

Towards a Global Framework for the Regulation of Lobbying for the Future

In a world just a few years from now, a new UN subsidiary body is established under the Paris Agreement¹. As the first global stocktaking didn't go well (with global CO2 emissions levels far higher than what the contracting parties had promised each other they would be), it was decided that this new body, which is expected to work with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), must be advocate for the world's future generations of citizens, whose rights are, as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as valid as their own. This new subsidiary body, which has been labelled 'Ministry of the Future', is furthermore charged with defending all living creatures present and future who cannot speak for themselves, by promoting their legal standing and physical protection. Being the constant target of a variety of stakeholders' lobbying efforts aimed influencing its work (e.g. major decisions on whether to allow geo-engineering interventions to counter heat waves, or whether to embark on strategic litigation against governments in breach of the Paris Agreement) and too often antagonized by the loud voices of some industries, the Ministry decides to embark on a new line of work aimed at governing whether and how external stakeholders may engage with the UN, and beyond, to represent both present and future generations' interests.

Background

The Ministry is of the view that, while helpful, voluntary frameworks such as [the Global Standards on Responsible Lobbying](#), the [AAA Framework for Climate Policy Leadership](#) or the [UN Guidelines for engaging with companies on climate lobbying](#) as well as the [OECD Principles for Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying](#) lack teeth when it comes to guaranteeing the implementation of best standards in lobbying transparency, accountability and integrity of the policy process. Also existing national and EU-based lobbying regulations fall short of these objectives:

- First, because they are anchored in the false belief that disclosure requirements, as typically imposed by lobbying regulation and often embodied by lobbying registers, are sufficient as instruments in the promotion of more diverse stakeholder involvement and trust in the policymaking process.
- Second, because national frameworks tend to be ineffective on global issues, such as climate policy, that involve transnational civil society organisations and multinational corporations.
- Third, existing lobbying and integrity frameworks focus on present generations' interests and omit the importance of considering the representation of future generations' interests, and, more broadly, the long-term consequences of current policy decisions.

¹ Article 16(4) of the Paris Agreement, states: "The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement shall keep under regular review the implementation of this Agreement and shall make, within its mandate, the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation. It shall perform the functions assigned to it by this Agreement and shall: (a) Establish **such subsidiary bodies** as deemed necessary for the implementation of this Agreement; and...". See also Article 18(1) of the same Agreement.



While ESG rating data providers increasingly capture the realities of lobbying efforts way beyond public standards do – as crystallised by [The Good Lobby Tracker](#) –, they continue to provide little guidance on how various stakeholders can lobby responsibly and sustainably by also adequately representing and protecting future generations in the present decision-making processes. That remained true even after the EU (ESMA) enacted the first ESG ratings [regulation](#), back in 2025, in order to subject these agencies to tougher scrutiny and established standardised reporting for companies.

It is against this backdrop that the office of the Ministry of the Future is planning to put a proposal to the UN Assembly for recommendations on a **Global Framework for the Regulation of Lobbying for the Future** which sets out rules for the interest representation by external stakeholders at COP, but also commits UN members to introduce such frameworks within the next five years (and thus also can be applied at the national level).

The format

The Ministry of the Future is opening the process to an **open consultation**, during which global and national actors are invited to submit opinions on the primary objectives and associated instruments such framework should entail. The Ministry builds on the four objectives of:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Responsiveness
- Equal playing field

However, it is agnostic on how these should be prioritised and which instruments would best support meeting these objectives.

Instructions

Participants (divided into pre-established groups) are asked to submit a **one-page policy memorandum** to the consultation in which they provide:

1. the group's take on what should the key **objectives** of the framework be;
2. what **policy instruments** can be envisaged to achieve these objectives.

While doing so each stakeholder must demonstrate how its proposed policy instruments is backed up by available evidence and reflect, more generally, on what the impact of these instruments would have on the political behaviour and activities of various interest groups, including yours (e.g. what if full disclosure of lobbying spending would become mandatory? What if some industries, such as fossil fuel companies, would be banned from lobbying the policy process? What if the license to lobbying would be made conditional upon the integration of future generations' perspective?).

The one-page policy memorandum will need to be submitted to the Ministry **by Wednesday July 19th at 8 pm** (just at the time of the formal dinner opening the global consultative process).

On the following day, the Ministry will hear your contribution during the **External Stakeholder Meeting** held between **11:00 and 12:45**. During this meeting, each group will appoint one (or



more) representative(s) who will present the group's position in a 4-min presentation (max. 1 slide).

Convener role and other invited stakeholders

The assigned roles and responsibilities are:

1. **UN Ministry of the Future** acts as convener of the public consultation. As such it is expected to frame the consultation so as to get the most input, and do so by collecting policy-memoranda, and relevant presentations / data, and moderate the discussion. By the end of the consultation, it should briefly unveil its proposed course of action based on some preparatory desk research preceding (line in real life) the actual consultation process.
2. **The OECD** delegation of the Directorate for Public Governance is invited to participate in the consultation based on its expertise gained among the most developed countries and based on its pool of experts (<https://www.oecd.org/gov/ethics/oecdprinciplesfortransparencyandintegrityinlobbying.htm>).
3. **The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers** is the umbrella association representing major global actors in this sector (<https://www.iogp.org/>).
4. **The International Chamber of Commerce** is representative of business organisations globally *irrespective* of their economic sector (<https://iccwbo.org/>).
5. **The Environmental Defense Fund** is one of the largest environmental organisations globally (<https://www.edf.org/>).
6. **The International Public Relations Associations** is one of the largest and most representative associations of public affairs professionals (<https://www.ipra.org/>).
7. **Transparency International** is the leading, globally active transparency watchdog on anticorruption including corporate political engagement such as lobbying and other, subtler forms of political influence (www.transparency.org).
8. **The Network of Future Generations Institutions** is an independent, non-formal network of institutions worldwide for the protection of the interests of future generations (<https://futureroundtable.org/web/network-of-institutions-for-future-generations>).

Individual instructions

Those are made available to each group and not visible to others.