

Intergenerational Considerations Policy Brief

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POLICY MAKING INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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Contents

**THE PROBLEM: A LACK OF COMMON DEFINITION FOR A CONCEPT USED
TO MORALLY JUSTIFY HIGH-IMPACT POLICIES**

**OUR SOLUTION: A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND
MAINSTREAMING OF FUTURE GENERATION IN ALL POLICIES AND
PROJECTS PRODUCING RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: TO CREATE, MONITOR, MAINSTREAM, AND
UPDATE THE FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

I – THE PROBLEM

A lack of common definition for a
concept used to morally justify high-
impact policies

All stakeholders agree on responsibility...

➤ ETHICS OF CARE

- “DOES NOT APPLY ONLY TO HUMANS, ALSO RIVERS (...) IT IS EVIDENT THAT **ONE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR OTHERS, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.**”
- THE NUCLEAR SECTOR IS IMPOSING A PARTICULAR WAY ON THE PATH OF THE FUTURE.
 - CORNELIUS HOLTORF, ARCHAEOLOGIST

➤ LEGAL, TECHNICAL NEED

- RESPONSIBILITY ON US TO OVERSEE AND AUTHORIZE THE FACILITY (...) THAT HAS IMPACT FOR A VERY LONG TIME (...) A TECHNICAL DUTY.
 - OLIVIER LAREYNIE, ASNR

➤ “POLLUTER PAYS” PRINCIPLE

- “GENERATIONS BENEFITTING FROM NUCLEAR ENERGY SHOULD BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR WASTE”
- “**FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF COSTS BETWEEN POLLUTERS** (PRESENT GENERATIONS) AND VICTIMS (FUTURE GENERATIONS), INTERNALISATION OF THE COSTS, PREVENTIVE MEASURES”

– BAŞAK SARAÇ LESAVRE,
DEEP-TIME FINANCING AND GENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

But... vagueness across actors

- **NEA (RETRIEVABILITY OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL):**
 - “UNDUE BURDENS SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON FUTURE GENERATIONS” (P. 15)
 - “NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS SHOULD BE RESPECTED” (P. 37)
- **NGO BURESTOP:**
 - “CIGÉO IS A POISONED GIFT FOR OUR DESCENDANTS FOR MORE THAN CENTURY AND A HALF”
 - “WE NEED TO LISTEN TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS AND THEIR DESIRES TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY”
- **ANDRA/ CONSEIL CONSTITUTIONNEL:**
 - BY PASSING ON SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE ABLE TO REVISIT CURRENT DECISIONS, IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE
 - FUTURE GENERATIONS AS “THOSE NOT BORN YET”
- **THIS TELLS US VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE FUTURE GENERATIONS THEMSELVES – DIFFICULTIES WITH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTING ON RESPONSIBILITY!**
 - GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE
 - TEMPORAL DIMENSION
 - VARIOUS WAYS OF REPRESENTING

With Real Impact on Policy Choices

- ① **LACK OF DEFINITIONS → LACK OF COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSE**
 - **VAGUE AND UNCOORDINATED DEFINITION BETWEEN ACTORS LEADS TO UNCOORDINATED ACTION**
 - **LOCAL NGO PISCINE NUCLÉAIRE STOP** SEES FUTURE GENERATIONS LOCALLY AND PROPOSES THE END OF THE NUCLEAR POOL PROGRAM TO PROTECT LA HAGUE'S FUTURE GENERATIONS
 - ANDRA MENTIONS FUTURE GENERATIONS ON A **NATIONAL** SCALE
 - GLOBAL NGOS AND ACADEMICS ON AN **INTERNATIONAL** LEVEL
 - ② **USE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO JUSTIFY POLICIES WITHOUT REALLY TARGETING THEM**

« L'ANDRA NE S'EST PAS FIXÉ D'OBJECTIF DE DURÉE MAXIMALE POUR LA PRÉSERVATION DE LA MÉMOIRE ».

PROGRAM « MÉMOIRE DES STOCKAGES DE DÉCHETS RADIOACTIFS POUR LES GÉNÉRATIONS FUTURES »

 - **MENTION OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE LASTING 100 000 YEARS VS CIGEO'S SHORT TERM SCOPE**
- ③ **DISCOURSE VS ACTION**
 - DGEC FRAMES RADIOACTIVE-WASTE MANAGEMENT AS A REGULATORY OBLIGATION TO PROTECT PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. HOWEVER, THERE IS A VISIBLE GAP: NO CLEAR ACTION FRAMEWORK BEYOND CIGÉO.

II – OUR SOLUTION

An action framework for the consideration and mainstreaming of future generation in all policies and projects producing radioactive waste

Framework for the consideration of future generations

ACTION FRAMEWORK

Ensure future generation are operationalised into policy

ALL NUCLEAR POLICIES

For all policies or projects that produce, recycle, manage, or deal with radioactive waste in any way

LOGICAL STRUCTURE

Structured around different action that can be taken with regards to different future generation timescales

predictions about institutional stability, knowledge, ...

Cigéo construction

SHORT TERM MEDIUM TERM LONG TERM



TODAY 150 YEARS 500 YEARS 100 000 YEARS

Greenlight deep geological storage

Create knowledge transmission mechanisms (nuclear semiotics)

Close storage facility to protect against intrusion

Cigéo/ANDRA financing obligations

Wait for scientific knowledge to develop before choosing a long-term solution for waste

Let future generations share knowledge to the next generations

ACT NOW

DELAY ACTION

predictions about institutional stability, knowledge, ...

SHORT TERM

MEDIUM TERM

LONG TERM



TODAY

150 YEARS

500 YEARS

100 000
YEARS

> UP TO 150 YEARS IN THE FUTURE

- Actions with largest potential impact
- Based on a representation of future generations similar to us

> EXAMPLES OF POLICIES

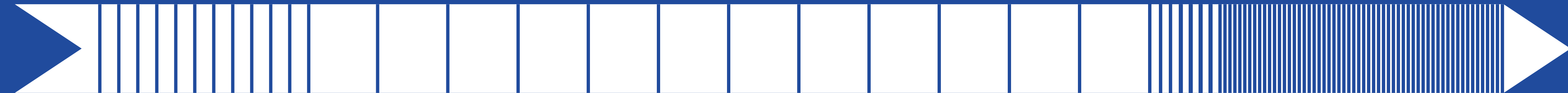
- Reversibility: delaying Cigéo construction or ensuring reversibility in the short term
- Cost: ensuring sustainable financing mechanisms over this time period

predictions about institutional stability, knowledge, ...

SHORT TERM

MEDIUM TERM

LONG TERM



TODAY

150 YEARS

500 YEARS

100 000
YEARS



MEDIUM TERM: UP TO 500 YEARS

- A growing uncertainty (institutions, conflicts)
- The reversibility aspect of the program became a central issue
- Precautionary principle towards societies we cannot conceptualize



EXAMPLES OF POLICIES

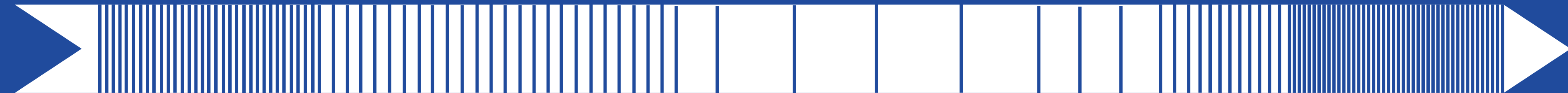
- Focus on knowledge transmission
- The “programme de mémoire” should go further
- Set-aside fundings to future generations

predictions about institutional stability, knowledge, ...

SHORT TERM

MEDIUM TERM

LONG TERM



TODAY 150 YEARS

500 YEARS

100 000
YEARS

> BEYOND A 500 YEAR HORIZON

- Institutions, economies and scientific paradigms will evolve in unforeseeable ways
- Each generation must renew and transmit knowledge about radioactive waste
- Existing initiatives contribute to this already

> PRINCIPLES FOR LONG-TERM GOVERNANCE

- Systematic mechanisms for revising records
- Stewardship oriented around concept of habitability
- Humanity's relationship with nature has never been static

HERITAGE
FUTURES

Why other proposals will not solve the issue?

REFLECTION

Ensure future generation are operationalised into policy

LEGAL DEFINITION

a legally binding definition would be too restrictive to be effective.

DEALING WITH UNCERTAINTY

the concept of future generations can evolve over time.

III – RECOMMENDATIONS

**To create, monitor, mainstream, and
update the framework for future
generations**

1. Create the framework for the considerations of future generations

➤ THIS SHOULD

- INCLUDE ALL DIMENSIONS OF THE CONTROVERSY
- BE OPERATIONALISED AT ALL LEVELS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT, FROM PRODUCTION, TO RECYCLING, TO STORAGE

2. Set up an independant body to create this framework

➤ THIS BODY SHOULD

- HAVE OVERSIGHT ON THE ACTIONS OF ANDRA
- HAVE REPRESENTATION FROM
NUCLEAR ENGINEERS,
GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, COMMON
CITIZENS, SEMIOLOGISTS AND
ACADEMICS, NGOS

3. Ensure this framework is being used prospectively and actively



BEFORE A POLICY IS DECIDED

- TO ASSESS IMPACTS OF THE POLICY ON FUTURE GENERATIONS
- TO DECIDE WHAT POLICES SHOULD BE GREENLIGHTED
- SAME IMPORTANCE LEVEL AS FINANCIAL VIABILITY



ONCE A POLICY IS DECIDED

- TO ENSURE IMPACT ON FUTURE GENERATIONS IS MINIMISED
- TO DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION SOLUTIONS
- TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY ACROSS GENERATIONS AND ACTORS EQUITABLY

4. Embed nuclear waste into local/national culture as knowledge transmission

➤ BEFORE A POLICY IS DECIDED

- TO TRANSLATE NUCLEAR STEWARDSHIP INTO COMMUNICATION PRACTICES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CITIZENS
- TO EMBED CIVIL SOCIETY INTO WASTE-MANAGEMENT DECISION PROCESSES
- TO STRUCTURE TRANSPARENT DIALOGUES INTEGRATING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

➤ ONCE A POLICY IS DECIDED

- TO INSTITUTIONALISE PUBLIC OVERSIGHT BY INDEPENDENT MONITORING SOLUTIONS
- TO DEVELOP INTERGENERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION SOLUTIONS
- TO SHARE CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY ACROSS GENERATIONS AND ACTORS EQUITABLY
- TO ENSURE OPEN ACCESS TO INFORMATION

5. Include non-human representation and habitability

> HABITABILITY?

- FUTURE GENERATIONS SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO HUMAN BEINGS
- THE HABITABILITY ENSURE THAT THE TERRITORY IS NOT OVER AFFECTED

> CONCRET ACTIONS

- MANDATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

6. Ensure framework is regularly reviewed and updated



SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

- EVOLUTION OF CULTURE AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
- KNOWLEDGE TO BE TRANSMITTED
- SAME IMPORTANCE LEVEL AS FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Conclusion

- PROBLEM: THE VAGUENESS OF MENTIONING FUTURE GENERATIONS
- SOLUTION PROPOSED: AN ACTIONABLE FRAMEWORK THAT ACCOUNTS FOR TEMPORAL DIMENSION
- POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: ACTIONABLE FRAMEWORK, INDEPENDENT BODY, KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION, NON-HUMAN REPRESENTATION, UPDATES

Thank you for the
attention!

DO YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS?