Preface

"We should raise the bar."

– MP, Member of the Committee for the Future Antti Rantakangas (1964 – 2019) in Committee's brainstorm session on its goals for the electoral period 2019 – 2022

Background of the World Summit of the Committees of the Future 2022

The World Summit of the Committees of the Future 2022 brought together, for the first time, the committees responsible for dealing with future issues in different parliaments. The World Summit was held in the Parliament of Finland on 12—13 October 2022.

The idea a gathering of committees of the future had been around for quite some time. The Committee for the Future, founded in 1993 in the Parliament of Finland, was the world's first parliamentary committee dealing with future policy. In the recent years, future committees have been established in some other parliaments as well. The Finnish Committee saw this as a promising and important early sign of recognised need to develop democratic decision-making, where tension between the needs of the short and the long term, present and future, are ever present.

The Finnish Committee for the Future had discussed the idea of getting to know the other committees of future in the previous electoral periods. Yet it took until autumn 2019 that a concrete initiative to host such a meeting was made. This happened in a brainstorming session where the Committee discussed topical interests of its members and the goals it would set for its activities for the electoral period 2019 – 2022. As one of the ideas to push forward, the Committee decided to gather its counterparts from the parliaments around the world to a joint Summit in autumn 2022. With this initiative, the Committee for the Future of the Finnish Parliament also wanted to remember Antti Rantakangas, who was a member of the Committee for the Future. At the beginning of this parliamentary term, Rantakangas hoped that the Committee would "raise the bar" in all its work. Rantakangas died in 2019. The World Summit was to be the most significant effort to advance international policy on the future in the Committee's history.

Yet it was no straightforward task to know whom to invite. The Committee for the Future was aware of some of the other committees of the future, but the precise nature of many of these was unknown. To identify the relevant counterparts, the Committee got help from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. It used its network of embassies to find out, what mechanisms parliaments in different countries have for foresight and future-oriented decision-making.

Special attention was to be paid to committees and other parliamentary organs that have a permanent mandate to consider a broad range of future-related matters and that consist of elected members of parliament rather than of civil servants or experts. Committees whose mandate is limited to working only with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of United Nations were not included, despite their work being future-related. This is because the perspective of 2030 is rather short for futures thinking. Another reason is that the seventeen SDGs form a somewhat pre-determined list of issues, while the idea of the Committee for the Future is the freedom to choose its own agenda and the issues to focus on.

The Ministry's study covered some 80 countries. It found that some futures work was done in 43 parliaments. Based on the study and some follow-up inquiries, the Committee for the Future saw that committees of the future exist in at least in Brazil, Chile, Iceland, Lithuania, the Philippines and Uruguay. In many of the parliaments doing futures work, consideration of futures issues was distributed to the existing

committees. Of these committees, eight were assessed to have so broad mandate that they matched the idea of committee of future quite closely despite operating under some other name (Austria, Canada, Estonia, France, Japan, Poland, Thailand and Vietnam). Some five parliaments had internal or affiliated office for doing foresight, and in nine countries foresight was carried out only in the prime minister's or president's office, but not in the parliament.

Finally, a decision was made to send invitation to the 14 Committees that could be considered committees of the future. Later the Congress of Paraguay also founded Special Committee for the Future for Mid and Long term Strategic Affairs, which was subsequently invited also. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the invitation covered possibilities to participate virtually or physically in Helsinki, and an opportunity was offered to send a written Committee Introduction to the Summit publication even if participation was not deemed possible.

Of the invited 15 committees, 13 responded positively, while the representatives from the National Diet of Japan and National Assembly and Senate of France could not participate. Of the 13, the Brazilian Committee on the Senate of the Future had to cancel its participation at the last minute, but it did send a written Committee Introduction, which is included in this publication. Ten committees were physically represented. The Committee on Science, Technology and Environment of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Philippine Senate Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Innovation, and Futures Thinking participated virtually. The members of the Committee on Science, Technology, Research, and innovation from the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand participated virtually, while sending civil servants and experts on-site.

The Committee for the Future of the Parliament of Finland notes that the above-mentioned criteria and process were fitting for its own needs to get to know closest counterparts but are not meant to be interpreted as the only possible way to choose whom to invite to the World Summit of the Committees for the Future.

Aims of the World Summit of the Committees of the Future 2022

While the idea of the World Summit felt important already in autumn 2019, when the organising of the World Summit of the Committees of the Future was made, the three years between the decision and the actual event further underscored the need for international dialogue on the phenomena shaping our common future. It was becoming painfully evident that issues that had felt like plot twists of a movie – global pandemic, Russia's attack on Ukraine and its manifold consequences, together with the droughts, floods, fires, pests and poor water and air quality apparent in many parts of the world – were very real forces impacting the everyday lives of billions of people. It felt ever more relevant that not only futurists or ministers, but also the very representatives of people should be as broadly as possible involved in making sense and discussing emerging issues that might have consequences of such magnitude.

The first World Summit of the Committees for the Future had seven purposes.

First is to get organised: to get an overview of committees with a mandate to process future issues in their respective parliaments.

Second, to share information and best practises.

Third, to highlight futures issues that the participants want to raise as important further discussion topics for this forum.

Fourth, to discuss about further collaboration and agree on the Joint Statement of the World Summit of the Committees of the Future 2022.

Fifth, to highlight the need to increase future-orientation in decision-making in parliaments and to encourage the formation of new committees of the future.

Sixth, to offer the concept of World Summit of the Committees for the Future as an inspiration for other committees and parliaments to host World Summits of their own as a venue for international discussion over emerging future questions.

Seventh, to raise awareness of the importance of parliamentary futures work.

The structure of this publication

This foreword documents the background, aims, outline and discussions of the World Summit of the Committees of the Future 2022. The main result of the Summit, the Joint Statement by the participants, is to be found after this foreword.

The third, final part of this publication consists of the written introductions that the Committees of the Future submitted already before the Summit. The instructions for writing the introductions were simple. The guideline for the introduction was to provide some facts about the committee, some examples of the committee's work, and the possible suggestions that the committee wanted to make for themes or topics for the later World Summits. The committees were free to interpret these guidelines. The results document the state of parliamentary futures work around the globe.

The outline of the World Summit

Day I of the Summit was structured as follows.

The Speaker of the Parliament of Finland, Mr. Matti Vanhanen, gave the opening speech, followed by a welcome by Mr. Joakim Strand, the Chairman of the Committee for the Future of the Parliament of Finland. Videos of these speeches can be seen [linkit puuttuvat!] on the World Summit webpage: https://www.parliament.fi/world-summit-committees-future.

A keynote speech was given by Mr. Jerome C. Glenn, leader of the Millennium project, which represents perhaps the most comprehensive collective effort to coordinate understanding of the trends and phenomena driving the global development. The keynote presented 15 global challenges and high-impact strategies for solving them. It also discussed where humanity is winning and where it is losing and noted that humanity has the answers to these problems, but "zero-sum" geopolitical power competitions prevent a global policy process for implementing these solutions. Mr. Glenn argued that it is necessary to create synergetic relations among countries, corporations, academia, NGOs, and UN systems to address these problems. The pandemic, global warming, and future AI is forcing humanity to develop global policy processes and global governance systems. According to research done in the Millennium Project, the best way to proceed would be to create United Nations Futures Lab collective intelligence system. The parliamentary committees of the future could participate this work. Mr. Glenn's slides can be found as part of "presentation slides 12.10.2022" on the World Summit webpage: https://www.parliament.fi/world-summit-committees-future.

After the keynote speech, the first day of the Summit focused on introducing the work of the participating parliamentary committees. The first set of presentations was given by those committees whose name reflects their future-orientation: Committee for the Future (Finland), Challenges of the Future Commission (Chile), Future Committee (Iceland), Committee for the Future (Lithuania), ICT Committee and Special Committee for the Future for Mid and Long-term Strategic Affairs (Paraguay), Committee of Sustainable Development Goals, Innovations and Futures Thinking (the Philippines) and Committee of the Future

(Uruguay). The second set of presentations was given by committees whose mandate included a broad range of future-relevant matters even if they operated under some other name: Standing Committee on Industry and Technology (Canada), Committee of Economic Affairs, presented together with parliament's Foresight Center (Estonia), Committee for Digitalisation, Innovation and Modern Technology (Poland), Committee on Science, Technology, Research, and Innovation (Thailand) and , Science, Technology and Environment Committee (Vietnam). The introduction of the Committee for Research, Innovation and Digitalization (Austria) was moved to the second day due to technical reasons.

In their speeches, many future themes emerged multiple times, from committees of different parliaments. Frequently mentioned topics were, for instance, the future of democracy, young people's faith in the future, the future of artificial intelligence, the possibilities of technology in a fair green transition and the promotion of an equal future. The present publication includes the written introductions of all committees, supplemented with the introduction of Committee on the Senate of the Future (Brazil), which could not participate the event but sent an introduction for this publication. The presentation slides of those committees that used them are on the World Summit webpage.

On the first day, also the youth had their say. The students from European School of Helsinki received a standing ovation for their speech on the issues that they presently worry when considering the future that is left for them – the state of the environment, the impact of social media, and the consequences of the war in Ukraine, among other things.

The day programme ended with futurist Risto Linturi's demonstration of human-like artificial intelligence (AI). In the demonstration, Mr. Linturi had combined the work of three different AI applications: the first one wrote the text for a speech to be given at the Summit, the second one animated and gave voice to the human-female-looking presenter of the text and the third one created the art that was seen behind the presenting human figure. The demonstration showed a completely realistic person giving an eloquent speech on the need for joint fast action and legislation to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to work towards circular economy, with changing artistic images on the background. After this demonstration video, Mr. Linturi noted that the current affordability of such commercial AI technology means that soon one can have video conversation in any language with various AIs and use them as personal assistants and means of influencing other people. This creates both opportunities and threats. According to Mr. Linturi, decisions made in the ongoing decade determine whether such AI services will allow individual users to see and define what values such services will follow, or whether the services will be designed to promote corporate or governments values. The video and the speech text can be found from the World Summit webpage.

The second day of the Summit was structured as follows.

The day began with art. The host of the Summit, the Committee for the Future of the Parliament of Finland, has collaborated with the Arts Promotion Centre Finland on several occasions to enrich its own work. This time, the collaboration involved introducing the perspective of art on future for the Summit participants. First, artists Ailu Valle and Lávre Johan Eiran from Finnish and Norwegian Lapland expressed traditional Sami yoik with guitar, their voices and movement, ending with a spoken song on the future. Second, the performance was followed by a video greeting written by Oyindamola Fakeye, Executive & Artistic Director of the Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos and performed by Ama Ofeibea Amponsah, Director of the Ásikó Art School, and Curator of the Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos (the video is on the World Summit webpage). The greeting emphasised the power of art in imagining new futures, in seeing existing knowledge in a new way, in co-creating new concepts and collaboration between people from multiple and diverse worldviews, and even in learning from nature and non-human agencies. For example, the feeling of

living as part of the changing environment of the north was vividly expressed in the yoik that was just heard and seen in the Summit auditorium.

This was followed by short speeches of those Committees that wanted to raise potential themes for consideration for follow-up World Summits. Finland and Iceland took this opportunity for an additional 5-minute presentation. Some committees had brought up potential joint issues already at the end of their introductions on the previous day or in their written contributions.

Committee suggestions for important topics

The guideline for writing the committee participants' introductions offered the committees an opportunity to suggest topics that they considered suitable themes for the World Summits beyond 2022. These suggestions for important topics are listed below. They have been collected from the written introductions and presentations at the Summit. Some of the suggestions have been framed as global questions, others as national issues with international scope. And some suggestions concerned the ways to organise the planned collaboration between the committees of the future.

Austria

- Funding programme for renewable fuels
- Digitally sovereign Austria and Europe

Brazil

- Biodiversity
- Sustainable agricultural production
- Amazônia

Canada

- The use of deep technologies, such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing, to improve supply chain resilience
- Strategies for developing global energy capacity while cutting greenhouse gas emissions
- The use of technology to prepare for future health crises
- The role of low-emission technologies in global food security
- Different ways to improve broadband Internet connectivity in rural and remote communities
- Big data analytics and cybersecurity in the management of critical infrastructure
- The role of technology in helping manage migratory movements resulting from various types of crises

Finland

- How can we learn to direct the transformative potential of technology to increase sustainability?
- How can we, people of today, help the people of the future to achieve a balance between human activities and the limits of our planet?
- How to secure that people would still want reliable information on the global situation and on the state of the world in the era of information-filtering, privately or governmentally owned algorithms? How can we secure people access to reliable information?
- What does it mean for the individual to have a good future? What does it take to provide people hope that even a future different from now can feel, sound and taste good?

- How to spread the training of future skills - our cognitive structures, values, and beliefs of what is possible? How to develop such resilience-providing future skills into a civic skill, equal to literacy?

Iceland

- The future of democracy
- Technological changes leading to sustainable and fair transition and prosperity
- Demographic transition
- A mutual website for the committees with shared vocabulary and examples of best practises in strategic foresight and scenarios planning to facilitate networking and collaboration.

Lithuania

- Clarifying and promoting purpose and scope of CFF in Parliamentary activity. Futures thinking as a distinct area of activity is still a novelty in Parliamentary practice. It needs conceptual underpinnings and practical agenda. We believe that this should be a constant topic in further fora of CFFs.
- Role of Parliaments in promoting and strengthening the ecosystem of anticipatory governance. In order to achieve their goals, foresight and other futures-thinking related activities should be embedded in structures and processes of public governance across all parts of the state. Exchange of good practices and discussions on what Parliaments could and should do in order to enhance the formation of culture of anticipatory governance would be very helpful.
- Supporting global and regional Parliamentary and Governmental agendas for the future. CFFs should become instrumental in joining the efforts of Parliaments to face global and regional challenges. We could elaborate on what we can be best at with the view to implementing SDGs, Twin Transition (Europe) and other international strategies. With this intention in mind, we shall discuss connecting to ESPAS as well as establishing constant relations with the EP, the relevant bodies of UNESCO, etc.
- Embedding and developing Parliamentary technology foresight. Technology ranks among the major drivers of global change, both posing challenges and opening opportunities for preserving the natural environment and fostering human development. Many Parliaments may feel stressed by the volume of changes in the field of technology; joining the efforts to understand and manage these changes may bring value added to the service that SFFs provide to their parent Parliaments and internationally.
- Guarding the future of democracy. Parliaments are guards and guarantees of democratic governance and civic society by their very nature. As we can see, democracy in under threat in many parts of the world. New forms and possibilities of revitalising and securing democratic future of the world would be a timely and appropriate topic for Parliamentary CFFs around the globe.

Paraguay

- National Innovation Strategy
- Beyond traditional legislative procedure

The Philippines

- The futures of water. How do we meet the water requirements needed to support living organisms & their ecosystem?
- The futures of food. How do we ensure global food security?
- The futures of cities. How do we create a city that provides for the social, economic and environmental needs of people, while supporting the planet?

- The futures of education and work. How can we create an educational system that prepares and equips our children with the skills and jobs needed in the future?
- The futures of health. How do we transform the current healthcare system to adapt to the changing global landscape, taking into the consideration future pandemics, climate change, environmental degradation, and technological advancement?
- The futures of transportation. How do we seamslessly shift from traditional modes of transport to more sustainable ones?

Poland

- Cyber security. Not only are there often thousands of kilometres separating the victim from the perpetrator but also two or more different legal systems exist. In addition, more often than not, a single attack simultaneously affects citizens of many countries using the same IT solutions
- The development and regulation of the use of artificial intelligence algorithms. The most important models are built based on data collected from many countries and then applied, without considering the legal context, simultaneously in Poland, Brazil, Finland and dozens of other countries. For this reason, national regulations concerning restrictions and rules for using artificial intelligence algorithms must be coordinated at a supranational level.
- Effective regulation of the operation and fair taxation of transnational corporations providing online services. Although their activities have a direct and significant impact on the socio-economic reality of individual countries, e.g. by shaping a country's media market or key logistics chains, they are generally not effectively regulated at the level of particular countries.
- We must also not forget that although the digital revolution is global, many countries still stand on the sidelines of this process. It is our duty and responsibility, as beneficiaries of this process, to look for solutions and tools that will help to include as many countries as possible in this revolution. Here, too, there is an essential space for coordination between committees.

Thailand

- The use of technology and innovation for Thai people in the future: smart farming; food; genomics; vaccines and biologics; next-generation automotive; artificial intelligence; quantum technology; advanced materials technology; space technology
- The role of Thailand and global health security, preventing and reducing the likelihood of outbreaks, fast threat detection, and responding to threats quickly and efficiently
- Innovations to solved social inequality problems and international cooperation
- In summary, the 3 areas of "future problems" composed of a change in lifestyle, crisis response and various threats including sustainable development that creates equality and reduces environmental impact have become a global agenda every country has to encounter. Any problem that arises in one corner of the world will be able to make an impact on the other sides of the world. Therefore, it could be said that these future problems are not the problem of any country.

Uruguay

- The future of work and work of the future. 1. Transformation and emerging vectors that encourage rethinking of the world of work as we knew it in the last century: permanence and differences, what challenges do they pose? 2. Transformation and emerging vectors that imply a rethinking of the economic and value production practices of the future: new technologies, sectors, practices, values and actors in the production of economic and non-economic value for a sustainable world from a framework of innovative ecosystem. 3. New skills for the 21st century: learning as a permanent process. 4. Long-standing societies (100+): Transition toward a future of longevity. Its

impact on the world of work. Opening the menu of change beyond the problem of pressure on the Social Security system. 5. The governance of the Work of the Future: regulation and labor policy for a change of era.

Vietnam

- It is necessary to continue to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy between the National Assembly of Vietnam and the Parliaments of other countries to share information and experience in areas of mutual interest.
- Build a database network of members attending Committees of the Future World Summit to increase interaction and regular connection on summit-related content and future cooperation.
- Promote cooperation between specialized committees of the National Assembly of countries, especially in the fields of science, technology, innovation and response to climate change.
- Strengthening activities to connect, share experiences about legislation, supervision in the fields of science, technology, innovation, response to climate change through conferences and seminars; exchange of delegations between the Committees of the National Assembly of the countries in a flexible form (in person, online) to form a wide and close international information network.
- Connecting reputable international organizations to develop specific cooperation programs with the National Assembly of Vietnam, the Committee for Science, Technology and Environment of the National Assembly of Vietnam to contribute to strengthening the capacity and experience for the National Assembly deputies of the National Assembly of Vietnam.
- Introduce international experts with deep expertise and experience in science, technology, innovation, and response to climate change for the Committee to consult in related activities.

Many of the above topics are more thoroughly explained and argued for in the written committee introductions included in this publication, so the interested reader is advised to delve deeper into the committees' texts to find out about the details. Not all committees took the opportunity to make such suggestions for the joint forum, yet a look into their written introductions reveals the kind of issues they have been working with.

Collecting the suggestions in this foreword serves the purpose of getting snapshot of a historical moment: They form an overview on the kind of issues that committees of the future have considered as relevant in different parts of the world in autumn 2022, before the futures dialogue of these parliamentary actors was started. Remarkable similarities as well as some unique differences in emphasis can indeed be discerned.

Further collaboration and the Joint Statement

The continuation of the collaboration was in the focus of the last part of the second day of the Summit. Anybody could ask for the floor and numerous comments were presented. Most of the discussion concerned the principles expressed in the Joint Statement that can be found after this foreword. But other comments were also made. Perhaps most notably, it was brought up that the committees of the future are presently unevenly distributed – in particular, the background study used had not identified any committees of the future in countries of the African continent. It was not known for certain whether this is due to insufficient information or to the actual lack of such committees.

It was also commented that the geopolitically most powerful countries seem not to have this kind of parliamentary organs. The meeting agreed that one purpose of the World Summits is to inspire the generation of committees of the future in parliaments that do not yet have them. Another point of agreement was a need for a common website for committees of the future. Yet the resourcing and the location of such site could not be planned and decided on the spot.

There were also several comments on the issue that while the introduction and getting to know the different committees was suitable content for the first Summit, the subsequent Summits could have a topical focus also. Yet it was noted even Summits with a particular theme might include some mechanism to highlight also new topics and concerns. The above list of topical suggestions made in the written committee introductions and presentations can serve as one source of topical inspiration for the organisers of the next World Summits of the Committees of the Future.

The final point of discussion concerned the ways to choose the host for the next Summit and how to account for other future-oriented international events organised by the participants. It was noted that the World Summits of the Committees of the Future should take place in different geographical regions, and that once-per-year frequency should enable the participation of those committees who could not this time participate due to autumn 2022 being the time of elections. It was agreed that World Summits of the Committees of the Future will take place in October each year. The Special Futures Committee of the Parliament of Uruguay offered to organise the next Summit in October 2023. It was subsequently accepted and decided as being the next host.

The participants also discussed the upcoming interesting future events that will be organised already before the next World Summit of the Committees of the Future. The first of these is the “Congress of the Future 2023”, Santiago, Chile in 16 – 22 January 2023. It will be the eleventh “congreso futuro”, an initiative supported by the Senate - through the Future Challenges Committee – that aims to bring knowledge closer to citizens and link it to various actors associated with the decisions taken at national and international levels in the field of science, technology, knowledge, and innovation. The reader is encouraged to read more from the written introduction of the Future Challenges Committee of the Senate of Chile.

The second upcoming initiative is the “The Future of the World Congress ” in Vilnius, Lithuania 12 – 13 May 2023, initiated by the Committee for the Future of the Seimas, Lithuania. The event is targeted at parliamentary Committees for the Future and their equivalents, parliamentary knowledge services and experts on anticipatory governance. At the time of writing of this foreword, the main theme of the event planned in Vilnius was not yet finalised, but among the themes being considered were mentioned at least: “Conflict and Peace: world after war in Ukraine”, “Politics of Life Sciences: Biotechnology, Epigenetics and what next” and “Our Digital Future: support to and regulation of Quantum Computing, AI and Metaverse”.

The participants to the World Summit discussion decided to add to the Joint Statement that committees of the future are encouraged to stay actively in touch with each other also in between the World Summits and noted that such events are a prime opportunity for doing so. The fact that committees of the future are active in this way also highlights the need for a shared platform for distributing information on each other’s activities.

To conclude

This World Summit has initiated international parliamentary collaboration on futures thinking. It showed the strength and skill of the futures committees that have been created in various parliaments throughout the years.

The Committee for the Future wants to warmly thank all the participants of the World Summit of the Committees of the Future 2022 and all the contributors of this publication. The Committee for the Future of the Parliament of Finland presents its gratitude and good wishes to the Special Futures Committee of the Parliament of Uruguay, that will continue to carry the torch and host of World Summit of the Committees of the Future 2023.

We hope that one day, people may look back and trace the origins of global future politics to the community that has now emerged.

In Helsinki, 26 October 2022

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