

The World Future Council's „Best Policy“-Approach

The World Future Council aims to identify and promote better practices among hundreds, indeed millions, of local, national and international policies and laws that are being set in place to promote sustainability, development and human rights. The World Future Council uses the Future Just Lawmaking Methodology. This methodology helps to choose among many laws and policies, and to ensure that these laws and policies contribute to sustainability for future generations and the fulfilment of human rights.

How Can a Law Be a Best Policy?

Laws and policies can support universal values. The best practices in law and policy for sustainable development will contribute to future justice, embodying the highest standard of sustainability, respect for human rights and protection of the environment. They will, in both their intention and their actual effect on the ground, work to defend the interests of current and future generations.

Most laws and policies are enacted by local or national societies through their chosen empowered authorities – they are specific tools for each community in its unique social, environmental, economic and cultural context. What works well in one reality might not work in another. However, it is still important to find and promote excellent new laws and policies that are delivering on sustainable development and the fulfilment of human rights.

The Future Just Lawmaking Methodology – How to determine that a policy is exemplary?

In order to assess laws and policies, the World Future Council uses the Future Just Lawmaking Methodology. In essence, this methodology seeks to answer the following fundamental question: What are the rules, practices and policies whose adoption could radically enhance the prospects of sustainability of life on our planet and the enjoyment of human rights of all people?

The Future Just Lawmaking Methodology is based on the universal 2002 New Delhi Declaration Principles of International Law on Sustainable Development that was developed through a decade of consultation and study by the International Law Association. It is founded, therefore, on the following seven principles:

1. Sustainable use of natural resources
2. Equity and the eradication of poverty
3. Precautionary approach to human health, natural resources and ecosystems
4. Public participation and access to information and justice
5. Governance and human security
6. Integration and interrelationship
7. Common but differentiated obligations

This Future Just Lawmaking Methodology, in the form of principled criteria, is not meant to let 'the best become the enemy of the good.' It is not a 'gold standard' for law and policymaking and implementation. Rather, the Future Just Lawmaking Methodology is pragmatic, focusing on what the laws and policies aim to do, and what their effects have been. It lays out a series of objective and inter-related questions that can be used to assess, in a qualitative way, how a law or policy is contributing to sustainable development and to the fulfilment of human rights.

The World Future Council

The World Future Council aims to be a global advocate for the concerns of future generations in international politics. The Council consists of 50 personalities from around the world who have already successfully promoted change in various and diverse fields. Their activities range from advocating human rights and sustaining the planet to promoting political, scientific, cultural and economic justice. The WFC's mission is to inform decision-makers about the challenges facing future generations and to provide them with practical policy solutions. The WFC identifies and promotes successful policies that can be implemented as laws, policy standards, and international agreements. To achieve this, the WFC draws on its networks of parliamentarians, institutions and organisations around the globe.

For more information, please visit our website www.worldfuturecouncil.org