



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Permanent Mission of Jamaica
to the United Nations

15 May 2023

Excellency,

The Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, in their capacity as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process for a Declaration on Future Generations, would like to thank all delegations for their active participation and insightful contributions during the regional group consultations.

These consultations served as an opportunity to engage with Member States in a small and informal setting to exchange positions and visions on the substantive and procedural aspects of the Declaration on Future Generations. We took the opportunity to provide updates, clarifications and answers to important and interesting questions from diverse perspectives. We have listened carefully to your feedback provided on the concept note we shared as well as other suggestions as to the process, guiding principles and substance. We feel that the consultations contributed to a better understanding on how the Declaration links to the achievement of the SDGs and its relevance for both the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future. The Secretary General's Policy Brief: To Think and Act for Future Generations, the High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism report and other relevant documents all serve as inputs for Member States' consideration of the Declaration.

One message that was reinforced throughout the consultations was the understanding that the work towards a Declaration on Future Generations must not be seen as a distraction from the focus on the SDG Summit and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the upcoming High Level Week in September 2023. It was also understood that our work towards a commitment to future generations must not be conflated with the policy on youth. While young people and

children will have a role and be the subject of due consideration throughout the process, our work today towards securing a better foundation for future generations must be an intergenerational effort. On this note, there was also an acknowledgement that our decisions today have an intergenerational multiplier effect, such that whatever we do well now will redound to the benefit of future generations exponentially, while things we do badly or fail to do, will also make future generations worse off.

There has also been a common understanding that the Declaration on Future Generations should have a place in relation to the Summit of the Future in 2024. In this regard, we have noted many more comments that we will take into account as we prepare for the next steps.

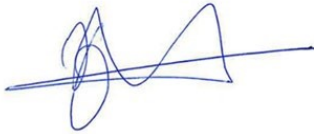
We have heard loud and clear the concerns on the work load of this session. We have made adjustments to the pace of our work in the past few weeks and ensured that Member States would have time to digest the policy brief of the Secretary General and the HLAB report. We invited experts from across the globe to join our first and second dialogues to hear multiple views on the topic. We secured a cross-regional representative youth panel for our third dialogue that provided meaningful youth engagement into our discussions. We have recorded each dialogue so anyone could review our discussions while we deepened our understanding on future generations. We organized regional consultations to listen to Member States about their expectations and questions and suggestions for this process.

We are currently working out the next steps of this process. We have heard that, at this stage, there is insufficient time and space to ensure meaningful engagement from the full membership to negotiate a Declaration on Future Generations by September 2023. We will therefore work on a set of principles to guide the process in the year to come. This year, we aim to deliver a short and concise document that will support the outcomes of the SDG Summit and the ministerial preparatory meeting on the Summit of the Future in September of this year.

In the annex you can find the concept note we used during the regional consultations. We will continue to collaborate with our fellow co-facilitators of the other processes to ensure the closest

coordination and alignment of our work, and will, in the coming days, provide Member States with an updated roadmap setting out our proposed plan of action through September 2023.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

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Yoka M.G. Brandt
Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, rounded initial 'B' followed by several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Wallace
Permanent Representative of
Jamaica to the United Nations