

# BEST POLICIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

We in the World Future Council work for responsible, sustainable thinking and action in the interests of future generations. We have come together as a council because, despite our very different backgrounds, we are bound together by **our common values:** responsibility, compassion, respect, trust and our caring for the environment.

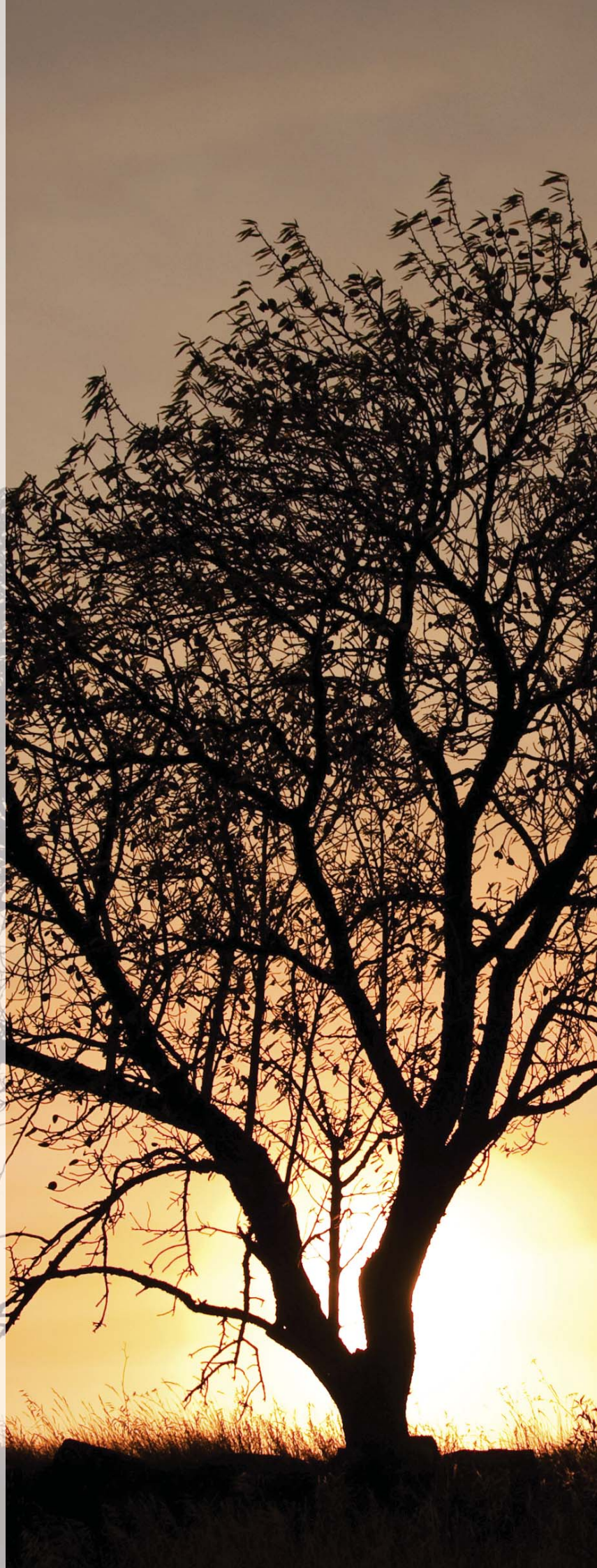
We come from every continent, from politics, civil society, business, science and culture. We inform decision-makers worldwide about existing policy solutions to the challenges of our time. We help develop and promote such solutions in the areas of:

- Climate, Energy and Regenerative Cities
- Sustainable Ecosystems
- Just Societies
- Sustainable Business and a Sustainable Financial System
- Peace and Disarmament

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## Dear friends,

a few years ago, many countries did not know which policies are actually most effective in promoting renewable energy production. The World Future Council therefore organized workshops with policy-makers from more than 40 countries, developed an online platform and published a handbook on so called Feed-in Tariffs. Several countries, amongst them Great Britain, several US-States and South Africa, have now implemented these laws and directly refer to the work of the World Future Council.



It is not always easy to gain support for work on spreading 'best policies' and counselling policy-makers. It is remarkable, however, how much difference such work actually makes, by creating, accelerating and multiplying incentives for positive action. As Martin Luther King said, laws may not move the heart, but they restrain the heartless.

We would like to thank everybody whose support makes our work possible.

Yours,

Jakob von Uexkull, Chair, Management Board

Alexandra Wandel, Executive Member, Management Board



Governments must show political leadership in developing and enforcing visionary laws. The World Future Council brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making. At the same time, it provides decision-makers with effective policy solutions. I strongly support this concept and am delighted to be part of the Council.

**Ahmed Djoghlaoui, UN Assistant Secretary General and  
Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity**



You are right on track.  
**Al Gore**



We are very fond of blaming the poor for destroying the environment. But too often it is the powerful, including governments, who are responsible. We must improve governance. We must enable policy-makers to implement good policies. This is exactly what the World Future Council is all about.

**Prof. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**

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## Future Justice: A World of Equity and Dignity



Our campaign for “Ombudspersons” reflects the WFC’s mission to act as a voice for future generations. We want governments to mandate Ombudspersons for Future Generations who can ensure that sustainability goals become reality. We launched the campaign at the EU-level and will contribute this concept to the preparation process for the UN Rio+20 Summit on sustainable development in 2012. Our website [www.futurejustice.org](http://www.futurejustice.org) informs on how a voice of legal authority would help sustainability policy become common practice.

## Climate and Energy: A World of Climate Stability



What are the right political mechanisms to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy worldwide? Most of our energy still stems from the combustion of fossil fuels. We therefore advocate country-specific policy solutions to unlock renewable energy development, for example with Feed-in Tariffs. Direct advice to policy makers, the provision of efficient political tools,

the creation of multi stakeholder networks, and international advocacy work are key ingredients of our work, which is increasingly reported in the international media.

## Regenerative Cities: A World of Stewardship



Over half of the world’s population now lives in urban areas. Some 80 per cent of the world’s energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions is attributed to cities. But cities are also primary victims of climate change. Our Commission develops and works to implement concepts and policies that address this unprecedented challenge. We publish reports on concrete steps towards 100 percent renewable energy for cities and on our vision for sustainable urban life.

## Future Finance: A World of True Wealth



We don’t need people serving money. We need money serving people. We work to build a financial system that nourishes social justice and sustainable societies rather than a short sighted and

ultimately ruinous economy. The WFC Future Finance Commission is demonstrating how it is feasible to quickly finance the renewable energy transition by creating non-inflationary new money.

## Peace and Disarmament: A World at Peace



The WFC Peace and Disarmament Working Group unites respected personalities in the field of global security and nuclear disarmament. They bring to bear on the disarmament work our three core strengths: integrated thinking, future orientation and policy-focus. At the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, we made the case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention and recently we released a groundbreaking report on the linkages between climate change and nuclear risks. The current focus is on identifying, raising awareness for, and spreading existing policies that further nuclear abolition, such as Nuclear Weapon Free Zone-Treaties, domestic nuclear free legislation, and policies banning investment in companies involved in the manufacture of cluster munitions, landmines and nuclear weapons.

## Future Policy Award: Celebrating Best Policies



The Future Policy Award celebrates policies that create better living conditions for current and future generations. The award aims to raise global awareness for these exemplary policies and speed up policy action towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies. The Future Policy Award is the first international award to celebrate policies rather than people.

Each year the WFC chooses one topic on which policy progress is particularly urgent. 2011 has been declared the International Year of Forests by the United Nations. Consequently, the winners of this year's Future Policy Award will represent the most inspiring, innovative and influential forest policies which contribute to

the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Up to three winning policies will be announced in September 2011 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Partners of the WFC are the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Wildlife Conservation Society.



### Best Policies. Future Just Policies. What does that actually mean?

Questions for Dr. Maja Göpel,

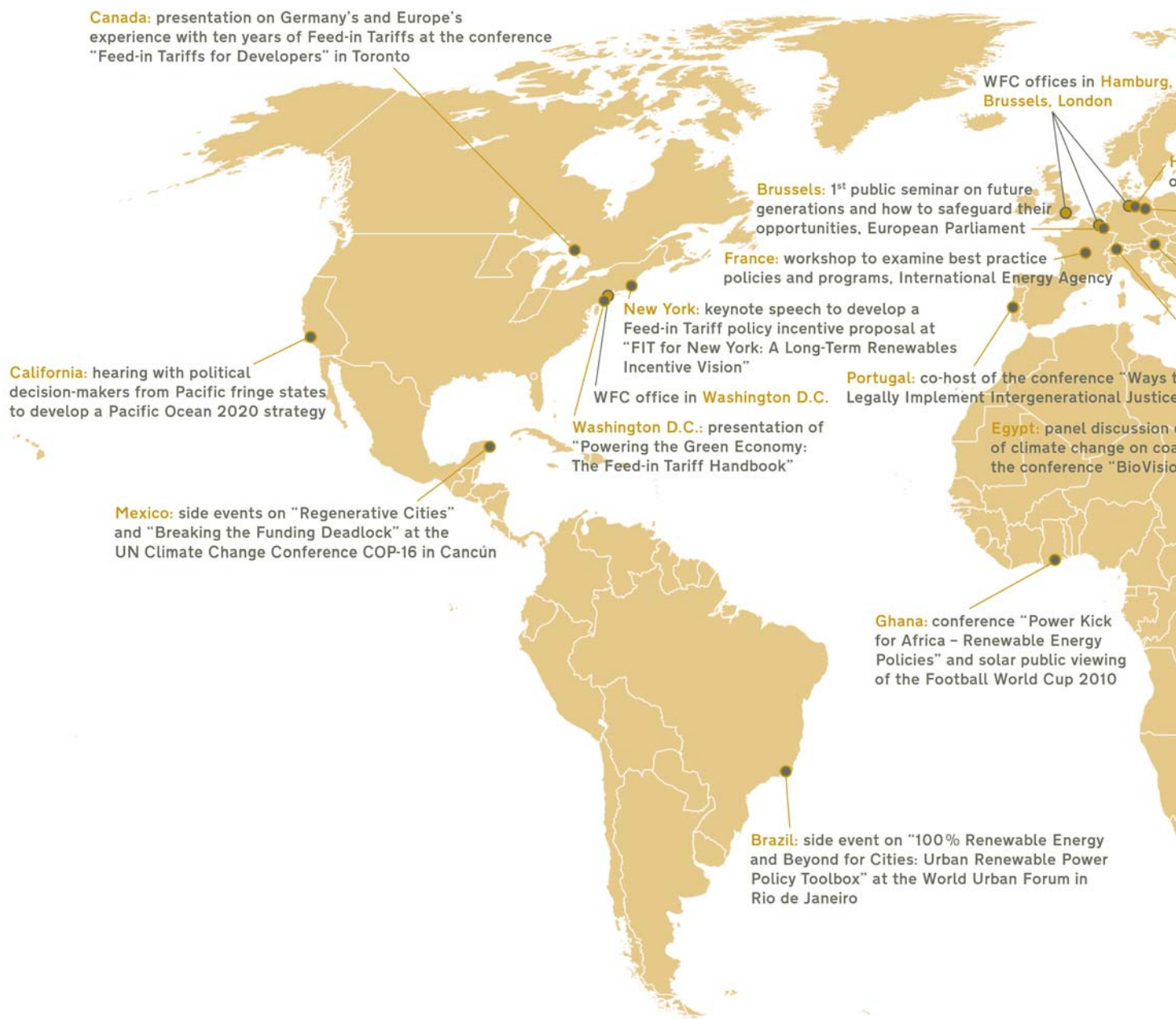
Director of Future Justice at the World Future Council

#### What exactly is a "Best Policy"? How do you judge a "Best Policy"?

For us, a policy is good if it has a holistic and long-term outlook that protects the rights of future generations. In that sense, it can also be called a "Future Just Policy". The World Future Council has developed a method to identify and evaluate future just policies. The method is based on the International Law Association's seven principles of sustainable legislation. These principles include natural resource protection, poverty elimination and government transparency.

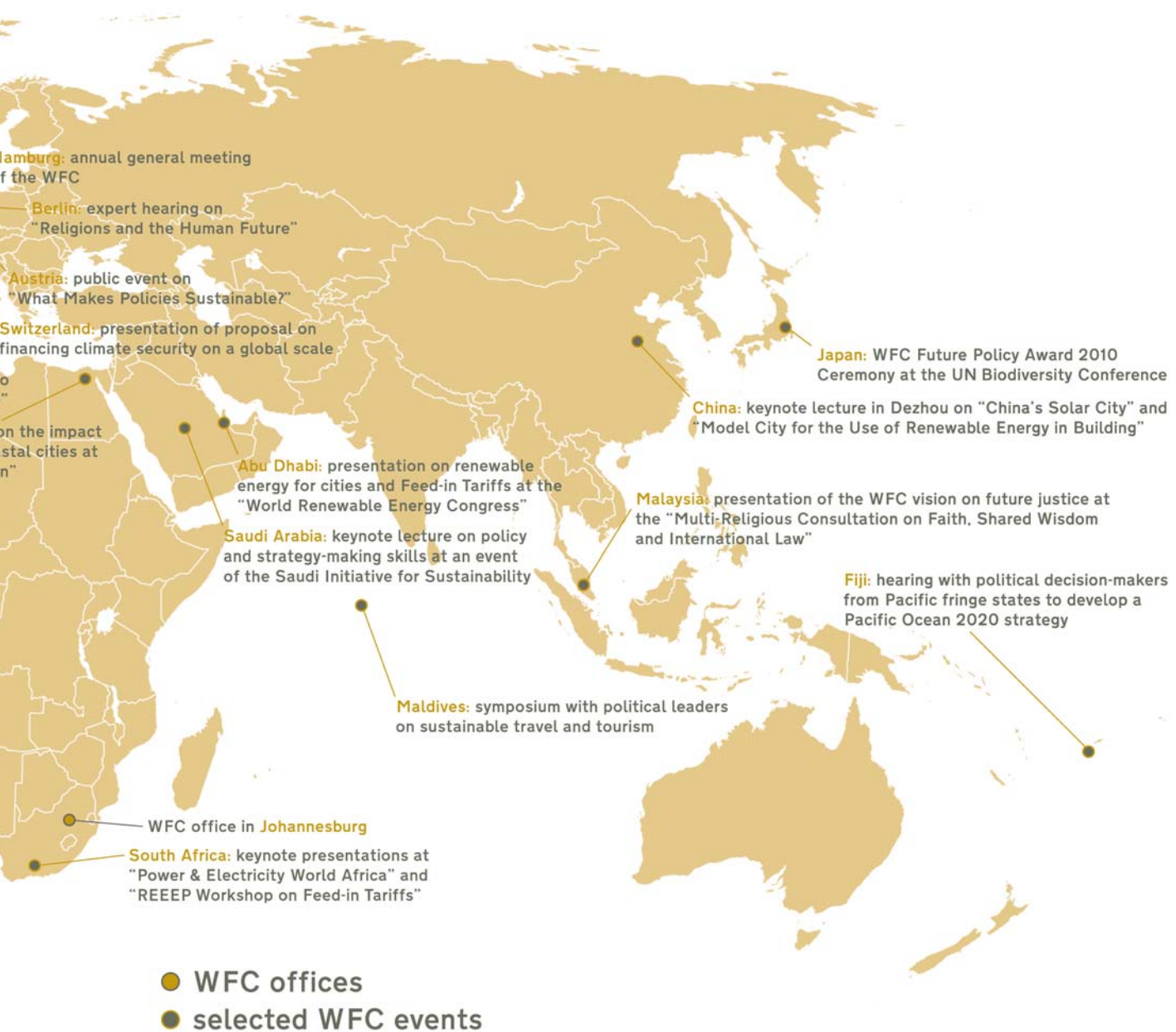
#### What is an example of a Best Policy?

We describe some examples on our website [www.futurepolicy.org](http://www.futurepolicy.org). We have created a toolkit to help policy-makers adapt such laws for their country without losing the key characteristics of the successful models. One of our biggest successes has been the implementation of "Feed-in Tariff" laws: these promote the development of renewable energies to combat climate change and obtain long-term energy security. In addition, they provide a secure income and allow citizens and small businesses to participate.



# World Future Council: An Overview

**WFC IN NUMBERS** The World Future Council currently has **5** offices located in Hamburg, London, Washington, Brussels and Mexico City. Over **600** articles about us were published 2010 in the media, including CNN, The New York Times, The Guardian and Deutsche Welle. We have met with artists and media representatives. Every month **4,200** guests (unique visitors) visit our bilingual website [www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org)



# of our Workplace

and Johannesburg. We are active in **45** countries in Europe, Africa, North and South America, Asia and Oceania. **W**elsche Welle. We welcomed **400** guests at the Future Policy Award ceremony 2010: politicians, scientists, activists, [www.welsche-welle-council.org](http://www.welsche-welle-council.org).

In light of the nuclear catastrophe at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan, members of the World Future Council and laureates of the Right Livelihood Award demand a global nuclear phase out.

“Nuclear power is neither the answer to modern energy problems nor a panacea for climate change challenges. There is no solution of problems by creating more problems,” states the declaration issued by experts, activists, politicians, clergy, entrepreneurs and scientists from 26 countries.

“The disaster in Japan has demonstrated once again the limits of human capability to keep dangerous technologies free from accidents with catastrophic results. Natural disasters

combined with human error have proven a potent force for undermining even the best laid plans. Reliance on human perfection reflects a hubris that has led to other major failures of dangerous technologies in the past, and will do so in the future.”

“The conclusion we draw from the nuclear power plant accident in Japan is that the human community, acting for itself and as trustees for future generations, must exercise a far higher level of care globally in dealing with technologies capable of causing mass annihilation, and should phase out, abolish and replace such technologies with alternatives that do not threaten present and future generations. This applies to nuclear weapons as well as to nuclear power reactors.”

Among the signees are Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai from Kenya, environmental activist Vandana Shiva and Ashok Khosla, Co-President of the Club of Rome, both from India, Maude Barlow, UN Consultant from Canada, Hafsat Abiola-Costello, human rights activist from Nigeria, Alexander Likhotal from Russia, President of the Green Cross International, Francisco Whitaker Ferreira from Brazil, Co-Founder of the World Social Forum and Bishop Erwin Kräutler, Austria.

The full statement can be found on our web pages

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org)

# Councillors demand Global Nuclear Phase Out

# Power Kick for Africa

## Realising a decentralized, renewable energy supply for Africa

Our work at the World Future Council focuses on improving policies. Policies shape the world in which we live. And that is where our focus lies – working with policy-makers in many countries on legal texts, documents, drafts and agreements. We work at the national level, the EU and the UN.

But some stories are best told when they are simple and tangible. In June 2010, we were in the small Ghanaian village of Oboadaka with our “Power Kick for Africa” project. This is where Rachel lives. She is a nurse in the local clinic which serves 7,000 people in the region. If a pregnant woman is about to give birth, Rachel does the following: She searches for someone to supply charcoal and makes a fire to boil water. Only then can she sterilise her medical instruments. In the evenings she works in the glow of oil lamps, prepares syringes and infusions, and brings children into the world in the shadows.



80 per cent of Africans are dependent on wood or charcoal for their energy supply. The search for firewood is traditionally a woman's task, requiring much time that could be better spent elsewhere. Moreover, this type of energy supply causes environmental problems. Most Africans live in rural areas, and linking up to the national power grid is often expensive or inaccessible.

Working together with local partners, the World Future Council installed solar panels on the roof of the village clinic in Oboadaka in June 2010. Now, Oboadaka has electricity for health care, lighting, and even for football: together with the villagers, we cheered on the Ghanaian national team in their game against Germany. Oboadaka was suddenly in the midst of global events.

Providing the African population with access to green energy is one of our most urgent tasks, because in it lies the way to a sustainable, just and peaceful future. Therefore, we not only brought solar power to the people of Oboadaka but also ran a workshop in the Ghanaian capital of Accra to advise on best policies, funding and technologies. The World Future Council coordinates the African Renewable Energy Alliance (AREA) to exchange knowledge and know-how with representatives of politics, business and civil society from many African nations. Our Powerkick project will continue in 2011 with a conference and a solar public viewing in Nigeria. The dream of a decentralized, environmentally friendly electrification of Africa will only be realised when policy-makers take the necessary steps.



Hafsat Abiola-Costello, Nigeria, **Human Rights Activist** • Ibrahim Abouleish, Egypt, Founder of SEKEM • Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief to the Assembly of First Nations in Canada • Maude Barlow, Canada, National Chairperson of The Council of Canadians • Dipal Chandra Barua, Bangladesh, Co-founder of the Grameen Bank • Rae Kwon Chung, **Climate Ambassador** of the Republic of Korea • Tony Colman, Former British **Member of Parliament** • Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Canada, **Director** of the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law • Hans-Peter Dürr, Germany, **Nuclear Physicist** and philosopher • Jared Duval, USA, Author and Fellow of DEMOS • Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Director General of the Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia • Riane Eisler, USA, President of the Center for Partnership Studies • Scilla Elworthy, UK, Founder of the Oxford Research Group • Fabio Feldmann, Brazil, Former **Environmental Secretary** of Sao Paulo • Tim Flannery, Chairman of the Australian Climate Commission • Sándor Fülöp, **Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations** in Hungary • Rafia Ghubash, United Arab Emirates, Former **President** of the Arab Gulf University • Cyd Ho, **Councillor** of Hong Kong's Legislative Council • Wes Jackson, USA, President of The Land Institute • Ashok Khosla, India, **Co-President of the Club of Rome** • C. S. Kiang, China, **Founding Dean of the College of Environmental Sciences in Beijing** • Rolf Kreibich, Germany, Director of the Institute for Future Studies and Technology Assessment Berlin • David Krieger, USA, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation • Alexander Likhotal, Russia, President of Green Cross International • Rama Mani, **Senior Research Associate** Oxford University • Stephen Marglin, USA, **Economist** at Harvard University • Manfred Max-Neef, Former **Rector** of the University of Valdivia • Frances Moore Lappé, USA, Founder of the Small Planet Institute • Youssou N'Dour, Senegal, **Musician** and human rights activist • Katiana Orluc, Austria, Middle East **Expert** and Historian at Harvard University • Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Mauritania, Former **Special Representative** of the UN Secretary-General in Somalia and co-founder of Transparency International • Vithal Rajan, Vice-President of Oxfam India • Vandana Shiva, India, **Founder** of the Research Foundation of Science, Technology and Ecology and of NAVDANYA • Sulak Sivaraksa, Thailand, Co-founder of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists • Hans-Christof von Sponeck, Germany, Former UN Assistant **Secretary General** • Motoyuki Suzuki, Chairman of the Central Environmental Council in Japan • Pauline Tangiora, **Maori Elder** Rongomaiwahine Tribe, Aotearoa • Alyn Ware, New Zealand, Founder and **international coordinator of the Network of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament** • Judge C. G. Weeramantry, Sri Lanka, Former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice • Francisco Whitaker, Brazil, Co-founder of the World Social Forum • Anders Wijkman, Sweden, Former president of GLOBE EU. Our honorary councillors: Tadatoshi Akiba, Japan, former **Mayor** of Hiroshima • Patrus Ananias, former Brazilian **Minister** of Social Development and the Fight Against Hunger • Ahmed Djoghla, Algeria, **Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity** • Olivier Giscard d'Estaing, France, Founding Dean and Director General of INSEAD • Wangari Maathai, Kenya, **Nobel Peace Prize Laureate** 2004 • Gertrude Ibengwé Mongella, Tanzania, former President of the Pan-African Parliament • Michael Otto, Germany, **Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Otto Group** • Arthur N.R. Robinson, Former **President** of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago • Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Germany, Co-chair of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management

## Our Councillors



We want future generations to inherit a world with intact ecosystems and a healthy environment. Therefore, we identify policies that can have a positive impact on future generations. Our annual “Future Policy Award” celebrates inspirational and effective laws. The food security programme of the Brazilian city Belo Horizonte ensures that every citizen has daily access to local, sustainably farmed food. Production and distribution are protected, aided and regulated. The result? Child mortality rate has been reduced by 60 per cent and undernourishment by 75 per cent. Hunger has been almost eliminated from this city for the cost of just 2 per cent of the city’s annual budget.

We want to protect our children and grandchildren in a tangible way by creating good, sustainable policies that enable their future. In order for our work to be trusted and to effect very large changes quickly, we must be politically and financially independent.

As a charitable foundation, we depend on your support to build a ‘future-proof’ world!

**Help us create a better world!**

You can donate to a specific campaign or the overall work of the World Future Council to help us to continue our successful work.

World Future Council Foundation

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## It is time.

The consequences of our decisions reach further into the future than ever before. They are also global for the first time in history.

Hence, the principle of sustainability must now prevail in all areas of our lives. This is not one option among many, but a question of survival. Laws of nature cannot be overridden by election cycles or annual budgets. One can defer monetary debts, but not environmental liabilities. One can negotiate with debtors and creditors, but not with contaminated land, melting glaciers, expanding deserts or extinct species.

The current economic model, which ignores and externalizes costs at the expense of the environment and future generations, has brought material wealth to a global minority. The trickle-down effect has been negligible. Today, this model can no longer deliver because its costs have become unbearable. There can be no improvements to living standards in ruined environments.

For more and more people, the social and environmental costs of this model have become too high. They do not want planned economies. But they have goals and values more important than those of the global consumer.

We need to help policy-makers create the legal framework which ensures that markets work for all without externalizing costs. This is the role of the World Future Council. As a trusted partner of policy-makers worldwide, we identify and promote policies and laws that protect current and future generations of life. We know that change is possible and can come very quickly when the time is ripe. Every crisis is also an opportunity.

Yours, Jakob von Uexküll