they do not know how to do that. My work is about developing methods and tools, awareness-based social technologies, that help people, communities, and larger systems to reimagine and reshape the future that they want to create. We need to inspire a global movement to reinvent our economy towards sustainable wellbeing, more participatory democracies, and high-quality education for all. Therefore, you need to bring together the thought leaders and hands-on innovators that prototype concrete ways of reimagining and reshaping our civilization. And that is what inspires me about the **World Future Council**: The constellation of Councillors is a core group in co-pioneering the path forward.

**The challenges of our time are so intertwined that we think and work holistically. Where do you see important interfaces between climate protection, children's rights, food systems and peace?**

One thing you see in the system-changing challenges that we face today is that no sector can change the system alone. So, when you think about the future of education, of health, of farm and food, of children rights, of the climate situation, those are not many different conversations, that is one conversation that is highly interconnected. What is missing today is that we cross-link those topics and that we help on the practical side to bring together players and the pioneers and innovators in this field.

**The topics we are working on are very complex. But they will (and certainly already do) affect everyone and everywhere.**

**How would you explain to a child how the WFC works and why it is so important?**

I grew up on a farm and so that probably influences my thinking a little bit. To have food tomorrow we need to sow the seeds today. And we need to cultivate the soil today. In that way what the **World Future Council** does is to be the good farmer. The one that cares for the soil, that cares for the seeds, and that creates the conditions today so that tomorrow something will grow for those who want to eat tomorrow.

**What is your hope for future generations?**

We are moving towards a profound moment of disruption that started with the COVID-19 pandemic and continued with the Black Lives Matter movement. These made all of us aware of the level of interdependency that we share, and opened our minds and hearts on the level of the collective. The distance between myself as a privileged person and others who do not enjoy these privileges is melting away. But there is an enormous fragility and we can go between the real possibility of reimagining our civilization towards an ecological and social divide. My hope for our current and future generations is that together we can rise to the occasion to put the collective development on the path of renewal, and not on the path of self-destruction. I think all the tools and living examples are there, but we have not quite connected them in the way that we need to. That is the task that we need to live up to, and I try to be in service of.



# OUR GOAL: 100 % RENEWABLE ENERGY

For climate protection, fair economies, and sustainable development

**R**enewable energy plays a crucial role in sustainable development and the fight against climate change. 100 per cent renewable energy is not only technically feasible. It also offers long-term socio-economic benefits, particularly for countries in the Global South. We are therefore working on realising this vision globally.

In our Climate & Energy projects, we empower policymakers to implement future-just climate and energy policies. We develop tools for policy design and implementation, build political alliances, and facilitate the policy-science interface to get key target countries and regions on track for a max. 1.5°C increase in global warming. For this, we aim to change international commitments, like the **Paris Agreement** and **Agenda 2030**, into concrete national action plans.





## SIERRA LEONE

About 3 billion people globally rely on wood or charcoal for cooking. This has serious health consequences, especially for women and children, as well as consequences for deforestation. Clean cooking with renewable energy can be a solution! In Sierra Leone, we developed key principles for the development of renewable energy and clean cooking policies with legislators from the **Mano River Union** (Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia). Dr Kandeh Yumkella, an MP in Sierra Leone and former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, stated that "it was unique that clean cooking was accorded the same degree of importance as decentralised renewable energies." This project was undertaken in the context of the **Global Renewables Congress**, a new network of parliamentarians dedicated to upscaling renewable energy solutions. It was supported by the **Stiftung Mercator**, the **German Federal Environmental Foundation**, and our ambassador, Amir Roughani.

## BANGLADESH

A study tour to the coastal region of Chittagong in Bangladesh convened policymakers to experience the impact of climate change on the erosion of coastal land and riverbanks. People living in these areas need to frequently relocate due to loss of their land. Leveraging the potential of decentralised, portable energy systems and portable electric cooking stoves by enabling policy measures can play a crucial role in adapting to such extremes. Together with our partners **Bread for the World**, **Coastal Development Partnership (CDP)**, and the **University of Sydney**, we developed a study that outlines a concrete roadmap showing how 100 per cent renewable energy is possible in this Asian country.



## COSTA RICA

The Central American country is already a frontrunner when it comes to renewable energy. Since 2014, roughly 95–98 per cent of its electricity has come from renewable sources, while providing access to energy to almost all the population. However, despite electricity production being nearly 100 per cent from renewables, around 70 per cent of the country's overall energy still comes from oil and gas, which is still widely used for transport, heating processes in the industry, as well as for activities like cooking. In Costa Rica, together with the **Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation**, we supported the government and parliamentarians in developing renewable energy strategies for achieving the country's decarbonisation ambition by 2050.

## EUROPEAN UNION

For the **European Green Deal** agenda in the European Union, decarbonisation is considered a key issue in moving this agenda forward and growing the competitiveness of the EU economy. In a series of workshops, we convened policymakers from across the EU to discuss the most pressing questions around decarbonisation and the crucial next steps for the EU to become the first carbon-neutral continent. The final summaries will be handed over to the European Commission in 2020.

# CLIMATE FINANCE

## HOW FINANCIAL TOOLS CAN PAVE THE WAY IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION



### How Can We Finance More Renewable Energy Investments in the Global South?

Most renewable energy investments occur in high-income countries and China, while only a very small proportion is invested in renewables in the Global South. Between 2009 and 2018, only 0.1 per cent of the total clean energy investments were in the 31 poorest countries. The main barrier to more investments in the Global South is not a lack of (green) investment capital, but rather a lack of bankable projects.

Our policy brief for the **Global Renewables Congress** provides an overall assessment of climate finance in the Global South. It outlines a possible new finance mechanism if at least a few relevant central banks from the industrialised world engage in the global climate finance issue. Such an engagement could be the basis for facilitating the necessary investments in renewable energy to keep global warming below 1.5°C.



Find the paper on our website:

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/  
climate-finance-for-global-south](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/climate-finance-for-global-south)

### The World After COVID-19: Three Tools for Central Banks to Enable a Green Economy

Because climate change threatens financial stability, it is part of the central banks' mandate. Unfortunately, in contrast to other systemic risk situations like the COVID-19 health crisis, where central banks spent trillions and multiplied their balance sheets. This risk is not yet reflected in their monetary policies.

Our recent study provides three new tools for central banks to tackle climate change in an efficient way, without increasing the money supply.

If the **European Central Bank (ECB)** used the tools suggested in the study, we could achieve:

- **A 37 per cent reduction** in global CO2 emissions by **2030** by using **20 per cent** of the EU's **€750 billion** purchase programme.
- A reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions to a **net zero by 2040** then becomes possible if more central banks participate.



Find our new study online:

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/  
new-study-tackling-the-climate-crisis-  
and-the-corona-pandemic-recession](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/new-study-tackling-the-climate-crisis-and-the-corona-pandemic-recession)



OUR UPCOMING  
FUTURE POLICY AWARD



## HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Every year, 1.6 million people die because they are exposed to harmful chemicals – about 4.300 each day. Most babies are born “pre-polluted” since their mothers have been exposed to hazardous chemicals. This impacts both current and future generations. Many hazardous chemicals from our environment end up in the food chain and in drinking water, and accumulate in our body. The chemical industry is a booming market: According to the UN, the current chemical production capacity of 2.3 billion tonnes is projected to double by 2030.

**It is critical to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste to protect people and the environment from dangerous chemicals, such as those contained in highly toxic pesticides, plastic products, and lead in paint.** Therefore, in 2020, we are investigating the most effective policy solutions that protect our environment and our health from hazardous chemicals.

**We will celebrate the winners of the Future Policy Award in a high-level award ceremony at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) held in Bonn (Germany).** The ceremony is convened by the **World Future Council** in partnership with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, the **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**, the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, the **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**, and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, with the support of the **German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU)**, the **German Environment Agency (UBA)**, the **Michael Otto Foundation**, and the **Jua Foundation**.



Find out more:

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/chemicals](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/chemicals)

**FUTURE POLICY AWARD:  
YOUTH FOR A BETTER FUTURE**



**A**t 1.8 billion, we now have the largest generation of young people the world has ever known. They are directly affected by the consequences of climate change, environmental degradation, and poverty. If we do not act today, their future is in danger! 2019 was marked by hundreds of thousands of young people taking to the streets for this reason. Supporting them and improving their opportunities means creating a better future for them. We have made an important contribution to this: Our 2019 “Oscar” for best policies honoured the best solutions for empowering young people. We also work towards ensuring children’s rights to a safe and healthy environment.

**Education for Sustainable Development**

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) plays a central role in empowering learners of all ages to positively respond to local and global challenges and act in a more peaceful, just, inclusive, and sustainable manner. Our groundbreaking Policy Handbook explores some of the central success factors in policy, process, and practice in a more holistic, progressive, hands-on education.



Download our Policy Handbook:  
[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/esd-handbook-2019](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/esd-handbook-2019)



**1.8 BILLION**  
Today’s generation of adolescents and young people is larger than at any other time in history.  
(UNDP)



**2.2 %**  
of parliamentarians around the world are under 30 years old.  
(IPU)



**1 IN 5**  
young persons are not in employment, education or training (NEET). Of these, 3 out of 4 are women.  
(ILO)



**60:40**  
is the male:female ratio among younger MPs. The gender imbalance is less pronounced among young parliamentarians.  
(IPU)



**13 %**  
According to ILO, the global youth unemployment rate was three times higher than the figure for adults, which was 4.3% in 2018. The OECD has forecast a dramatic increase due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
(ILO)



### Empowering Youth!

Our “Oscar” for best policies is dedicated to policies that empower young people to build a fair and sustainable future, that advance youth access to decent jobs, including green jobs, and enhance their civic and political participation for sustainable development and peace.



#### **GOLD:** **RWANDA**

Rwanda’s **YouthConnekt** programme empowers youth, connects them with the private sector, government employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, and strengthens their civic engagement and leadership. The **YouthConnekt Africa Summit** aims to transform the continent with potent young actors by creating 10 million jobs for youth in sustainable job environments, reducing gender inequalities.



#### **SILVER:** **SCOTLAND**

**Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)** is Scotland’s youth employment strategy and the government’s commitment to tackling youth unemployment and improving the skill levels of young people to adapt to market requirements. DYW is now an integral part of the Scottish education system. Its headline target, to reduce youth unemployment by 40 per cent by 2021, was reached four years ahead of schedule, and more than 28,000 Modern Apprenticeships have been created.



#### **BRONZE:** **SOUTH AFRICA**

The **Expanded Public Works Programme** is a nationwide programme and the country’s largest active labour market policy, which, since its inception, has generated over 8 million work opportunities, primarily reaching women (66 per cent) and youth (46 per cent). A number of initiatives specifically targeted at the youth have been established. In recent years, the training component was also increased. The initiative is now in Phase 4 (2019-2024) and aims to create 5.6 million work opportunities by 2024.



For more information, videos, and photos on the winning policies, please visit our website: [www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/2019-empowering-youth](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/2019-empowering-youth)

In partnership with the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, with the support of the **Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth**, the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, **Youth Policy Labs (YPL)**, the **Michael Otto Foundation** and the **Jua Foundation**.

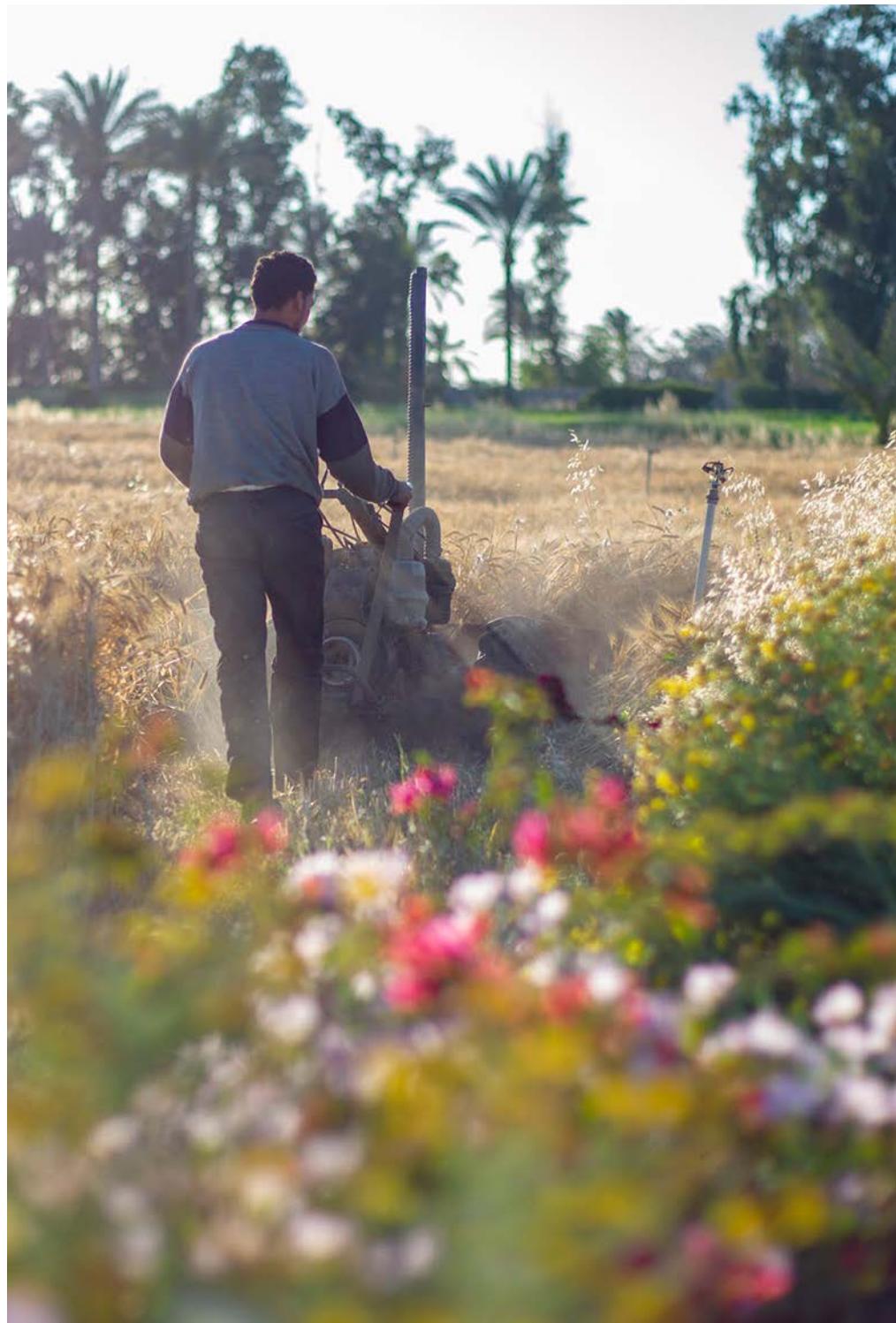
# CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING PRACTICES IN **AGROECOLOGY** 2019

**W**e urgently need to transform our food systems! Agroecology is more than organic farming, since it also includes ecological and socio-cultural principles. We have already worked on this topic in our **Future Policy Award 2018**.

The recognition of **“Outstanding Practices in Agroecology 2019” (OPA 2019)** highlights practices that empower small-scale food producers, nurture sustainable food production systems, and promote resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems and strengthen the capacity to adapt to climate change. In collaboration with the start-up **TAGS (Technology for Agroecology in the Global South)**, the recognition seeks to raise global awareness for these exemplary practices and accelerate action towards just, sustainable, and peaceful societies. The best practices came from Egypt, Benin, India, Niger, Zimbabwe, and more countries in the Global South.



Outstanding Practice in  
**AGROECOLOGY 2019**



## UNCCD COP14, NEW DELHI

At the **UN Conference on Combating Desertification (UNCCD COP14)** in New Delhi, we hosted the event “Agroecology and organic agriculture in India and the Himalayas: Enhancing fertile landscapes and improving living conditions” together with our partners **UNCCD** and **IFOAM**. As a follow-up to our **Agroecology Future Policy Award**, we showcased the progress in the agroecological and organic movement. We highlighted the Indian state of Sikkim, the first 100 per cent organic state in the world, which received the UN backed Future Policy Gold Award in 2018, and the 100 per cent organic farming goals of Bhutan. Sikkim has led India’s scaling up of agroecology by improving livelihoods and combating desertification and land degradation.

During the session, we also launched the study “The Mainstreaming of Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in the Himalaya Region. Policy Contexts in Bhutan, India and Nepal” which showcases existing political support for organic farming and agroecology across the Himalaya Region.



Read the study online:  
[wfc.world/3c9dS3Y](http://wfc.world/3c9dS3Y)

## HELIOPOLIS UNIVERSITY, CAIRO

About 200 students, representatives from policy-making, academia, business, and civil society participated in the event “**Solutions for Scaling up Agroecology**” in Cairo, Egypt. The event showcased impactful solutions that scale up agroecology, **OPA 2019**, and **2018 Future Policy Award** winners alike. The event made clear that, when executed at scale, agroecology creates an immediate and real impact. It urged for 100 per cent agroecology and organic agriculture, secure drinking water and food for all, ensuring a sustainable future. By showcasing practical, effective, and low-cost solutions, it inspired decision makers and other participants to accelerate their action to create enabling environments for agroecology and organic agriculture. With the kind support of **SEKEM**, **Did-It**, **Technology in the Global South**, and the **Schweisfurth Foundation**.



Find out more online:  
[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/opa-2019](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/opa-2019)



## FARM OKUKUNA

On the outer boundaries of the informal settlements of Windhoek, Namibia, our team continues with a pioneering project: Farm Okukuna. In this project, we aim to improve food security in the northern settlements of Namibia’s capital.

Various courses and workshops in Okukuna have helped the participants develop their skills in vegetable cultivation, soil science, furniture making, and other essential areas.

At Okukuna, we focus particularly on permaculture approaches. We want to do more than just “teach”. We want to find sustainable solutions with the locals that are in harmony with the natural ecosystems and cycles. Our goal is to develop new concepts which are then disseminated through partners such as the city administration, local universities, and other NGOs – in Windhoek, Namibia, and the entire region. The farm is also a platform for other organisations to test new approaches in practice, e.g. solar ovens, dry toilets, or water filters to be used in slum areas. With kind support from the **Liselotte Foundation**.

# **PRESERVING DIVERSITY:** **30% BY 2030 – OUR COMMITMENT** **TO PROTECTING OUR OCEANS**





The Antarctic with its rich marine life is considered one of the world's last paradises. However, climate change, overfishing, the extraction of raw materials, tourism, and other human influences endanger this unique ecosystem. Protecting the Antarctic habitat is therefore part of our “**Oceans**” programme where we are committed to the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Our goal is that 30 per cent of the oceans are protected in this way by 2030, with a special focus on Antarctica. We even want to go one step further and demand the protection of 30 per cent of the land area. Only in this way can we at least partially preserve the diversity of life on this planet.

To achieve this goal, we are holding talks at the highest level and are working to convince decision makers. After all, MPAs can only be implemented if countries act together. We are part of an international network that forges alliances for marine protection. Together with the **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)** and the **PEW Charitable Trusts**, we held an Oceans workshop with more than 40 participants from 19 Arab countries. The event took place in Amman, Jordan, and was officially opened by Her Highness, Princess Alia of Jordan.

We actively worked towards strengthening the Global Ocean Alliance, which consists of a number of countries committed to protecting 30 per cent of the oceans by 2030. We work closely with Germany, who became a member of the alliance in 2020. We have also been convincing at the EU level. But this is not enough. Together with Russia and China, we must bring on board major powers that have been reluctant to support the MPAs. And we are committed to ensuring that the German government will become active at the highest level.



**W**e are living in dangerous times: In January this year, the Doomsday Clock, a well-known symbol that represents the likelihood of a human-made global catastrophe, was moved forward to 100 seconds to midnight as a result of the growing threats to civilization from nuclear weapons and climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the threat to global stability. In our Peace & Disarmament project, we are working to phase out the reliance on the use of force in international relations, abolish nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and shift military budgets and investments towards supporting public health and sustainable development.

To achieve this, we engage with policymakers, especially mayors and parliamentarians, to advance exemplary policies on nuclear disarmament. In 2019, we ran a number of international parliamentary events at the **United Nations**, the **Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly** and the **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**. We also organised a joint appeal to mayors and parliamentarians, addressing nuclear arms control and the deteriorating relationship between Russia and the West.

## UNFOLD ZERO

We are co-founders of **UNFOLD ZERO** – a platform for United Nations initiatives to abolish nuclear weapons and end war.

Together with our partners in 2019, we organised events at the **United Nations** during the Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (May) and for the International Day Against Nuclear Tests (29 August). We also coordinated global action for the UN International Day of Peace (September 21) and the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September). Many of these activities focused on advancing **Our Common Future – the new UN agenda for disarmament**.

# OUR ENGAGEMENT FOR PEACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

## HOW WE INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE AND ENGAGE WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS



### MOVE THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS MONEY

Imagine if there was \$1 trillion available for food and housing for the poor, hospitals, teachers, home solar panels... instead, this sum is planned to be spent on nuclear weapons over the next ten years. To raise awareness on the issue and to promote nuclear weapon and fossil fuel divestment, we hosted conferences and workshops in Europe, North America, and Asia. We also organised public action on the European Arms Trade (valued at \$27 billion per year) and on the nuclear weapons budget (\$1 trillion over 10 years). In these actions, activists in New York and elsewhere counted out mock money by hand for 7 days and 7 nights to draw attention to this waste of resources, reallocating it to the Sustainable Development Goals.



### CLIMATE/NUCLEAR NEXUS, WOMEN, AND YOUTH

Climate change and nuclear weapons represent two key threats in our time. Climate-related shocks are amplifying the world's existing conflicts. This could contribute to a decline in international stability and trigger hostility between people and nations. Meanwhile, nuclear weapons remain in the arsenal of only a few states who possess the force to destroy life on earth as we know it many times over.

Educating youth and empowering women and young people to act on climate, peace and nuclear disarmament is another important pillar in our Peace & Disarmament work. In 2019, we ran a **Youth Voices** video project, organised an international conference on the legacy of Bertha von Suttner – the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize – and launched the **Peace and Climate action of European Youth (PACEY) Award**. The inaugural prize went to the **Green Building Municipality** project, a multi-ethnic youth gardening initiative from a conflict region in Kosovo.



## SOLUTIONS EXIST:

# SECURING A WORLD OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE

**2019** was a year in which the Amazon rainforest burnt, pictures of bush fires in Australia shocked the world, and young people took to the streets for climate action. It was a year that shook many people: Our planet is suffering and each one of us is affected – if not today, then tomorrow.

**2020** saw a crisis of unprecedented severity strike humanity: the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic continues to claim hundreds of thousands of victims and people all over the world are experiencing lockdown for weeks and often months. The crisis has once again made it clear: The immune system of our planet is damaged; our civilization is vulnerable. “Business as usual” is not an option – we must build a world that is fairer and more resilient.

Our Council members have achieved much in their work for a better world. They are now calling on world leaders to tackle the most serious challenges of our time. Many solutions for climate resilience, prosperity, and peace for all, strengthening children’s rights, and much more already exist. We must now change direction: We have the answers, now it is time to act.





## WORLD FUTURE FORUM: SEKEM CALL TO ACTION

During our **World Future Forum** in Egypt, our Councillors drafted a declaration which identifies key solutions and calls for immediate action. These are the main points:

- Immediate measures to reduce carbon emissions by half by 2030 to avoid a climate catastrophe and to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050.
- Eliminate nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.
- Divert a substantial proportion of the \$1.7 trillion military budget to sustainable development.
- Urgent action to accelerate the transition towards a green new deal while mainstreaming circular, regenerative economies.
- Eradication of hunger by adopting 100 per cent agroecology.
- Protect at least 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030.
- Expand all curricula in education to include sustainable development.
- Appoint guardians for future generations at all levels of decision-making.



Read the full declaration online:  
[wfc.world/36eHprC](http://wfc.world/36eHprC)

## FOR A FAIRER AND MORE RESILIENT WORLD: NOW AND AFTER COVID-19

In May 2020, Members of the **World Future Council** signed a letter to world leaders in which they outline recommendations and call for immediate targeted actions required to rebuild a resilient and just world now and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Out of a deep respect for life on earth, the **World Future Council** members urge leaders to address the planet's interconnected crises, to ensure resilience in the long-term, and to act urgently to implement far-reaching, appropriate measures.



Read the full letter here:  
[wfc.world/2YHSGiA](http://wfc.world/2YHSGiA)



## THOUGHTS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Is there a connection between our food system, agriculture, and the coronavirus? How does the COVID-19 pandemic relate to climate change? Should we be treating animals better to avoid a future pandemic? Could we have avoided the virus outbreak if we had shifted public funds from military to sustainable development? Our Members have been reflecting on the COVID-19 health crisis. We would like to share their interesting thoughts with you! On our website we have put together some exciting articles for you.

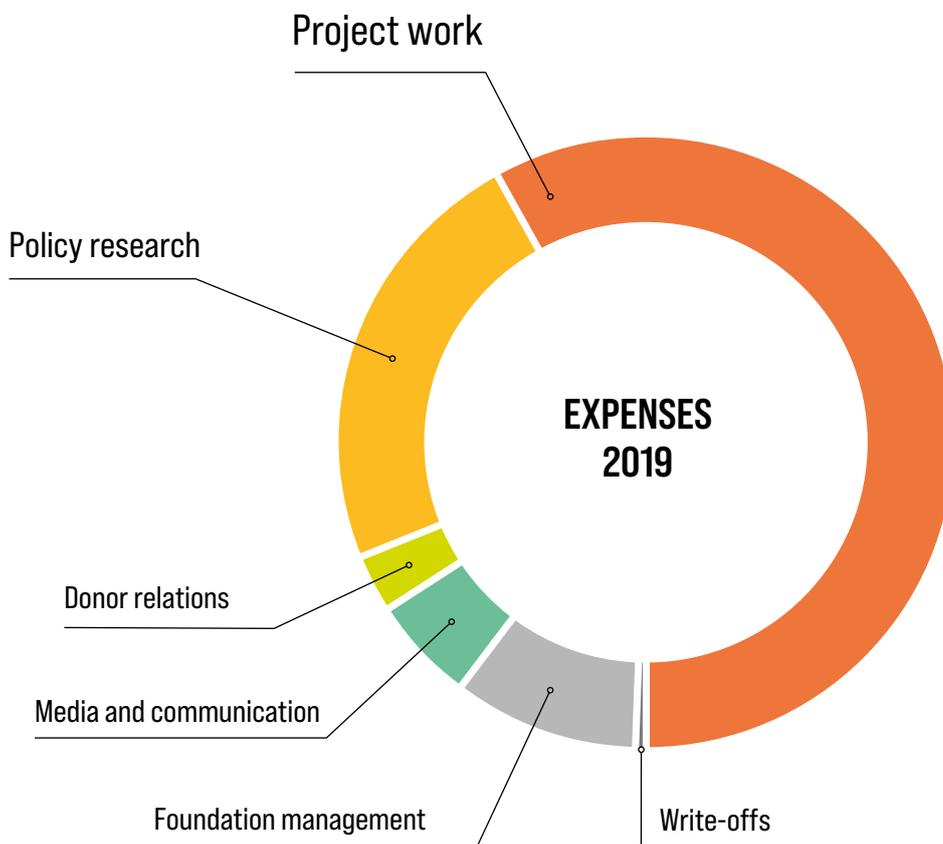


[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/  
thoughts-on-the-coronavirus-crisis](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/thoughts-on-the-coronavirus-crisis)

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

**T**he **World Future Council** is an independent charitable foundation. We ensure that all expenditures of the foundation are spent in accordance with our statutes. Schomerus & Partner mbB has prepared the foundation's annual accounts for 2019 and confirms that these meet legal requirements. **Schomerus & Partner mbB** compiled the annual financial statements – comprising the balance sheet, the profit and loss account, and the notes to the financial statements – of the **World Future Council** foundation, Hamburg, for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2019 in accordance with German commercial law.

For the reporting of the 2019 figures, the cost allocation for two positions was changed. Whereas until 2018 all expenses relating to media work and donor relations were reported in total in the corresponding lines, from 2019 project-related expenses for media work and donor relations will be reported in the line project work.



Work of the foundation	2019	2018
	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
<b>I. Earnings</b>		
Donations <sup>1</sup>	795	1 106
External funding	54	40
Other income	48	40
Result from asset management <sup>2</sup>	-23	58
Special purpose operations	43	38
Economic business operations	2	10
<b>Total earnings <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>918</b>	<b>1 292</b>
<b>II. Expenditure <sup>2</sup></b>		
■ Project work	562	548
■ Policy research <sup>3</sup>	224	116
■ Donor relations <sup>4</sup>	28	70
■ Media and communication <sup>4</sup>	56	110
■ Foundation management <sup>5</sup>	94	115
■ Write-offs	2	2
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>961</b>
<b>Annual results</b>	<b>-47</b>	<b>332</b>
<b>Retained earnings <sup>6</sup></b>	<b>721</b>	<b>780</b>
<b>Foundation capital</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>617</b>

<sup>1</sup> Earnings in 2018 of EUR 291 thousand for ongoing projects in 2019

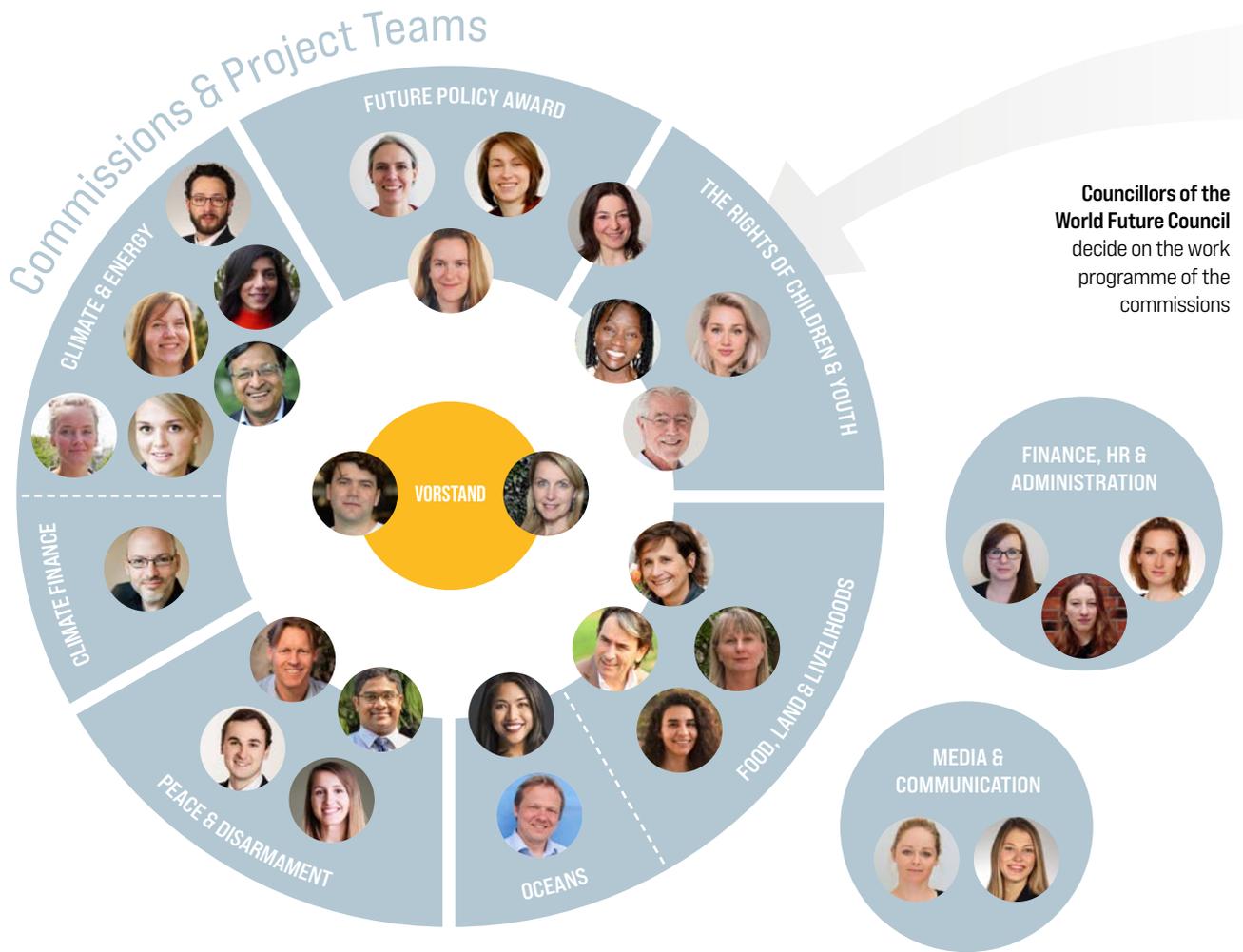
<sup>2</sup> In 2019: Result from asset management is negative due to a one-off effect from disposal of assets

<sup>3</sup> The proportion of research work in 2019 was higher than in the previous year, particularly in the projects in climate and energy

<sup>4</sup> Deviations in the items compared with 2018 partly due to changed cost allocations, see note above

<sup>5</sup> Accounting, financial report, auditing, management

<sup>6</sup> Retained earnings consist mainly of project-related funds received in 2019 for the year 2020 and a small cost reserve



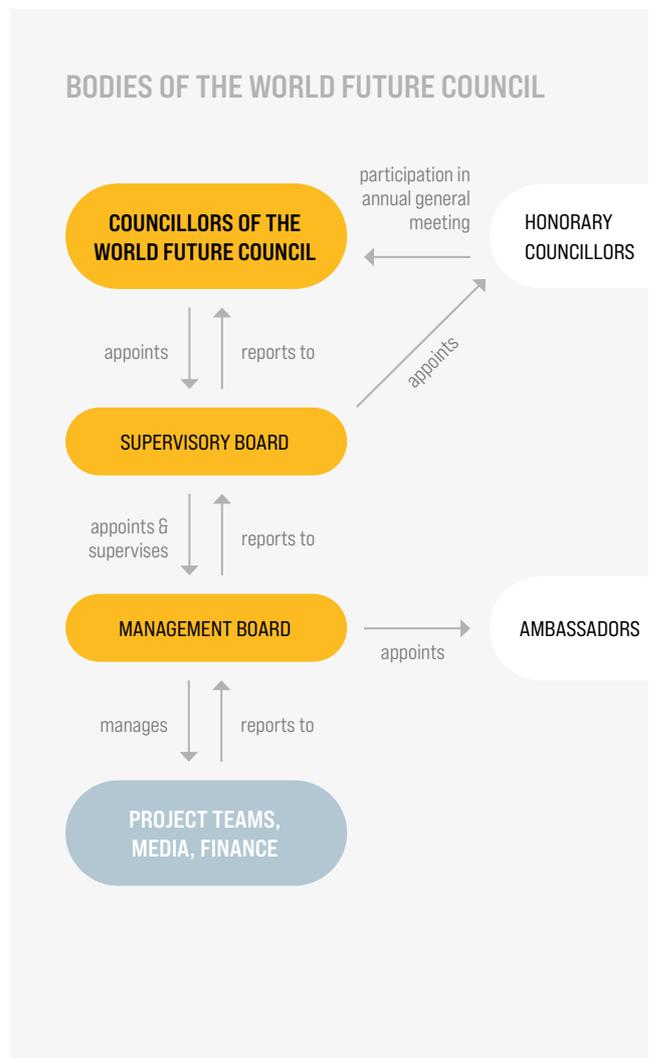
## HOW DOES THE WORLD FUTURE COUNCIL WORK

The **World Future Council** consists of the Council, the Supervisory Board, the Management Board and the staff in Hamburg, Prague, Cairo and Windhoek.

The **Council** has at least 25, and at most 50, members from the fields of politics, science, business, civil society, and the arts who have made outstanding contributions to sustainability and future justice in their respective fields. The Council identifies urgent issues and determines the agenda for our work.

The work is carried out in **commissions** or **project teams** that are active in different fields, but nevertheless jointly contribute to the goals of the **World Future Council**. Each commission has one or two Council members as chairs and a team member as staff coordinator.

The **Supervisory Board** appoints, advises and monitors the **Management Board** and reports to the Council. The Management Board manages the foundation's business, supports the commissions in their work, makes operational decisions and leads the team in their headquarters in Hamburg.



## Councillors



Dr hc Hafsat Abiola-Costello



Helmy Abouleish



Charlotte Aubin



Dr hc Maude Barlow



Dipal Chandra Barua



Prof. Dr Ana María Cetto



Dr Tony Colman



Thais Corral



Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger



Dr Scilla Elworthy



María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés



Anda Filip



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Prof. Dr Rafia Ghubash



Luc Gnacadja



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Neshan Gunasekera



Dr Hans R. Herren



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Prof. Dr Rolf Kreibich



Frances Moore Lappé



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Prof. Dr Alexander Likhotal



Dr Rama Mani



Julia Marton-Lefèvre



Wanjira Mathai



Jan McAlpine



Dr Nkatha Murungi



Cherie Nursalim



Dr Auma Obama



Anna R. Oposa



Dr Katiana Orluc



Andrea Reimer



Dr C. Otto Scharmer



Prof. Dr Vandana Shiva



Victoria Tauli-Corpuz



Alyn Ware



Anders Wijkman

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Dr Ahmed Djoghlaif



Dr Riane Eisler



Dr Olivier Giscard D'Estaing



Prof. Herbert Girardet



Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE



Dr Amb. Gertrude Ibengwé Mongella



Prof. Dr Michael Otto



Pauline Tangjora



Prof. Dr Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker



Barbara Woschek



Rt Hon. Helen Clark

## Ambassadors



Kehkashan Basu



Inez Bjørg David



Demian Dressler



Prof. Dr Maximilian Gege



Vinay Nayak



Frank Otto



Ismail Özen-Otto



Janina Özen-Otto



Anuschka Lichtenhahn-Pense



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Amir Roughani



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Ilsabe von Campenhausen



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Florian Hoffmann



Dr Katiana Orluc



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Holger Güsselfeld



Randy Hayes



Anja Leetz



Cyril Ritchie



Stefan Schurig

## Founder And Co-Founders



Jakob von Uexkull



Barbara Seiller



Prof. Dr Michael Otto



Prof. Herbert Girardet

# THANK YOU!

We would like to warmly thank everyone who has supported us and made our work possible in 2019.

## Friends and Donors:

- Helga and Manfred Braun
- Frank Otto
- Gunnar Seibt
- Farhad Vladi
- Jakob von Uexkull
- Barbara Woschek

## Foundations and Associations:

- Bread for the World
- German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Jua Foundation, Janina Özen-Otto
- Liselotte Foundation
- Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation
- Stiftung Mercator
- Michael Otto Foundation
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Schweisfurth Foundation
- Waterloo Foundation

## Institutions:

- European Commission, Directorate – General Research and Innovation
- University of Surrey

## Companies:

- Did-It – the Organic and Sustainable Partner
- grow platform GmbH – a Bosch company
- Noerr LLP
- Otto Group
- SEKEM
- Youthpolicy.org
- VISPIRON GmbH, Amir Roughani
- United Ventures S.A.

Donors listed supported the **World Future Council** in 2019 with cash and in-kind donations or services and partnerships worth €5,000 or more. We would also like to thank all donors who contributed to our achievements with smaller donations.



Renewable energy is the future, it provides people affordable energy and thus independence, agency, security, and much more. The World Future Council works to overcome today's challenges with solutions that really work. This is why I am an enthusiastic supporter of their mission.

### Amir Roughani

WFC Ambassador and CEO and founder of VISPIRON



”

Poverty and malnutrition have complex causes, such as unsustainable land use, pollution, or climate change. All these challenges are interlinked. The World Future Council works holistically, and therefore we are happy to support them.

### Anne Schweisfurth

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Schweisfurth Foundation, Alpine dairymaid, educator and curator



”

For many of the pressing problems of our time, good, sustainable policy solutions already exist – the World Future Council finds and disseminates them! After my withdrawal from the Management Board, I continue to support the WFC as a sponsor with all my heart.

### Jakob von Uexkull

Founder of the World Future Council and the Right Livelihood Award



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

In this issue of the **Path Finder**, you learnt about our commitment to future generations. Do you want to help pass on a healthy planet with peaceful societies to our children and grandchildren? If so, we are connected by a common goal. Our work would not be possible without the support of our donors. If you wish to improve the livelihood of millions of people with your donation, there are many ways to support the **World Future Council**.

## YOUR ADVANTAGES

Doing good is worth it: The **World Future Council** is a recognised charitable foundation. Donations are tax deductible. Inheritances and legacies are exempt from inheritance tax in Germany. U.S.-based donors can support our activities in a tax-efficient way through the **King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS)**.

### DONATIONS VIA BANK TRANSFER

World Future Council Foundation

**GLS Bank Bochum, Germany**

**IBAN:** DE70 4306 0967 2009 0040 00

**BIC/SWIFT:** GENODEM1GLS

### ONLINE DONATIONS

Easy, fast and safe:

Use our online donation form to donate or become a supporter

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org/donation](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/donation)

## EVENT DONATIONS

Whether a birthday, wedding anniversary, or company event: Many people want to do good on special occasions. You could, for example, arrange a keyword with us, write it on your invitation card, and ask people to transfer their donation directly to us.

**Feel free to contact us, and we will help you find the right procedure for your event.**

## YOUR LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

If you wish to do good beyond your life, you can support the **World Future Council** through a bequest. We would be happy to help you with your last will and testament to strengthen the rights of future generations.



### GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

Your contact person for all questions concerning donations:

**Alexandra Wandel**

Chair, Management Board

[alexandra.wandel@worldfuturecouncil.org](mailto:alexandra.wandel@worldfuturecouncil.org)

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