

A watercolor illustration of a house with a green door and a tree. The house is white with a green door and a brown door. A tree with green leaves is on the left. A potted plant is in the foreground. A blue vertical bar is on the left side of the page.

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INTERGENERATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND YOUTH EQUITY COUNCIL CHARTER

PART V OF THE PAN-CONTINENTAL DEEP-DIVE SERIES

CREATED BY

EUSL AB

Care to Change the World

Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council Charter

This charter establishes the normative, legal, and operational framework for the Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council (IGYEC), a permanent institutional mechanism within the PCGG architecture. The Council is designed to ensure that the principles of intergenerational justice, youth representation, and structural equity are not aspirational ideals but enforceable standards embedded into the governance of all PCGG institutions and programs. It affirms that the future is not a constituency to be spoken for—it is a stakeholder to be represented.

Chapter 1: Strategic Justification and Normative Basis

The establishment of the Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council is grounded in the recognition that structural inequities are not only horizontal—across class, gender, and geography—but also vertical, across time. Future generations are systematically excluded from decision-making processes that shape the conditions they will inherit. This exclusion is not merely symbolic; it is institutional, legal, and economic.

The PCGG framework, aligned with Agenda 2074, affirms that intergenerational equity is not a moral aspiration but a governance obligation. The IGYEC is the institutional expression of this obligation. It ensures that youth are not treated as passive beneficiaries of long-term strategies but as active co-authors of institutional design, policy formation, and resource allocation.

The normative basis for the Council draws from multiple sources: the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Youth Charter, the European Youth Strategy, and the intergenerational equity principles embedded in Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. However, the IGYEC goes beyond consultation or youth mainstreaming. It establishes youth as a permanent governance actor, with defined mandates, legal recognition, and institutional autonomy.

The Council is not an advisory body. It is a structural safeguard—ensuring that the long-term vision of PCGG is not compromised by short-termism, generational bias, or institutional inertia.

Chapter 2: Institutional Mandate and Legal Recognition

The Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council is constituted as a standing governance body within the PCGG framework, with both normative and operational mandates. It is legally recognized through the PCGG Institutional Charter and embedded into the governance structures of all affiliated institutions, including CUWE, CEIU, INWE, CSIEP, and CGEI.

The Council's mandate includes:

- Reviewing all PCGG policies, programs, and institutional reforms for their intergenerational impact.
- Participating in the governance of PCGG institutions through designated seats on boards, councils, and oversight bodies.
- Leading the development of youth equity indicators, participatory mechanisms, and institutional learning tools.

- Coordinating with national youth councils, student unions, and intergovernmental youth platforms to ensure alignment and legitimacy.
- Issuing public statements, policy briefs, and equity assessments on matters affecting youth and future generations.

Legal recognition is operationalized through a Youth Equity Protocol, which is annexed to all PCGG institutional charters and partnership agreements. This protocol defines the rights, responsibilities, and procedural guarantees of youth representatives, including protections against tokenism, age-based discrimination, and procedural exclusion.

The Council is also empowered to initiate Intergenerational Impact Reviews, which assess whether institutional decisions align with the long-term commitments of Agenda 2074. These reviews are binding in nature and must be formally addressed by the institution's board or executive body.

In this way, the IGYEC is not a symbolic gesture—it is a structural innovation. It ensures that the governance of transformation is not only inclusive across sectors and geographies, but across generations.

Chapter 3: Composition, Eligibility, and Representation Criteria

The legitimacy of the Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council (IGYEC) depends on its ability to represent the diversity, dynamism, and democratic aspirations of youth across the PCGG ecosystem. This chapter defines the Council's composition, eligibility criteria, and representational safeguards to ensure that it is not only inclusive in form but equitable in function.

The Council is composed of a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 25 members, appointed through a hybrid model that combines democratic selection, institutional nomination, and regional rotation. At least 60% of members must be under the age of 30 at the time of appointment, with the remaining seats reserved for intergenerational allies—individuals with demonstrated commitment to youth equity, institutional reform, and long-term governance.

Eligibility is based on a combination of age, experience, and institutional affiliation. Youth representatives must:

- Be between 18 and 30 years of age at the time of nomination.
- Be affiliated with a PCGG-recognized institution, cooperative, or youth-led organization.
- Demonstrate a track record of civic engagement, policy advocacy, or institutional participation.
- Commit to a two-year term, renewable once, with mandatory participation in training and institutional onboarding.

To ensure representational equity, the Council must reflect diversity across gender, geography, socioeconomic background, and ability. At least 50% of members must identify as women or gender-diverse, and at least one-third must come from rural, peri-urban, or structurally marginalized communities. The Council also reserves two seats for youth with disabilities and one rotating seat for a representative from a conflict-affected or transitional region.

Appointments are ratified by the PCGG Global Coordination Secretariat, following a transparent nomination and vetting process. The Council operates under a Charter of Representation, which includes a code of conduct, conflict of interest provisions, and procedures for recall or replacement.

Through this structure, the IGYEC ensures that youth participation is not symbolic or elite-driven, but grounded in democratic legitimacy, institutional accountability, and structural inclusion.

Chapter 4: Roles and Functions within PCGG Governance

The Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council is not a parallel structure—it is a fully integrated governance body within the PCGG institutional architecture. Its roles and functions are both normative and operational, ensuring that youth equity is embedded into the DNA of PCGG decision-making.

The Council holds a permanent seat on the PCGG Global Coordination Secretariat, with voting rights on matters related to institutional reform, strategic planning, and cross-pillar integration. It also appoints youth representatives to the boards of CUWE, CEIU, INWE, CSIEP, and CGEI, ensuring that intergenerational perspectives are embedded at the highest levels of institutional governance.

In addition to its governance role, the Council performs the following core functions:

- **Policy Review:** All major PCGG policies, frameworks, and institutional reforms must undergo a Youth Equity Review, coordinated by the Council and documented through a formal advisory opinion.
- **Agenda 2074 Alignment:** The Council monitors the alignment of PCGG programs with the intergenerational justice principles of Agenda 2074, including sustainability, long-term equity, and youth empowerment.
- **Participatory Innovation:** The Council pilots and scales participatory mechanisms—such as youth assemblies, digital consultations, and intergenerational dialogues—across PCGG institutions and LEUs.
- **Safeguarding and Accountability:** The Council oversees the implementation of youth safeguarding protocols, grievance mechanisms, and anti-discrimination policies, in coordination with CGEI and Flowhub Trio Plus.
- **Global Representation:** The Council serves as the PCGG’s official youth delegation to international forums, including the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum, the African Union Youth Division, and regional youth parliaments.

These functions are not advisory in nature—they are embedded into the institutional mandates of PCGG bodies through binding protocols and governance charters. The Council’s decisions, reviews, and recommendations must be formally acknowledged, responded to, and integrated into institutional planning cycles.

In this way, the IGYEC transforms youth participation from a rhetorical commitment into a structural reality—ensuring that the governance of transformation is not only inclusive, but intergenerationally just.

Chapter 5: Integration with SEP, LEU, PPSE, and CSIEP

The Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council (IGYEC) is not a standalone entity—it is structurally embedded across the strategic pillars and institutional components of the PCGG framework. This chapter outlines how the Council integrates with the Social Equity Pillar (SEP), Labour

Empowerment and Unionization (LEU), the Pan-Participatory Social Economy (PPSE), and the Cooperative Social Impact & Equity Party (CSIEP).

Within the Social Equity Pillar, the Council serves as both a normative watchdog and a participatory mechanism. It reviews all equity standards and compliance protocols for their relevance to youth and future generations, ensuring that equity is not defined solely by present-day demographics. The Council also contributes to the development of youth-sensitive indicators, grievance mechanisms, and safeguarding policies, in coordination with CGEI.

In the LEU pillar, the Council plays a strategic role in shaping youth employment, cooperative labor models, and vocational training. It works with CUWE and CEIU to ensure that youth are not only included in workforce development programs but are structurally represented in cooperative governance. The Council also monitors the accessibility and equity of LEU-aligned programs, particularly in rural and underserved regions.

Within the PPSE pillar, the Council ensures that youth are recognized as economic actors—not merely as beneficiaries or trainees, but as cooperative entrepreneurs, ethical investors, and institutional co-owners. It contributes to the design of youth-accessible financial instruments, social procurement frameworks, and cooperative investment platforms. The Council also reviews PPSE-aligned contracts and funding mechanisms for intergenerational fairness and youth inclusion.

Finally, in relation to CSIEP, the Council functions as a political interface—ensuring that youth equity is not only institutionalized but politicized. It contributes to CSIEP’s policy platform, electoral strategy, and internal governance, and ensures that youth participation is embedded into the party’s democratic structures. The Council also serves as a conduit between CSIEP and youth-led movements, student unions, and civic platforms.

Through these integrations, the IGYEC ensures that youth equity is not a thematic add-on but a structural principle—embedded across the full spectrum of PCGG transformation.

Chapter 6: Participatory Mechanisms and Decision-Making Rights

The IGYEC is founded on the principle that youth participation must be institutional, not incidental. This chapter defines the participatory mechanisms and decision-making rights that ensure youth are not only consulted but empowered within the PCGG governance system.

The Council operates through a multi-tiered participation model, which includes:

- **Formal representation** on institutional boards, councils, and oversight bodies.
- **Participatory review authority** over all PCGG policies, reforms, and strategic plans.
- **Initiative rights**, allowing the Council to propose new programs, amendments, or institutional reforms.
- **Veto power** on decisions deemed to violate youth equity principles or intergenerational justice standards, subject to review by the PCGG Ethics and Oversight Council.

In addition to formal governance, the Council coordinates a network of Youth Assemblies across PCGG jurisdictions. These assemblies serve as deliberative platforms where youth can debate policies, propose initiatives, and elect representatives to the Council. Assemblies are convened annually and are supported by digital participation tools integrated into Flowhub Trio Plus.

The Council also maintains a Youth Equity Consultation Protocol, which mandates that all PCGG institutions conduct structured consultations with youth stakeholders prior to major decisions. These consultations must be documented, publicly disclosed, and formally addressed in institutional decision-making.

Decision-making within the Council itself follows a cooperative model. All members have equal voting rights, and decisions are made through consensus or qualified majority, depending on the issue. The Council also maintains thematic working groups, rotating leadership roles, and participatory budgeting mechanisms to ensure internal democracy and transparency.

In this way, the IGYEC transforms youth participation from a procedural formality into a governance standard—ensuring that the voices of future generations are not only heard, but structurally empowered.

Chapter 7: Capacity Building and Institutional Support

The effectiveness of the Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council (IGYEC) depends not only on its legal mandate or participatory mechanisms, but on the sustained investment in the capacity of its members and the institutional infrastructure that supports them. This chapter outlines the framework for capacity building, technical assistance, and institutional support across all levels of the Council's operations.

All Council members undergo a structured onboarding and training program upon appointment. This program is delivered in partnership with INWE and CGSA and includes modules on cooperative governance, intergenerational equity, institutional ethics, digital participation, and the PCGG legal framework. The training is mandatory and culminates in a certification process that affirms readiness for institutional participation.

Beyond onboarding, the Council benefits from a dedicated Secretariat, housed within the PCGG Global Coordination Secretariat. This unit provides administrative support, legal advisory services, research assistance, and coordination with other PCGG institutions. It also manages the Council's digital infrastructure, including its Flowhub Trio Plus interface, document repository, and stakeholder engagement tools.

To ensure continuous learning, the Council participates in cross-regional peer exchanges, hosted annually in collaboration with youth councils, academic institutions, and multilateral partners. These exchanges serve as platforms for comparative learning, policy innovation, and the co-creation of new participatory tools.

The Council also maintains a Youth Equity Resource Hub, a digital library of toolkits, policy briefs, case studies, and participatory methodologies. This hub is open to all PCGG institutions and serves as a central knowledge base for integrating youth equity into governance, programming, and evaluation.

Finally, the Council is supported by a Youth Equity Fund, administered by the PCGG Secretariat and financed through a combination of institutional contributions, donor support, and cooperative investment returns. The fund covers operational costs, capacity-building programs, and innovation grants for youth-led initiatives aligned with Agenda 2074.

Through this multi-layered support system, the IGYEC is not only empowered to participate—it is equipped to lead.

Chapter 8: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment

The Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council is subject to the same standards of transparency, accountability, and adaptive learning that it promotes across the PCGG framework. This chapter defines the monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment (MEIA) mechanisms that ensure the Council's effectiveness, legitimacy, and continuous improvement.

The Council maintains a dedicated Youth Equity MEL Framework, developed in collaboration with INWE and CGEI. This framework includes both quantitative and qualitative indicators, aligned with Agenda 2074 and the PCGG Equity Charter. Key indicators include:

- Representation metrics across PCGG institutions and programs.
- Participation rates in youth assemblies, consultations, and governance processes.
- Institutional responsiveness to Council recommendations and reviews.
- Perceived legitimacy and trust among youth constituencies.
- Structural changes resulting from Council interventions (e.g., policy amendments, budget reallocations, governance reforms).

All indicators are tracked through Flowhub Trio Plus and visualized in real-time dashboards accessible to Council members, institutional partners, and the public. The Council also publishes an **Annual Youth Equity Impact Report**, which consolidates data, case studies, and stakeholder feedback into a comprehensive assessment of progress and challenges.

In addition to internal monitoring, the Council is subject to external evaluation every three years, conducted by an independent panel of youth governance experts, institutional partners, and civil society observers. These evaluations assess the Council's strategic relevance, institutional integration, and normative impact, and provide recommendations for reform and scaling.

The Council also maintains a Participatory Learning Log, where members document lessons learned, innovations tested, and reflections on institutional dynamics. This log is reviewed quarterly and feeds into the Council's strategic planning and capacity-building agenda.

Through this rigorous MEIA system, the IGYEC ensures that its work is not only principled but evidence-based—anchored in data, informed by experience, and accountable to the generations it represents.

Chapter 9: Global Replication and Regional Adaptation

The Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council (IGYEC) is designed not only as a governance mechanism within the PCGG framework, but as a replicable model for youth equity integration across regions, institutions, and political systems. This chapter outlines the strategy for global replication and regional adaptation, ensuring that the Council's principles and structures can be scaled without compromising contextual relevance.

Replication begins with the establishment of Regional Youth Equity Councils (RYECs), which mirror the mandate and structure of the IGYEC but operate within specific geopolitical or cultural contexts—such as COMESA, ASEAN, or the Nordic region. These councils are coordinated through formal agreements with the PCGG Secretariat and are supported by regional anchor boards and youth-led institutions.

Each RYEC is empowered to adapt the IGYEC Charter to local legal frameworks, governance traditions, and youth demographics. Adaptation is guided by a set of Core Integrity Standards, which ensure that the foundational principles of intergenerational equity, democratic participation, and institutional accountability are preserved. These standards include:

- Mandatory youth representation in governance bodies.
- Legal recognition of youth equity protocols.
- Integration of youth equity into strategic planning and MEL systems.
- Safeguarding mechanisms and grievance redress for youth participants.

To support replication, the PCGG Secretariat maintains a Global Youth Equity Toolkit, which includes legal templates, onboarding guides, participatory methodologies, and digital infrastructure blueprints. The toolkit is updated annually and co-developed with youth councils, academic institutions, and multilateral partners.

The Council also facilitates South–South learning exchanges, enabling youth institutions in the Global South to share innovations, challenges, and best practices in intergenerational governance. These exchanges are documented and disseminated through the Youth Equity Resource Hub.

Ultimately, replication is not about uniformity—it is about coherence. The IGYEC model is designed to be flexible enough to adapt, but principled enough to remain recognizable. It affirms that youth equity is not a regional concern—it is a global imperative.

Final Word: Intergenerational Equity as a Structural Principle

The Intergenerational Governance and Youth Equity Council is not a symbolic initiative—it is a structural proposition. It affirms that the governance of transformation must include those who will live with its consequences. It recognizes that youth are not only the future—they are the present, and they must be structurally empowered to shape the systems they inherit.

By embedding youth equity into the governance architecture of PCGG, the Council transforms participation from a rhetorical commitment into a legal, institutional, and operational reality. It ensures that Agenda 2074 is not only visionary but accountable—anchored in the lived experiences, aspirations, and leadership of the next generation.

The Council does not seek to speak for youth—it enables youth to speak for themselves. It does not offer representation as a favor—it affirms it as a right. And it does not treat intergenerational equity as a theme—it enshrines it as a principle.

In doing so, the IGYEC becomes more than a council. It becomes a safeguard, a standard, and a signal—that the governance of transformation is not only inclusive, but just.