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| **Title of Innovation in policy and practice presentation** Law for planetary wellbeing and future generations: a model for national legislation with a whole of society approach |
| **Setting/problem**Planetary wellbeing is endangered by short-term policies that are biased towards the present and ignore the interests of future generations. How do we address these threats by embedding protections for the future with strengthened policies and institutional voices for the next generations? We argue that countries need laws that provide a base for future focused strategies, and are applicable to the whole of society, including businesses.**Intervention**The presentation provides a national model for legislation that could be adapted by other countries. As an example, we set out an outline of law for Aotearoa New Zealand that would ensure a comprehensive, long-term and embedded approach to implementing wellbeing objectives for the future and its generations. This would also give legislative effect in New Zealand to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a vision for global wellbeing. The design of such a legislative vehicle includes reviewing existing models for wellbeing policy approaches, particularly the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.**Outcomes**A Wellbeing Act for New Zealand would set out its scope, principles, objectives, content, and implementation methods. The Act would state particular objectives (eg, carbon neutrality, reduced inequalities) and require specified bodies to give them effect. Principles of sustainable development would be recognised, giving specific national responsibilities for advancing the SDGs. The Act would refer to the Treaty of Waitangi (partnership with indigenous peoples) and emphasise the wellbeing of both future and present generations. The practical outcomes of the Act would include (i) planning requirements for planetary wellbeing and the interests of future generations; (ii) accountability and reporting processes; and (iii) a Futures Commissioner with responsibility to speak for future generations and advocate for their interests. The role of the Futures Commissioner in the legislative process would be defined; as would obligations on both public and private sectors to give effect to planetary wellbeing/future generation objectives.**Implications**National legislation for planetary wellbeing and the interests of future generations must include duties for the whole of society - both state and private sectors. The law would be relevant as a model for other countries. Such law should integrate national policy directions with global responsibilities for the present and future. |