



WORLD CONFERENCE
ON YOUTH 2014

COLOMBO DECLARATION ON YOUTH

'Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda'

Preamble:

We, the Ministers responsible for youth, young people, representatives of Governments, United Nations Agencies, youth-led organisations, non-governmental organizations and other development partners have gathered in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 6th - 10th May 2014, at the World Conference on Youth to explore ways and means of mainstreaming of youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda within the agreed framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY);

In this regard we the Ministers responsible for Youth, representatives of governments, global youth and civil society organizations;

Note the summary of the discussions held before and during the World Conference on Youth - 2014 incorporated in *WCY2014/ZD/AP/VI*;

Recognizing that ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, political and socio-economic diversities of young people have enabled them to contribute positively to the formulation implementation and evaluation of actions for development strategies and plans through their creativity and capacity for innovation; therefore youth participation in development at the community, local, national, regional, and global levels should be a strong pillar in all current and future development frameworks;

Recalling the Major Group System, as reinforced in the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in particular the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; also noting the coordination initiatives made by the national, regional and global youth-led organizations, inter alia International Coordination Meetings of Youth Organisations;

Affirming that the promotion of meaningful participation, the realization of rights and integral development of young people represents some of the biggest challenges that need to be tackled along with the priority areas of the United Nations World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY);

Noting that despite the significant achievements made with regard to the social integration of young people since the Millennium Declaration in 2000, and the first International Year of Youth in 1985, there still remain many challenges which impede inclusive participation of young people, hereby constraining the development of a nation's full potential;

Reaffirming the importance of the World Programme of Action for Youth, its role in guiding United Nations, intergovernmental processes and youth programmes at all levels through relevant plans and programmes and consider the urgent need of effectively implementing it through plans, mechanisms and programs at all levels;

Recognizing the active role that young people are playing in social mobilizations in many regions of the world and their willingness to assume responsibilities in the economic, social and political agendas in their countries and regions;

Recalling the commitment of the United Nations and its Member States to recognize the priorities of youth as an integral part in future development negotiations including the Post-2015 Development Agenda negotiations;



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Identifying the following priorities for action, as agreed upon during the deliberations of the Ministers responsible for youth, young people, representatives of Governments, youth-led organisations, non-governmental organizations and other development partners, in the process of mainstreaming youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda;

Recognizing the “Colombo Declaration on Youth”, a result of deliberations among global youth and Ministers responsible for youth and civil society organizations on youth priorities in relation to current and future development frameworks;

Recommendations for Action

Inclusive Youth Led-Development

1. *Call for an enhanced and active role for youth in policy formulation and implementation and evaluation of processes related to development.*
2. *Urge traditional and emerging development partners to strengthen international cooperation for setting up youth aid architecture, including through South–South co-operation, and mainstreaming a youth perspective in development cooperation programs.*

Poverty Eradication and Food and Nutrition Security

3. *Advance economic policies that reduce income inequality and guarantee young people equal opportunities for development by ensuring gainful employment, education, food security, health, and decent housing.*
4. *Acknowledge the right to food and strengthen poverty alleviation policies and programs with a focus on reducing hunger, by ensuring year-round access by all to affordable, adequate, safe and nutritious food.*
5. *Increase efforts by governments and development agencies in partnership with the private sector to invest in value addition schemes to make agriculture and food production viable employment and entrepreneurial avenues for young people.*
6. *Provide social protections to reduce the vulnerability of all young people, especially young people from marginalized backgrounds.*
7. *Provide awareness for youth on food and nutrition including practices to reduce food waste and post-harvest crop losses.*

Realizing Equal Access to Quality Education

8. *Encourage free universal early childhood, primary and secondary education of the highest quality for all children and young people, based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination and ensure equal and equitable access to education at all levels.*
9. *Ensure qualified teachers and high quality, safe, inclusive and supportive learning environments for all children and young people including girls and other marginalized groups, free from all forms of discrimination.*
10. *Encourage states to fulfill the call of the Rio+20 Outcome Document in supporting non-formal education by including lifelong learning indicators in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.*
11. *Increase recognition of non-formal education and vocational education, including volunteer schemes and Information and Communication Technology models and apprenticeships, as an effective means of empowerment and skills transfer.*

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12. *Encourage* governments of the developed countries to strengthen cooperation with developing countries with funds for scholarships and improvement of education programmes.
13. *Encourage* the use of Information and Communication Technology in education the establishment of inter- and intra-regional youth innovation and technology centers, as a means of disseminating knowledge, skills development, innovation and connectivity, thereby enhancing infrastructure in these areas.
14. *Redouble* efforts to integrate education for democratic structures, sustainable development, along with civil liberties, social leadership, human rights, gender equality, inter-culturalism, and peace education into national curricula.
15. *Achieve* effective learning outcomes at all levels that impart knowledge and skills that match the demands of active citizenship.
16. *Encourage* increase in and optimization of national budgets focused on investment in youth development programs and research, education and in quality educational institutions at all levels.

Promoting Healthy Lives and Access to quality Health care

17. *Promote* healthy lifestyles and take steps towards a sustainable framework for health financing, to make adolescent and youth friendly services that are accessible and affordable and ensure the quality of universal health coverage including but not limited to maternal health, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, mental health, injuries and drug and substance abuse including alcohol.
18. *Encourage* universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and information, with the involvement of youth, regardless of marital status, with a particular focus on women, persons living with disabilities and marginalized groups.
19. *Recognize* the need and encourage provision of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the their review conferences.
20. *Provide* comprehensive sex education based on full and accurate information for all adolescents and youth, in accordance with national laws and/or policies consistent with their evolving capacities whilst, safeguarding the right of adolescents to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, respecting cultural values and religious beliefs.
21. *Acknowledge* the harmful effects of political and social determinants of health for young people, in particular young people in armed conflicts and under foreign occupation, by adopting health in all policies approach in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as to reflect that all sectors impact health, and that health impacts all sectors.
22. *Call upon* member states to ensure access to essential medicines by taking action on the gaps in the availability of medicines in both the private and public sectors, and taking steps to lowering the prices of drugs due to intellectual property protection.

23. *Call for* the strengthening of regional healthcare networks supported by better policies which will ensure recruitment, development, training and maintenance of youth in the health workforce.

Full Employment and Entrepreneurship

24. *Promote* youth employment in the Post-2015 Development Agenda by adopting quantitative targets such as young people not in education, employment or training as well as qualitative targets based on the decent work definition according to ILO standards to protect young people from all forms of exploitation and discrimination.
25. *Address* the high rate of youth unemployment, under employment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational education and training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including youth migrants, and increase entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at international, regional, national and local levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society.
26. *Ensure* provision, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, of career guidance, mentoring, counseling, apprenticeship and quality internships and traineeships for youth.
27. *Create* an enabling business environment and multi-stakeholder partnerships, including between developing and developed countries, that are environmentally sustainable to boost entrepreneurship, including startups and apprenticeship for youth and alternative models of enterprise such as co-operatives and intra-regional business incubators with focus on young women and young persons living with disabilities.
28. *Recognize* and promote youth entrepreneurship and skills development towards achieving inclusive and sustainable economic and industrial development, in particular the social, micro, small and medium enterprises sectors.
29. *Calls upon* the United Nations to support a dedicated day for skills development that would benefit global youth.
30. *Ensure* the dignity and quality of life and equal recognition at all levels and all forms of work providing protection to and empowering sectors of the workforce that are often subject to exploitation and discrimination, especially in work traditionally done by women, young people living with disabilities, and those living with HIV/AIDS, young migrant workers, and other key affected populations.
31. *Achieving* universal global access to adequate social protection, decent work and livelihoods for young people in the formal and informal sectors, by encouraging the ratification and implementation of ILO convention 189, enacting legal protections to provide security in the workplace, social protections, paid leave and promoting the rights of young workers.
32. *Call on* the United Nations system to encourage member states to conduct surveys on available job opportunities for youth and avenues for their skills development and for the United Nations to collate the results.

33. *Encourage* the provision of a budget to facilitate the creation of more and decent job opportunities to young people living with disabilities, displaced persons, youth of various ethnic backgrounds and indigenous communities, young migrant workers, other minority groups, and homeless young people.
34. *Recognize* the need for enhanced cooperation between the relevant bodies responsible for education and labor as well as universities to equip youth with the skills needed by the labor market.

Gender Equality

35. *Support* the adoption of a goal on gender equality, and girls', women's, and other gender identities' empowerment and rights, as well as gender-sensitive targets and indicators to end structural causes of inequality including discriminatory social norms, practices and gender stereotypes that promote inequality between the sexes.
36. *Propose* to the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals a set of targets relating to young women, girls and other gender identities, consistent with existing laws, policies and practices, inter alia on ending all forms of gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices, child, early and coerced marriages and providing universal access to health including sexual and reproductive health and rights in accordance with International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
37. *Urge* the Member States of the United Nations to develop strategies and policies to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls including physical, emotional and economic in public and private spheres, bullying, sexual coercion and all forms of violence whatever the motivation.
38. *Ensure* the equal participation of girls and young women and all other young persons at all levels, including in decision-making, education, and employment, which includes equal pay for work of equal value in accordance with the respective national laws and/or policies.
39. *Promote* gender perspective in the formulation and implementation of youth policies and, resource allocation and budgeting, whilst also providing equal access to public assets and resources in equal partnership with young people.
40. *Ensure* the full engagement of men and boys as strategic partners and allies in promoting gender equality and preventing and eradicating gender based violence against women and girls, discrimination and harassment, emphasizing the need to put an end to the culture of silence surrounding gender based violence.
41. *Ensure* the full engagement of states and international organizations as strategic partners and allies in promoting gender equality and preventing and condemning violence, especially kidnapping of women and girls for sexual and other unlawful purposes.

Ending Systemic Inequalities

42. *Recognize* the cultural, ethnic, religious, gender, sexual and socio-economic, racial, linguistic and ability diversity of young people and implement strategies to address the root causes of systemic inequalities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
43. *Urge* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people including discrimination based on race, colour, ethnicity, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, health, gender or other status, and to foster social integration for social groups such as young persons living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS, young migrants, indigenous groups, young people living in rural areas, armed conflict, under foreign occupation, working in the informal economy and refugees, on an equal basis with others
44. *Recall* commitments to pass and enforce laws to protect the poorest and most marginalized girls, boys, adolescents and women affected by violence, and to repeal laws, policies and practices that discriminate against young people based on their age or otherwise violate their rights.
45. *Improve* measurement on the progress of inclusion of the most excluded and marginalized groups, including programs to ensure effective education systems for young persons living with disabilities and learning difficulties.

Empowering Marginalized Youth emphasizing the Most at Risk Young People

46. *Call on* governments to report on and address the economic, social, cultural and political constraints facing the most marginalized young people within each country.
47. *Urge* Member States to develop programs and policies to eradicate the stigma and violence against the most marginalized groups of young people, including among others, people with disabilities, Afro-descendants, indigenous, migrant youth, out-of-school and unemployed youth.
48. *Support* youth organizations and National Youth Councils in an effort to reach out to self-organised groups of marginalized young people, including apartheid communities, such as Roma and Travelers.
49. *Ensure* convenient and equal access to health, education, employment opportunities and services for all young people without discrimination of any kind on any basis.
50. *Urge* governments to support the adoption of a Small Island Developing States specific sustainable development goal with targets on children and youth, which promote a shared vision and solidarity towards sustainable development.

Ensuring Inclusive Recreation, Sport and Culture

51. *Encourage* the funding and investment in sport, leisure, art and cultural programs and facilities in and out of school for young people in order to enable all youth to participate thereby facilitating free access to at least one sporting and one cultural activity in their local communities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
52. *Recognize* the important role that recreation, sports and culture can play in social integration, healthy life style, the elimination of social stigma and therefore encourage young people to pursue careers in the arts and sport.

Environmental Sustainability, Disaster Risk Reduction and Youth Centered Urbanisation

53. *Recognize* that climate change is closely linked to development issues, and thereby understand intergenerational equity is crucial, as well as the recognition of the importance of engaging the young generations in the climate discussions, keeping in mind the special needs of young people in developing countries, especially in Least Developing Countries, Land-Locked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States.
54. *Request* the United Nations system and states to explore and address the effects of urbanisation, climate change, disasters and environmental degradation on young people.
55. *Call on* Member States to further explore the proposed High Commissioner for Future Generations as well as other relevant mechanisms on the topic as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled 'Intergenerational Solidarity and the need for Future Generations'.
56. *Support* the Chair's summary of the 2013 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction calling for a youth and children's forum.
57. *Improve* strategies to prevent and mitigate the risks of disasters to include youth, ensuring youth participation in the development and monitoring of plans and indicators to reduce community risks and resilience guidelines.
58. *Call upon* relevant authorities to promote youth friendly cities to further youth engagement in implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda and to strengthen positive socio-economic links between cities and rural areas.
59. *Integrate* disaster risk reduction education at all levels of the school curriculum.
60. *Call for* the inclusion of safer schools and hospitals in the Post-2015 commitments.
61. *Promoting* long term sustainable urban planning that takes into account population growth, natural resource utilization, eco-system preservation, public space accessibility, efficient transport and waste management improves living conditions and prioritizes the rights and needs of the slum dwellers and informal settlers; we call governments to include youth in the process of formulating the new UN-Habitat agenda.

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62. *Taking note of* the fifth assessment reports of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its findings that indicate the urgent need to reduce absolute levels of carbon emissions to address climate change impacts.
63. *Promote* Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by young people.

Realizing Peace, Reconciliation and Ending Violence

64. *Recognize* and increase the role young people, especially young women, play in conflict prevention, peace building, conflict resolution, post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction efforts.
65. *Demand* an end to the application of coercive and unilateral measures that affect the rights of the youth and development.
66. *Demand* to cease politics that undermine the internal order of countries, violating the proposals and principles celebrated in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law.
67. *Reaffirm* the commitments of the United Nations system to protect children and young people from unlawful recruitment, including kidnapping for military purposes and terrorist activities.
68. *Increase* opportunities in education and employment for all youth, especially those affected by armed conflicts.
69. *Increase* opportunities in peace building education and employment for all youth especially those affected by armed conflicts.
70. *Promote* inclusive and effective post–conflict rehabilitation and reintegration policies, programs and mechanisms recognizing and dealing with the underlying causes of conflict.
71. *Develop* policies and programs to identify and address factors that put young people at risk of engaging in crime and prevent youth violence.
72. *Implement* a wider range of options that pursue restorative justice for the children or youth in conflict with the law as instead of imprisonment, and pursue other similar measures outside the criminal justice system.
73. *Strengthen* and promote the role of young people and youth organizations in building peace in their communities, countries and regions.

Achieving Good Governance and Accountability

74. *Encourage* governments to become party to and implement, without delay, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and promote good governance, freedom of information, transparency and accountability.
75. *Further encourage* governments, international organizations, including those of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, development partners and other relevant stakeholders to assist developing countries in implementing youth policy and programs through technical assistance and capacity building activities.
76. *Make* every effort to strengthen the rule of law and establish mechanisms and institutions that are accessible, independent and well-resourced to enable the political and civic participation of young people and ensure justice for all by increasing access to legal services.
77. *Ensure* justice for all, including access to legal services, user-friendly information and impartial media and open data as tools to enhance the participation of civil society, including youth, in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and outcomes and decision making processes at all levels relevant to children and young people through open government processes.
78. *Encourage* the development of basic guidelines and risk indicators to better inform child and youth specific policy and monitor progress.

Youth Rights

79. *Draw* the attention of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Member States to the call by young people and youth organizations to launch a participatory, inclusive and transparent process among member states, youth and youth organizations, building on, inter alia, the experience of countries that already have developed legislation, which may lead to a Convention on Youth Rights.
80. *Recognize* the urgent need for the fulfillment of young people's human rights and responsibilities and their right to redress in a manner appropriate to their age.
81. *Encourage* the establishment of a permanent youth department within the United Nations with representations in member countries to support and follow up local youth programs.

Inclusive Youth Participation

82. *Call on* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a permanent forum on youth, for youth and governments to facilitate a sustained dialogue including on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
83. *Enhance* integration of youth into democratic political processes and official government delegations in a meaningful way at local, national, regional and international levels with a special focus on young women and youth belonging to marginalized groups by inter alia strengthening existing programs such as the United Nations Youth Delegates Program and volunteering programs;

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84. *Reaffirm* political and resource commitment to youth-led organizations and youth-led constituencies active in sustainable development and other international policy processes with the aim to increase the participation of youth, and achieve greater geographical balance in participation, particularly from the Global South.
85. *Create* safe spaces and institutions for young people, to express their concerns and have their voices heard at all levels.
86. *Empower* youth and marginalized groups by strengthening intergenerational and international partnerships and solidarity among the generations, tailored policies, budgeting, creating safe spaces and mechanisms for meaningful participation of young people with efforts to include the most marginalized in the development, monitoring and evaluation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
87. *Recognize* existing youth movements, both regional and global, as stakeholders in the current discussion on mainstreaming the participation of youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
88. *Recognize* the crucial role young people should play in decision making processes regarding political, economic, cultural and environmental development of our planet, and propose a target on youth participation in political decision making and accountability processes in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and ensure that age is an indicator for monitoring the processes of relevant targets in the Agenda.

Our Commitment going forward

BASED ON THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED, THE PARTICIPANTS RESOLVED TO:

89. *Take* necessary measures to work in partnership with all stakeholders including parents, young people, civil society, international organizations, member states and development cooperation agencies to implement the priorities identified in the Colombo Declaration on Youth.
90. *Continue* the ongoing discussions within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly regarding the effective implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, as well as strengthening mechanisms of coordination within the United Nations System to support global, regional and national policies and programmes for youth.
91. *Urge* the United Nations Agencies, Governments, the International Community at large, and all other relevant stakeholders to give particular attention to the areas of shortfall in the implementation of the World Program of Action for Youth.
92. *Encourage* further support and accountability for existing platforms of youth-led organisations and implement measures to explore the establishment of permanent mechanisms that allow for full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision making processes;
93. *Call for* a standalone goal targeted at increased investment in the global-aid architecture, youth empowerment and private sector investment in strengthening global, regional, national and local partnerships for and with youth in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.



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94. *Call for* clear targets and indicators focused on youth as a cross-cutting issue throughout the Post-2015 Development Agenda to ensure all targets are measured by indicators disaggregated by age, gender, location, linguistic base, wealth status, level of education, disability, ethnicity and key population status.
95. *Consider* making available adequate funds to meet the needs of youth; including by creating and/or supporting the development of national youth policies and Action Plans for Youth; including its monitoring and evaluation, and the institutionalization of measurement mechanisms such as, but not limited to, youth development indexes.
96. *Calls on* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to incorporate the Colombo Declaration on Youth as a significant input to mainstreaming youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and make appropriate reference to it in his synthesis report;
97. *Encourage* member states to table the Colombo Declaration on Youth at the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly so as to acknowledge and welcome the recommendations.



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Summary of discussions in the round tables of the World Conference on Youth 2014 (Draft)

This document is meant to capture the breadth of the discussions that took place at the World Conference on Youth 2014. Although it in no way represents the consensus of all the participants of the conference, it provides a glimpse into the various discussions and deliberations during the event

10th May, 2014

Globalization & Inclusive Youth Led-Development

Globalization has opened up new opportunities for global economic development. It has also permitted countries to learn from one another's achievements and has promoted a cross-fertilization of ideas, cultural values and aspirations - thus helping to connect youth not only to the rest of the world, but also with each other (WPAY). Yet, in the past the emphasis had been on the economical dimension rather than environmental and social aspects of globalization at the expense of marginalised youth (especially rural youth and youth with limited technological skills) and future generations.

The implementers of the youth aid architecture have started to recognize that youth and youth-led organisations have unique grassroots abilities to take action from a bottom up perspective. Youth-led development, youth-participation, the access to quality education and ICT play a central role in empowering young people to reap the benefits of globalization.

The UN Secretary General made public the United Nation's commitment to the Child and Youth Finance Movement. UNCDF and UNICEF have fully endorsed the Movement, which is a collaborative effort of individuals and organizations, including national authorities, financial institutions and networks, NGOs, educators and academia. The implications of underinvestment for growth and well-being provide a strong incentive to allocate sufficient public resources for youth development, with particular attention to marginalised groups. A *(specific aid architecture, and especially a)* dedicated fund endorsed by Member States, foundations, youth and development partners could enable youth-led development in regions in need and a significantly better use of overseas development assistance (ODA).

The round table recommended that governments should formally establish permanent mechanisms in which youth can exert influence over the decision making, implementation and monitoring of local, national, regional and international policies and programmes related to globalisation and youth-led development. These mechanisms e.g. UN-affiliated bodies, politically independent youth parliaments or quota youth representation should be based on a democratic, representative and transparent recruitment processes. In order to engage in an effective dialogue on the existing policies and programmes governments should also set up ICT/ social media-based platforms in cooperation with young people and their organisations.

Moreover, youth-led development is to be endorsed in standard curricula and promoted through public-private partnerships. The round table recommended government to establish ICT centres for youth connecting private, public and educational stakeholders to young people to better inform them better to benefit from and influence the process of globalisation.

Especially in areas of conflict, youth-led development should be recognized as a key element to build and consolidate peace. The round table recommended the provision of training for youth capacity building, leadership development, conflict resolution and mediation to empower young people.

Poverty Eradication, Food and nutrition Security

Youth recognize structural causes of poverty include power asymmetries in governance structures globally and domestically. Unequal resource distribution, corruption in governance and problematic economic systems are the primary perpetrators of poverty. Ingrained attitudes of dependence create a culture of cyclical poverty. Inadequate and geographically inequitable distribution of infrastructural and technological development results in crop and food wastage, contributing to food insecurity, malnutrition and general poverty.

Poverty eradication plays a significant role in mainstreaming youth participation in the post-2015 development agenda. Without adequate living standards and food security, young people lack incentive to take active and full participation in the decision making process and in the implementation of policies. Youth development remains hindered by challenges brought about by the food crisis and continued food insecurity, the energy crisis and climate change. (HLM on Youth A/RES/65/312 – Line 15)

Over one billion people in the world today live in unacceptable conditions of poverty. Young people are particularly affected by this situation. Poverty, which has various manifestations including hunger and malnutrition, loss of education, unemployment, social discrimination, degraded health, lack of access to resources and lack of youth participation in decision making. (WPAY, 21) Inclusive governance processes must include relevant stakeholders, including those living in poverty, engaged in a meaningful way. Increasing investment in maternal and child health will ensure healthy populations and productive resources.

A majority of the world's youth live in rural settings in developing countries with lack of access to productive resources and rely on their own labor to earn a living. In recognising this, it is vital to ensure that decent rural employment creation, sustainable agriculture livelihoods and food production , youth participation, specifically marginalized youth (including indigenous populations, women and girls, and LGBTQI individuals) are integrated into rural youth development policies, strategies, programmes and partnerships. Without increased involvement of youth in agriculture, long term shortages in skilled agricultural labor and underdeveloped infrastructure will negatively affect food supply in ageing farm populations. Linking this need to formal education, and training and good governance is a long term solution that needs to be addressed through policy initiatives, awareness and capacity development related to human rights, healthy and sustainable food and cultural practices that impact livelihood health. Incorporating agro-business, including marketing and managerial skills in the early and secondary school study curriculum would help to equip the new generation of farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge needed to produce, package and market their agricultural products. Such education and skills would be sustained and improved through exchange programs and other information dissemination platform that promote innovations amongst young farmers. To promote bottom up and inclusive community development programmes, the youth propose to have a decentralized and structural framework which ensures the access of marginalized youth at the grassroots level, while ensuring the provision of the technical and financial support needed to implement their initiatives through public-private partnerships and embracing cultural diversity.

The round table recommended creating an independent anti-corruption agency and tougher laws and penalties against corruption to address related causes of poverty. Governments must improve the allure of blue collar jobs by increasing wage and increasing non-monetary, cultural value and prestige for non-white collar jobs, particularly those necessary for society and agriculture. Government should also provide training and mentorship programmes for entrepreneurship. Because women comprise the majority of those living in poverty,

governments must educate and empower women to help them escape poverty and educate populations about gender equality. These efforts should address achieving gender parity in employment opportunities, providing family planning education, access to contraceptives, economic empowerment, financial literacy training and comprehensive sexuality education. Making sure no one is left behind is key in the Post-2015 framework and young people will need particular attention with disaggregated data, and specific indicators that look at poverty for those that who are not always included in work statistics such as those in training and education. Going beyond \$1.25/day Purchasing Power Parity (P.P.P) will also be vital in ensuring that the aspirations of young people are met.

Realising equal access to quality Education

Education is the very foundation for the development of human potential and knowledge through which the improvement of the lives of young people could be attained globally and at this point in time is under-prioritized and under-financed. Especially in relation to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, access to quality education is crucial to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote sustainable development. A quality and inclusive education will also foster effective participation of young people in decision-making processes as well as in the promotion and protection of human rights. In this technologically advanced age, there should be an effective system through which modern technology, science and information technology should be accessible to all young people, especially those in rural and underdeveloped areas, as well as students with disabilities.

Worldwide 10.6% of young people are illiterate, lacking basic numerical and literacy skills, and as such lack the means to be able to sustain a living through full and decent employment. Many educational and training systems do not provide young people with the basic skills needed to escape poverty and unemployment, even when they continue to receive formal education. (UNDESA: Youth and education) The persistent gender gap in education further intensifies the situation and progress towards gender parity in basic education (UNESCO: Sixth meeting of the High Level Group on Education for all, pg. 2). The importance of non-formal education has been highlighted by encouraging Member States to inter alia by promote programmes for non-formal education in accordance with the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (A/RES/66/288 par231).

Education systems are currently too focused on measurable outcomes; quality education should develop skills that are transferable to the job market, foster personal development, well-being and build capacity for civic and active citizenship. There is a clear lack of education for disadvantaged and marginalised groups and decision making processes to allow young people to participate meaningfully. Education is indeed by far the top priority of global youth, according to votes expressed within the MY World Survey, which comes from 70% of youth under 30 years of age, regardless of their education level and gender. Education should be fully funded and resourced so that high quality education can be ensured for all. Education policy and decision making should meaningfully engage students, parents and other relevant stakeholders, in order to makes those policies more sensitive to students needs. This starts at school level and therefore students must have a governance body, such as a student council, that allows the students to participate meaningfully in decision-making. Education must be student-centred and include a variety of participatory and democratic approaches and methods, through which students learn to learn and acquire global citizenship and life skills, including critical thinking and the ability to make informed decisions. Evaluation and assessment methods in education must be diverse; tests are diagnostic tools and should not be used for the ranking of students, schools or education systems.

There is a need to ensure that curricula is flexible and updated; and lifelong learning is emphasized in formal education systems. Further to this, ICT education and facilities must be fully integrated into formal education and governments must ensure required resources. Comprehensive evidence-based and age-appropriate sexuality education must be a compulsory and integrated part of formal education, from primary education onwards, with the use of non-formal education methodologies. In addition to knowledge about reproduction, this must include the emotional aspects, gender identities, sexual orientation, and gender-based violence, gender equality and human rights.

The round table recommended governments to invest in teacher trainings and reduce the student to qualified teacher ratio. Teachers at all levels of the education system must be trained and qualified, and have access to continuous training and professional development. They must have subject-specific and pedagogical knowledge as well as social and cognitive competences, and be supported in the profession by decent conditions and benefits. The social recognition of the teaching profession must be enhanced.

All young people must have access to quality education on an equal footing. Specific measures have to be taken to ensure that vulnerable and marginalised groups of children and young people can access and complete education of the highest quality, in particular girls and young women, all the marginalized youth including most at risk young people, taking into account the particular socio-economic and cultural realities in which young people find themselves. The round table call to ensure full inclusion of students with special educational needs and disabilities through specific measures such as inclusive facilities and learning environments, and training for teachers.

Education outside formal settings (non-formal education and peer learning) is key to ensure a rounded and holistic education is provided to young people through participatory and experiential learning methods in youth-led organisations. Opportunities to engage in volunteer activities, to provide many possibilities for skills learning can play an important role in stimulating or reinforcing civic engagement as well as lifelong learning. Civic participation can help to improve links and coherence between education, training and labour opportunities. Non-formal education must be recognised in legislation and lead to certification when appropriate. Special attention should also be given to the vocational and professional training, thereby allocating more funds by governments to improve these trainings as an effective alternative to the traditional university system.

Promoting Healthy Lives and Access to Health

Young people are affected by various factors (Cultural, Religious, ethnic, geographic disparities, statelessness and other social determinants) that make them vulnerable not only to health risks but also affect their happiness and wellbeing as a whole. Today, more than 1.8 million young people aged 15-24 die each year, mostly due to preventable causes, and nearly two-thirds of premature deaths and one-third of the total disease burden in adults are associated with conditions or behaviours that began in their youth. About 16 million girls aged 15 to 19 years give birth every year (WHO) with subsequent impact on Maternal and new born morbidity and mortality, adding to existing social morbidities of child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) . About 20% of adolescents will experience a mental health problem, with suicide being one of the leading causes of death in young people (WHO). Young people have the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and quality of life by providing youth with access to sustainable health systems and social services that are tailored to their needs, free from all forms of stigma and discrimination and provided through sensitized providers, and also by paying special attention to nutrition, the effects of non-communicable and communicable diseases and their sexual and reproductive health rights.

A holistic view of young people's health is essential within formulating public policies and programs to ensure that young people are provided with universal health coverage including youth-friendly, stigma free and confidential sexual and reproductive health services and have access to evidence based information including comprehensive sexuality education, and opportunities to benefit from healthy lifestyle. Emphasis should be placed also on provision of health promotion programs and evidence-based prevention services.

A “Health-in-All” approach should be mainstreamed and integrated into public policies to ensure sustainable health impacts as in tobacco and alcohol taxation and public smoking control.

Full Employment and Entrepreneurship

As costs for employing young people are often high, youth, particularly marginalized individuals often witness significant barriers of entry into the labour market. Furthermore, these populations often witness challenges in accessing credible information regarding opportunities for employment, vocational training, and higher education.

Education provided should better prepare young people for entry into the labour market. Stakeholder partnerships between the private sector, governments and NGOs should provide vocational, technical and non-formal educational opportunities, beginning at an early age. These opportunities will strengthen young people's entrepreneurial skills, enhance their employability, and improve the transition from school to entry into the workforce. A 'dual' vocational education system should be promoted to improve employability and entrepreneurship skills. Furthermore, to allow for the continuity of education while working, higher education should be flexible and affordable.

Bridging the gap between education, unemployment and the labour market is paramount. Employment programs that provide young people with training and continued education will help ensure that the rate of unemployment decreases. Such strategies can be particularly effective for keeping youth, who are at a high risk of being marginalized, connected and linked to the labour market.

There should be more opportunities for young people to secure apprenticeships, internships and traineeships to provide them with the necessary practical experience needed succeed in the labour market. To avoid abuse, internships must be remunerated at or above the national minimum wage. This process should be monitored through national legislative processes.

Youth, particularly marginalized individuals, encounter disproportionate difficulties in securing decent job opportunities and establishing their own businesses. These challenges could be addressed through government policies that specifically concentrate on marginalized groups on a national scale. Such policies would support: funding for youth entrepreneurship (e.g. crowd funding, seed funding, soft loans, micro-financing, cooperative markets, etc.); mentorship; implementation; and small-business incubators, with periodic social audits involving youth in the review process. Emphasis should be placed on innovation and fostering job creation in high-level fields, including agriculture, information technology, sustainable development and tourism, as a medium-term strategy, in order to incorporate marginalized youth and enhancing economic development. Moreover, offering tax breaks to youth, will increase the attractiveness of the jobs.

Marginalized groups are encountering obstacles while attempting to access to the labour market or establishing a business. As a result, employment programmes should be inclusive of, and accessible to people living with disabilities. The right to education and employment without discrimination should be equally ensured for marginalized groups, including refugees, young people affected by war and for youth who are living in a post-conflict situation. Young people living with disabilities should be encouraged and supported in their pursuit of entrepreneurships. Marginalized groups often do not have access to information. The development of IT infrastructure and access to Internet should be promoted to ensure access, which will allow young people to obtain the necessary information needed to access the labour market.

Gender Equality

Gender Equality is first and foremost a human right and as such must remain a high priority and cornerstone of the post-2015 development agenda. Young people must call for a stand-alone goal on gender equality with a special focus on young girls, further to mainstream gender perspectives across other development goals and targets. We must recognize the rights and aspirations of girls and young women who make up half of the global youth population and are critical to our shared goals of prosperity and peace as a prerequisite for sustainable development.

One of the “most important tasks of youth policy” acknowledged by the WPAY is “to improve the situation of girls and young women.” Gender inequality including discriminatory cultural and social norms, practices and gender stereotypes continue to prevent girls and young women from enjoying the full spectrum of their human rights and equal opportunities in political, social and economic life. It must be acknowledged that cultural norms can lead to the violation of girls’ and women’s basic human rights. Tackling these must be done with cultural sensitivity and safe and competent programming, especially when working with marginalized groups such as indigenous peoples. States have agreed to promote gender equality and girls’ and young women’s right to non-discrimination in line with the existing international framework, in particular CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action (L Section), and WPAY (I Section).

Girls and young women should have equal access to quality education at all levels and be able to exercise their rights to make informed and un-coerced choices in private and public life, including on their sexual and reproductive health. Girls and women have the right to make all decisions regarding their own bodies. Gender based violence must also be defined as violence based on gender identity, therefore all genders can be victims or perpetrators of violence. The education programmes on gender equality must not only define men and boys as perpetrators. To support this, comprehensive sexuality education should also be provided for parents, guardians and other care givers. Acknowledgement of the role of young women as active citizens, equal partners and contributors to development is essential for building stronger and fairer societies as is the acknowledgement of the role men and boys must play as active agents in this process.

Further, the post-2015 development agenda should promote alternative role models for men and boys and encourage shared responsibilities as care providers to challenge structural inequalities and deeply rooted notions of patriarchy and masculinity. In this regard it should also embody a broader understanding of the category ‘gender’ which has mostly been associated only with women, and recognise and reflect the needs and rights of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual and Pansexual (LGBTQQIAP). We would like to emphasize our support for the definition of marginalised groups as outlined in the Bali Declaration. All of these groups must have the right to define themselves as agents of their own lives, especially those that are discriminated against because of their gender identity.

The post-2015 development agenda should incorporate gender responsive budgeting to ensure a fairer and more equitable distribution of resources and effective implementation of sustainable development and gender equality commitments.

We should all be able to live in an environment free from discrimination and gender-based violence, where gender equality is a norm rather than a development objective!

Ending Systemic Inequalities

Inequalities and established patterns of discrimination are deeply ingrained in our social structures. Persistent inequalities and exclusion have significant impacts, both for the individuals and for their communities and countries. The symptoms of systemic inequalities are regularly addressed but we must prioritize strategies to combat the root causes.

Different systems that affect young peoples lives example: social, economic and political are strongly interrelated therefore inequalities embedded in one system strengthen, reinforce and perpetuate inequalities across other systems. Religion and culture should never be used to justify systemic inequalities, discrimination or human rights violations.

Youth are often marginalized and excluded from access to resources, opportunities and decision-making processes. Marginalised youth are at an even higher risk of experiencing discrimination, with disproportionately higher chances of being poor. Participation in decision-making processes must allow for a wider, more inclusive representation of all youth.

Tackling systemic inequality requires the power that is held by a few being redistributed and minimizing the hierarchies in society. In order to achieve this, young people's active meaningful participation in society for inclusive decision making must be ensured. There is a need to promote impartial media that guarantees accountability, transparency and freedom of information to expose and challenge power imbalances that reinforces systemic inequalities.

The round table identified education as one of the most effective tools in tackling systemic inequalities, notably provision of equal access to comprehensive relevant and quality education. Within this, mechanisms must be guaranteed empowerment of young people and shifting attitudes towards promoting social justice. Additionally in order to challenge systemic inequalities young people must be aware of their human rights therefore provision of human rights education is necessary. The round table calls for enforcement of laws that will reduce income inequality as one of the root causes of other forms of inequality. Data collection and monitoring regarding the inclusion of the most excluded and marginalized young people must be implemented in order to effectively eradicate systemic inequality.

Empowering Marginalized Youth emphasizing Most at Risk Young People

Marginalized youth groups experience severe social, economic, educational and civic disparities due to a range of factors from stigma to inaccessible environments and are also deprived of their rights. Key populations are those most likely to be exposed to HIV or to transmit it and whose engagement is critical to a successful response to HIV and AIDS.

Despite existing conventions and resolutions on the rights of marginalized populations, many Member States have not effectively implemented them. At the country level, laws and policies that are supposed to protect and empower marginalized youth are not being respected in an effective way or there is no political will to implement them.

International and national laws, regulations and policies should not include obstacles and barriers for marginalised young people and those most at risk. Marginalization is a shifting issue and changes according to countries and context based on culture, geographical location, literacy level, religion, ethnicity, race, caste, class, socio-economic status, languages, indigenous status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. This includes, but is not limited to, young people with disabilities, LGBT youth, documented and undocumented migrants, dropouts, young unemployed, homeless, refugees, asylum seekers, young prisoners, drug users, sex workers, young pregnant women, orphans, young parents, people affected and infected by HIV, displaced people, young people in conflict and emergency situations, child soldiers, child laborers and victims of abuse and violence.

Marginalized youth experience multiple levels of stigma and discrimination. This is particularly evident for women, girls and adolescents. Marginalization comes from policies and laws but also from families, communities, religious groups, private sector, social institutions and media.

There is a lack of spaces, competencies, financial support, and opportunities for marginalized young people to meaningfully participate in the political spaces and decision making process at all levels. There is also a lack of social integration and lack of opportunities for development and full realization to human rights. To address the lack of data, countries must guarantee that there is an independent body with adequate resources to collect reliable data about marginalized youth in order to inform policies and programs.

Governments must ensure that organizations, networks and informal groups of marginalized young people have the resources they need to empower their representatives and communities in order to strengthen their meaningful political and social participation at all levels. Member States must design appropriate laws and policies to introduce mechanisms of meaningful and effective representation of diverse marginalized youth by means of quotas and reservations to meet their needs. Solidarity and spaces to share best practices across marginalized youth groups should be encouraged.

Governments must ensure that educational and health systems guarantee mechanisms to provide educators and service providers with the competencies to address the needs of marginalized youth and value diversity and inclusion in different context. The roundtables called on Member States to allocate specific budgets dedicated to marginalized youth, to implement outreach programs and accessible, affordable and quality social infrastructure, including health services, education, employment opportunities, especially in the relevant settlements with high concentration of marginalized youth, and to develop awareness raising programs to reduce stigmatization at all levels.

Ensuring Inclusive Recreation, Sport and Culture

Culture, sports and recreation are an integral aspect of sustainable youth development.

A lack of proper recognition and resources for education, art and sports programs for youth means that young people are being excluded from meaningful activities that are effective vehicles for intercultural dialogue. Young people are being deprived of curricular and extracurricular activities that could be used constructively for skills building and healthy activity to combat non-communicable diseases such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes.

According to the World Programme of Action for Youth, appropriate sports, recreation and cultural programs can be effective at minimizing issues such as drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, acts of violence and social exclusion. Sports, culture, and inclusive recreation can help facilitate this empowerment. Governments, non-governmental organisations, inter-governmental organisations, Youth and the UN system should agree to promote intercultural understanding among different cultures through workshops, seminars, exchange programmes, sports events and youth camps with an adequate evaluation process. Everyone must be free of hate speech and discrimination regardless of religion, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic level, ability or any other status, with equal access to visibility (i.e. media coverage and universal technological information sharing platforms), financial support and special trainers.

The round table recommended the to ensure equal access to sports, recreation and culture through free public cultural offerings and by establishing accessible centers or spaces in every community with the equal distribution of investments and funding. The empowerment of volunteers and mentors and increased exposure to sports, culture and recreation for all in school curricula are critical. The lack of research and academic work in indigenous cultures and traditions, will lead to their knowledge on unique ways of sustenance, identity and sustainability being lost. The 2010 World Youth Conference in Mexico incorporated the involvement of young people in programs that encourage a healthy lifestyle, the practice of sports, physical activity and other healthy habits. It is critical that this line of thought is furthered even more as to ensure the participation and representation of youth at the policy making level for sports and recreational activities and in the decision making of such bodies.

Environmental Sustainability, Disaster Risk Reductions and Youth Centered Urbanization

The round table at the Conference acknowledge the 5th Assessment Report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and are deeply concerned. The round table call upon the Government leaders to immediately put in place strategies and policies that will give effect to concrete action aimed at preventing and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change specifically, steps towards reducing the carbon footprint of our economies based on the principles of “common but differentiated responsibility” so that the projected 2 degree Celsius rise of the global temperature is limited and prevented if possible.

Pledge the commitment of the youth to mobilize public opinion and persuade the Government and other entities concerned to act immediately as it is clear that the world has to act now to prevent adverse effect of climate change as further delay in taking action would only result in jeopardizing the wellbeing and indeed the right to life of successive generation. Youth specifically challenge rampant “Carbon Consumerism” which if left unabated will see

global temperatures rise far beyond 2 degree Celsius. Finally, youth must be fully engaged in climate change negotiations.

Youth friendly cities which engage youth in decision making in the planning process, which provide shared spaces for entrepreneurship and access to relevant services while balancing resourcing between urban and non-urban areas. Connect youth friendly cities with resilient cities and sustainable cities. Government must provide resources for emergency preparedness, disaster and risk management which is capable of incorporating local knowledge and circumstances. In addition, climate change adaptation measures need to be implemented in tandem with disaster risk reduction to achieve disaster resilience in both developed and developing countries. The round table calls promote resources sustainability, education and training for disaster risk reduction.

Increasing the self-sufficiency of vulnerable groups through environmentally sustainable and economically viable livelihood programmes for youth centered urbanization. Governments and relevant youth constituencies to explore the potential for developing a global framework for environmental crimes which will impact current and future generations. Policies should be created to promote the use of public transport so is widely used. To supplement public transport, policies should be created to promote other forms of non-carbon emitting transport. Areas of cities should be free from motorised transport to increase the liveability of cities.

Sustainable practices which promote economic advantages should be addressed first as there are less barriers to action (e.g. resource efficiency). There are significant opportunities which exist through the domestic to industrial level. Undertaking these practices will make it easier to infuse environmental protection values into entire communities. Essentially this is about 'Promoting economical advantages through sustainable environmental practices'.

Realizing Peace, Reconciliation and Ending Violence

Young people are vital stakeholders in realizing peace and ending violence. In the Post 2015 framework, the participation of young people in all spheres of decision making and policy implementation is of extreme importance – particularly in peacebuilding processes. Empowering young people to emerge as peace builders and active partners of a reconciliation process is one way of ensuring peace and reconciliation to be more sustainable and inclusive.

Children and youth represent the majority of the population in most countries affected by armed conflicts and are thus disproportionately affected by armed conflict. They are uniquely vulnerable to recruitment into combatants. Youth are affected by direct violence such as armed conflicts, as well as other forms of violence conflicts in particular such as structural violence and cultural violence. They also suffer from other consequences of conflict such as poverty, unemployment, discrimination, poor governance and the disintegration of families and communities.

Young people should be seen as catalyst for building peace and harmony, but as passive participants in rehabilitation processes. A number of agreements are relevant on this issue, the first WPAY (A/RES/50/81), which provides a policy framework and outlines the impact of conflict on youth and highlights the role youth play in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict resolution. There remains a focus on youth as victims or young people as risks to conflict but more agreement is needed on young people's roles in peacebuilding.

The round table call government and international community to:

1. Create and further strengthen existing formal and non-formal educational programs for youth promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue on peacebuilding, conflict transformation, reconciliation, tolerance, non-discrimination and to ensure that marginalized and minority youth are also reached by these programs.
2. Ensure that the rights of the victims of violent conflicts and youth actors in the peacebuilding process are protected, particularly those from vulnerable groups, from potentially difficult or dangerous situations during and after their participation through integrated security and restorative justice.
3. Ensure impartial, responsible and accessible media that promotes freedom of expression to a wider society.
4. Recognize and understand the root causes of conflicts in order to create a framework for structured dialogue in compliance with international law.
5. Strengthen accountability and transparency from decision makers at local, national, regional and global levels to youth.
6. Strengthen and promote the role of youth through recreational activities to enhance peacebuilding in their communities, countries and regions

Achieving good governance and accountability

Good governance is one of the main drivers of social well being and is vital to the achievement of long lasting development. The post-2015 process has allowed young people to demonstrate their willingness to participate in shaping the future through presenting their views and Calls for Action.

Young people, especially young women and girls, usually lack access to governance structures at the community, local, national, regional and international levels due to negative cultural, economic and political practices, and are thus unable to deal with problems that plague their societies. Corruption, nepotism and abuse of power and privilege prevent the development of meaningful intergenerational dialogue and engagement. As a result, young people are often disillusioned with political leadership and political institutions, and are excluded from policy development. Restrictions on freedom of expression and the right to information, open data and resources limit transparency, and disable accountability for all stakeholders.

Governments must abide by the principles contained in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. At Open Working Group 7, Member States referred to the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels. The document states that the rule of law and development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that advancement of the rule of law must occur at the national and international levels. In order to achieve this, strong government commitments are needed, together with closer relationships with the private sector, independent judiciaries and freedom of the media.

Young people need governments to be transparent, accountable and responsive to their rights and needs. Youth must have the ability to organise themselves in a legal environment that enables them to form and join youth-led and other civil society organisations, as well as the right to protest and express their opinions peacefully. These have to be supported by the unrestricted access to internet and social media, disaggregated data on marginalized groups, independence of media, freedom of information act and strong human rights and values. Marginalized and minority groups should as well be proportionally represented in decision making processes with quotas and equal allocation of jobs and power. The incorporation of political/civil rights and values should be included into the education curricula from an early age. Youth must leverage institutional capacities of all stakeholders engaged at regional, national and local levels, including governments, the private sector, CSOs, youth and marginalized groups. Accelerating the implementation of all policies and legal instruments that engage young people as key actors and beneficiaries of the post-2015 agenda is essential. Strengthening existing partnerships for awareness, advocacy, coordination and networks related to the post-2015 agenda is also needed.

Youth Rights

Over half of the world's population is made up of young people. The needs of young people are distinct from other social groups, in that they face different social, economic, and political challenges. Until now, the particular needs and issues of young people have not been heard and therefore their rights is not being addressed. It is hence undeniable that the rights of young people must be considered and ensured. Due to different realities in culture, politics, law and religion, these rights are not particularly understood or recognized equally around the world. Therefore there is a need for common understanding on youth rights.

Even though the Human Rights framework is already established, recognition and access especially for young people have not been fulfilled or even considered. Youth rights is a crosscutting issue, which is inclusive of a large variety of policies areas, such as employment, education, participation in decision-making processes, amongst others. This must be guaranteed to ALL young people, especially those belonging to marginalized groups, with specific pertinence to their realities and challenges.

In order to ensure that the specific needs of young people are addressed, the round table we call upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to launch a participatory, inclusive and transparent process among Member States, youth and youth organisations, which will leads to the Universal Declaration of Youth Rights. Member States should ratify and uphold this declaration and its monitoring should be guaranteed through a recognized body, which includes young people, youth led organizations, governmental representatives and other stakeholders, which reviews and monitors the access to and recognition of youth rights.

Some regional bodies have already passed youth charters that outline the rights of young people such as the Ibero-American Youth Convention and the African Youth Charter, which could be used as a reference while the Declaration is being negotiated. Member states should subsequently recognize youth-led platforms at all levels in their efforts to promote and advocate for rights based youth policies. Those policies could be based on the already existing youth charters from which the declaration would theoretically be derived. Problems are addressed, but the validity of these policies and forums will only be confirmed in case that member states and assemblies make a concerted effort to implement the concepts outlined in this document.

Inclusive Youth Participation

The round table call upon other young people to raise their voice and jointly with governments, and other actors revise, promote and create opportunities through various political and innovative mechanisms, with a focus on ICT and social media, to strengthen the youth profile. The round table pointed out that lack of education, limited self-governance of youth and little acknowledgement of youth leads to exclusion in participation and erodes responsibility of both young people and the state.

Information especially that on participation needs to be accessible and made aware of in inclusive formats in a transparent manner to increase trust between states, policy and decision makers and youth. It has already been agreed that with youth led-organisations and member states further exploration should take place to promote effective, structured and sustainable youth participation in designing, planning implementing, monitoring and assessing United Nations youth policies, programmes and initiatives (A/RES/68/130) by ensuring inclusive and appropriately proportionate youth representation at all levels allows young people to have an effective say.

Recognizing the importance of developing the capacity of youth civil society to participate as appropriate, (JPOI, 127(c)) in councils, programmes and activities in a consistent way, for example, supporting local youth councils or their equivalent, and encouraging their establishment where they do not exist. (JPOI, 170). Ensuring that these policies, programmes and initiatives occur in a Co-Management style with fair sharing power in decision making and mutual responsibility. Youth organizations and governments share responsibility to outreach and gather opinions directly from diverse youth, ensuring openness, transparency, coherence and effectiveness at all levels.

The round table recommended that UN youth delegate program should be available in all countries with a common guideline for implementation for UN youth delegates to play a stronger role. There should be an increased number of youth participants in the UN through a larger role for UN Youth Delegates and consistent global forum. Further studies and youth policy evaluations and permanent open consultations on youth opinions in national and international processes are encouraged.