

**A RESOLUTION OF THE [INSERT LEGISLATIVE BODY] OF [INSERT MUNICIPALITY] IN SUPPORT OF
RECOGNIZING AND IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

WHEREAS, dedication to future generations is a concept deeply foundational to constitutions, treaties, religious beliefs, traditions, and culture. Communities are shaped by decisions made by prior generations, so it follows that decisions made today will one day affect the lives of those not yet born. It is the responsibility of those currently making the decisions to consider long-term impacts and mitigate any harmful consequences that may occur in order to deliver a healthy planet to the future citizens of the world; and

WHEREAS, future generations face an existential threat - the damage and destruction of Earth's life-sustaining systems, including significant pollution of rivers and oceans worldwide, reduced biodiversity, fragmented habitats, and exacerbated climate change; and

WHEREAS, the effects of human-caused global warming will worsen in the decades to come. By 2100, the average global temperature could be between 2 and 9.7°F (1.1 to 5.4°C) warmer than it is today. This increase will result in extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels, and large-scale ecocide. Whether the temperature rises by a little or a lot in the coming century depends largely on the choices we make today; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of each generation to act as the trustee and temporary steward of the Earth and its resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, future generations have the right to inherit a habitable world as well as the right to have a voice in making those laws which will one day bind them; and

WHEREAS, future generations have the right to full documentation of the decisions made by the present generation. By these means, accountability is established and responsibility is encouraged in the present; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of governments worldwide are recognizing the rights of future generations in Constitutions and legislation, as well as taking those rights into consideration in policy-making. For example, the Philippines recognized the right of future generations to a healthy environment in the 1993 Supreme Court case, *Oposa v. Factoran*.

WHEREAS, the community of [INSERT MUNICIPALITY] wishes to act as good stewards of the planet and join these governments in order to protect its local environment—including its [INSERT DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL ENVIRONMENT]—for future generations to enjoy and continue to safeguard for the mutual well-being of all life;

WHEREAS, the concept of intergenerational equity, which acknowledges the allocation of burdens and benefits across generations, has also been recognized internationally. Dozens of international legal instruments incorporate or reference principles of intergenerational equity and/or the rights of future generations, recognizing that small gains for current generations should not be pursued when those actions can result in large losses for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the environment for future generations has been mentioned in several international declarations, conventions, and resolutions. Among them, the 1972 Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment, Article 4 of the UNESCO Declaration of the

Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations, establishes that “present generations have the responsibility to bequeath to future generations an Earth which will not one day be irreversibly damaged by human activity”; and

WHEREAS, there is a global initiative to establish Guardians or Ombudspersons for Future Generations at all governance levels to help bring long-term solutions and an intergenerational perspective to decision making processes. A voice for future generations has already been successfully implemented in Hungary and Wales.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE [INSERT LEGISLATIVE BODY] OF [INSERT MUNICIPALITY] DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

We hereby recognize that future generations have the right to a healthy planet; a stable climate; clean air, water, and soil; and to live in a thriving relationship with the natural world; and

We hereby commit to giving future generations a voice within public decision-making processes in [INSERT MUNICIPALITY], such as by establishing an ombudsperson for future generations, or through such other means as the [INSERT MUNICIPALITY] determines to be effective and appropriate; and

To begin effectuating these rights, the [INSERT LEGISLATIVE BODY] shall prepare a written report for the community which shall include a specific proposal for giving future generations a formal voice within [INSERT MUNICIPALITY] and, if deemed appropriate, shall include a draft language of a binding ordinance to put this resolution into effect.