



Empowering Youth

Decent and sustainable jobs and civic and political participation

Call for Nominations

Deadline: 26 April 2019

Prolonged deadline: Nominate policies for the Future Policy Award 2019 on Youth Empowerment until Friday 31 May 2019

"Young people are an enormous asset to our societies. We must cherish them, invest in them and empower them."

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

BACKGROUND

Celebrating Laws and Policies for Empowering Youth: The Future Policy Award 2019

The Future Policy Award showcases legislation and policies that create better living conditions for current and future generations. The aim of the award is to raise global awareness for these exemplary laws and policies and speed up policy action towards a healthy planet and just, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous societies, leaving no one behind. The Future Policy Award is the first award that celebrates **laws and policies on an international level**. Each year the World Future Council focuses on one topic on which policy progress is particularly urgent, and receives nominations from all over the world for laws, policies or legal frameworks that are inspiring, innovative and effective.

In 2019, the World Future Council's Future Policy Award is working in partnership with Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Youth Policy Labs to **highlight laws and policies that advance youth access to decent jobs, including green jobs and enhance civic and political participation for sustainable development and peace**. We in particular want to highlight laws, policies and legal

frameworks that foster enabling environments for youth to develop their full potential, realise their dreams and contribute to the success of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Developments Goals.

Empowering the largest group of young people the world has ever seen

A youth is any person between the age of 15 and 24–30 years, regardless of gender¹. Today, there are 1.8 billion young people – the largest group of young people the world has ever seen. Eighty-seven percent of young people live in the so-called developing world. They are almost three times as likely as adults to be unemployed. Yet young people embody the potential of a society and play a crucial role as key architects of the future of their families, communities and countries. Young people are on the frontlines of political and social change and have the power to renew cultures as well as maintain important traditions. This is why the 2030 Agenda clearly “applies to all of the world’s young people now and to the 1.3 billion young people who will call the world home by 2030, the target date for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals” (United Nations, 2017c). Several SDG goals and targets concern specifically young people. Seen the multiple global challenges we face – climate change, unsustainable food systems, dramatic loss of biodiversity, water scarcity, growing inequalities, conflicts and much more – it is absolutely critical that youth are empowered through inclusive, effective, inspiring and innovative laws and policies that promote their rights and speed up common action. It is also vital that youth effectively participate in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of such laws and policies for example, through parliaments, civil society organizations, and other formal and informal means.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Policies, laws and legal frameworks that strengthen younger and future generations’ agency

We seek nominations of impacting policies, laws and legal frameworks that create enabling environments for empowering youth and are replicable under similar circumstance, in the following fields:

- **Economic empowerment of young women and men in decent and sustainable jobs:**
This includes youth skills development or apprenticeships or technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes, including for a green economy, i.e. an economy that is sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. It also encompasses youth entrepreneurship and job matching programmes, policies that assist young people to transition to formal economy, i.e. decent and/or green jobs, and programmes targeting particularly vulnerable groups, such as rural youth, young women, young refugees, youth in hazardous occupations and in fragile situations. We are also interested in policies and programmes for a green economy or “green new deals” and the promotion of green jobs for youth, those that develop digital

¹ There is no universally agreed international definition of youth and while recognizing that the UN Secretariat for statistical purposes defines ‘youth’ as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, the award considers other definitions in use by Member States or regional bodies without prejudice. The terms youth and young people are used interchangeably here.

skills for young workers and those that advance gender equality. We also welcome nominations for policies that address the growing mismatch between highly educated young people and low-skills-jobs.

- **Civic engagement and political participation of youth for sustainable development and peace:**

This includes policies, laws and legal frameworks that strengthen youth meaningful participation through promoting youth representation in politics and decision-making, and enhancing the integration of youth perspectives at all levels of governance. Furthermore, we are interested in programmes and policies that challenge political apathy, that empower youth to contribute to inclusive political processes and have an active part in design, implementation and monitoring & evaluation, that strengthen citizenship education and community engagement, and/or that establish more efficient channels of official communication and partnership. We also welcome policies and programmes that not only address young people, but also involve decision- and policy-makers.

Laws, policies and frameworks can be **local, subnational, national or regional** in nature. The nominated law, policy or legal framework must:

- be **in existence for long enough** (for e.g. 2–3 years minimum) to demonstrate its effective implementation and impact;
- deliver **identifiable improvements**; and
- take into account systemic aspects such as sustainable use of resources, equity, and poverty eradication, reflecting the World Future Council's holistic and integrated perspective. Policies will also be examined against the **7 Policy Principles that have been adopted by the WFC.**²

PROCESS

Step 1. Call for Nomination

To facilitate the nomination process, we have developed a template that you will find in the Annex. We kindly ask you to send your nomination(s) to Ms. Samia Kassid: fpa@worldfuturecouncil.org.

Step 2. The Selection Process

The research team will apply the WFC Future Justice Policy Principles and other indices to all nominations. We will then provide a shortlist of laws, policies and legal frameworks for consideration by **an international jury of experts** in July 2019.

Step 3. Recognition of the winners of the Future Policy Award 2019

The winners of the 2019 Future Policy Award will be celebrated at a high-level award ceremony at IPU's 141st General Assembly in Belgrade (Serbia) in October 2019, convened by the World Future Council in partnership with IPU and UNDP with the support of UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, ILO and YPL. Typically this Award event is bringing together more than 200

² You can find more information about the 7 Principles that have been adopted by the WFC:
<https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/seven-principles/>

decision-makers, including heads of state, ministers, permanent representatives, parliamentarians, heads of international organisations and leading civil society organisations from across the world.

CONVENING PARTNERS

The **World Future Council** brings the interests of future generations to the centre of law and policy making. The Council consists of 50 eminent global change-makers from governments, parliaments, the arts, civil society, academia and business. Together they form a voice for the rights of future generations. The Council addresses challenges to our common future and identifies and promotes effective legislative and policy solutions among decision makers.

www.worldfuturecouncil.org

The **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the world's organisation of parliaments. It was founded in 1889 as the first multilateral political organisation, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations. Today, the IPU comprises 178 national parliaments and 12 associate members. It empowers youth by supporting parliaments to better provide access to youth to political decision-making, and include a youth perspective in legislation and policies. We build capacities of young MPs and provide platforms for them to coordinate actions at the global, regional and national levels. We also monitor youth representation in parliaments and issue policy and legislative guidance to boost it. <https://www.ipu.org/>

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. UNDP recognizes, supports and promotes the role of young women and men as agents of change and has implemented its first-ever UNDP Youth Global Programme since 2016. <https://www.undp.org>

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

The **UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth** serves as a global advocate for addressing the needs and rights of young people, as well as for bringing the United Nations closer to them. The Envoy's Office is part of the United Nations Secretariat and supports multi-stakeholder partnerships related to the United Nations system-wide action plan on youth and to youth volunteer initiatives. The office also promotes the empowerment and foster the leadership of youth at the national, regional, and global levels, including through exploring and encourages mechanisms for young people's participation in the work of the United Nations and in political and economic processes with a special focus on the most marginalized and vulnerable youth. The UN Envoy on Youth works on realizing the Youth2030: The United Nations Strategy on youth. <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/>

The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is the United Nations agency for the world of work. It sets international labour standards, promotes rights at work and encourages decent employment opportunities, the enhancement of social protection and the strengthening of dialogue on work-related issues. The ILO was founded in 1919, in the wake of a destructive war, to pursue a vision based on the premise that universal, lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice. The only tripartite U.N. agency, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. www.ilo.org

Youth Policy Labs is the leading global think-tank specifically focusing on youth and is hosted by the Berlin-based NGO Demokratie & Dialog e.V. We operate at the junction of research and journalism, producing high-quality and well-researched knowledge with the aim of improving public policies that affect the lives of young people. We champion the development of youth policies, promote young people as researchers, facilitate international discussion on youth policies, and advocate for stronger coherence within the United Nations and donor agencies on youth rights, policies and programmes. Our team is made up of youth policy experts, youth researchers, and young journalists. Our publications are published under Youth Policy Press, a global publishing house on youth issues. <http://www.youthpolicy.org/>.

With very special thanks to the **Michael Otto Foundation** and the **Jua Foundation**.

NOMINATION FORM

The official deadline for nominations is **31 May 2019**. Please submit your nomination as follows:

- either in the enclosed nomination form by email to Ms Samia Kassid at fpa@worldfuturecouncil.org or
- via our [online nomination form](http://bit.do/eNoZb): <http://bit.do/eNoZb>

For further information, please visit: www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future_policy_award.html.

Nomination Form – Future Policy Award 2019

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Name: | Organisation: |
| Email: | Address: |
| Tel./Skype: | |
| Official title of the nominated law or policy: <i>You may nominate up to three policies, acts, laws, national action plans, decrees or ordinances of an intergovernmental body, country, state, region or municipality. Nominated laws and policies should have been in existence long enough to prove their effective implementation and, most importantly, to deliver identifiable improvements.</i> | |

Country or countries the law/policy was first introduced:

Date of implementation:

Ministries or departments responsible for its introduction:

Do you know if this law/policy has been adopted in other countries? If so, where?

If this is not the case, please describe to what extent it is transferable and applicable to other regions.

Please provide a summary of the law/policy.

Please describe the objectives of the law/policy whilst also referring to the means of implementation and actors involved including examples of any meaningful youth participation as well as its influence and impact.

Please explain the reasons why this law/policy should be seen as a 'best law/policy'.

Please provide up to three arguments why the policy should win a Future Policy Award 2019. What is particularly innovative? Why it stands out? It could also be that it is under threat, etc.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Briefly describe your involvement with the nominated law/policy:

If possible please provide the names and contact details of at least 3 experts we can contact for further information regarding the law/policy *(Ideally one from the following three domains: policymaker (PO), civil society (CS) or academic informant (A), please provide us with email and phone number/skype address):*

- Policymaker informant:
- Youth organisation informant
- Other civil society informant:
- Academic informant:

Sources of information on this law/policy, preferably available online:

Thank you for taking the time to submit this nomination.

We kindly ask you to send your nomination(s) by e-mail to Ms Samia Kassid at fpa@worldfuturecouncil.org. The official deadline for nominations **31 May 2019**