

Explanation of the concept, “intergenerational multiplier effect”, as provided by the Co-Facilitators for the intergovernmental process for the Declaration on Future Generations during informal consultations on 14th June 2024

This is a term that borrows from economic terminology to describe the far-reaching and amplified impacts of our decisions over time. This **‘multiplier’** aspect becomes particularly evident when we consider how today's actions can influence future outcomes in a significant way. In essence, the intergenerational multiplier effect emphasizes the potential of our current decisions to create ripple effects that extend across multiple generations. This concept is crucial in understanding the broader implications of our policies and actions.

When we talk about the intergenerational multiplier effect, we refer to the idea that today's inputs—our actions, decisions, and policies—shape the future state of the world as will be experienced by future generations. This interconnectedness underscores the importance of thoughtful decision-making today, as the consequences are not limited to the present but ripple through time, affecting future generations in profound ways.

By recognizing the significant relevance of the intergenerational multiplier effect, current policymakers can better appreciate the long-term impacts of their decisions and strive to create policies that not only address immediate needs but also the needs and interests of future generations. In this way, the intergenerational multiplier effect encourages a forward-thinking approach, ensuring that today's efforts contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future for all.