



**Youth Recommendations
Delivered During Opening Session of the
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Identity and Diversity

- Cultural diversity can impact development in a positive way, provided that people of different cultures have mutual understanding and respect for each other and their cultures;
- In an increasingly globalized context, we recognize the importance to maintain and support each culture's uniqueness;
- Policy coherence is essential to ensure that development is responsive to cultural specificity and needs of local people;
- People need to be educated to ensure tolerance, trust, mutual respect, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution for a better appreciation of diversity.

Intercultural Dialogue

- For intercultural dialogue to be a successful tool for peaceful coexistence, it is vital to rise above the level of tolerance and reach understanding and acceptance. Yet, we must ensure cultural diversity and avoid assimilation.

Education

- Formal and non-formal education needs to build attitude, skills and knowledge necessary for better understanding and promotion of cultural diversity.
- Educational strategies need to empower youth to participate and engage in cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.

Media

- Media need to promote cultural diversity and should not spread stereotypical images of any culture.
- Media need to produce and publish pieces that celebrate national cultures, bridge cultures and become instruments for deeper understanding of differences and promotion of global citizenship.

Minorities and Migrants

- From a youth perspective, minorities and marginalized groups need to be represented, included and involved in decision-making processes, so that their interests are identified and taken into account.

Civil Society and Volunteerism

- Work of civil society needs to be promoted. Tools such as visual and performing arts, volunteerism, youth and community work, sports and recreational activities need to be encouraged and developed in local communities. These efforts should be recognized and supported on local, national and international levels.

Bottom-up Approach

- There is a need to ensure that stakeholders from the grassroots level are involved in identification of priorities for sustainable development.

