



Human Rights Council, 57th session

**Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development,
Surya Deva
18 September 2024**

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) welcomes the report by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of children and future generations. The report makes an important distinction between these two groups, as holders of distinct interests and rights.

As the report highlights, international human rights law does not limit itself to protect only present generations. A growing number of human rights mechanisms have reiterated that States have obligations vis-à-vis future generations, including with regard to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The report helpfully recalls the Maastricht Principles on the human rights of future generations. Endorsed by more than 50 human rights experts, including UN experts, the Principles help to interpret and advance human rights law in a way that integrates future generations. We call on States and human rights mechanisms to continue to build on these Principles.

We regret to see that the current version of the Pact of the Future and Declaration on Future Generations, to be adopted in the context of the Summit of the Future, do not include rights language with regard to future generations. We look forward to the climate advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, expected in 2025, which will clarify States' obligations in relation to climate change, including vis-à-vis future generations, as well as the legal consequences should climate harm occur due to States' acts or omissions.

We echo the report's recommendation that States should better ensure the participation and representation of future generations in all decision-making processes, including those concerning the right to development, the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, ocean governance, new technologies, and trade and investment agreements. This is particularly relevant in the context of ongoing fossil fuels extraction, which is further fueling the climate crisis and jeopardizing the human rights of future generations.