



A Vision for Tomorrow: A Unified Youth-Led Policy Framework for Global Action

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**THE RESULT OF A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS
INVOLVING 1,080 YOUTH CONTRIBUTORS**

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From the Ground Up: A Youth Agenda for Inclusive Global Governance

We, the youth, unite to advocate for increased representation of local communities on the global stage, as their valuable knowledge currently faces significant hurdles that prevent it from being heard. Indigenous communities, for example, possess thousands of years of experience. Yet, their voices are rarely present in international forums due to prohibitive costs and a lack of established pathways for engaging with organizations like the UN. This failure to incorporate local voices and learn from their tested, on-the-ground solutions causes the UN to fall short of its mission to help people at all socioeconomic levels. Therefore, change must be enacted to ensure all the world's communities are properly represented.

Hereby, we, the youth, recommend to:

- 1** Disseminate indigenous knowledge on a broader scale through the development of a global database of indigenous expertise in various areas, as well as through the instruction of these proficiencies into school curricula;
 - 2** Create opportunities for marginalized communities around the world to share knowledge and establish solidarity when addressing common goals, while also defining frameworks for information sharing, knowledge use, and terms of participation;
 - 3** Continue and strengthen initiatives to bring together local leaders from around the world to the UN for them to learn from each other;
 - 4** Establish Local Innovation Councils comprising youth, NGOs, and government representatives, to coordinate initiatives and ensure efficient use of resources;
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- 5 Set up community ICT Hubs to improve digital literacy and enable youth to access online climate adaptation tools and global networks;
- 6 Strengthen partnerships between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and communities, in which NGOs provide resources, personnel, and mentorship to local organizations to help address public needs while ensuring ownership and leadership of the initiatives remain with the community;
- 7 Create intergenerational dialogue platforms to connect traditional knowledge with youth-led innovation, ensuring culturally sensitive adaptation strategies;
- 8 Establish Youth Innovation Hubs in vulnerable communities to provide hands-on training in climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, and digital skills;
- 9 Expand the accessibility of global discussions for grassroots and marginalized communities by increasing the availability of travel grants, logistical support, and micro-grants to attend conferences;
- 10 Reserve speaking opportunities in global decision-making bodies for local leaders and implement structural measures, such as policy provisions and quotas guaranteeing the inclusion of community delegates, to ensure the systematic presence of community perspectives in international governance;
- 11 Develop a cultural navigation framework to facilitate respectful and constructive dialogue among diverse community organizations during international engagements and help overcome cultural, linguistic, and organizational barriers;
- 12 Create joint ventures and bodies in the international sphere specifically designed to advocate for and address common long-term community goals between regions and involve state, private, and community partners with input from the public to ensure actions effectively benefit constituents;
- 13 Integrate the knowledge of indigenous peoples into social and environmental policy frameworks at local, regional, national and international levels to incorporate countries' and peoples' traditional knowledge and practices into international governance.

Addressing the Crisis: A Youth Agenda for Improved Education Systems

We, the youth, unite to ameliorate education systems around the world. Schools face numerous challenges on both the local and systemic levels. The youth of today need high-quality education from a young age in order to best prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow. This level of preparation is impossible without proper changes to schooling systems. Teachers face a tall task in their job to educate the youth, yet their work remains chronically undervalued. Educators around the world are underpaid for the strenuous nature and long hours their work entails. In addition to actually conducting classes, many teachers are expected to participate in administrative work for schools and districts as a whole. Such roles distract educators from taking the time necessary to plan their course material. Due to this and other strains placed upon teachers, they find immense difficulty in achieving some semblance of work-life balance. Many are simply unable to find this point, leading to high turnover rates in the profession. The school boards, or similar administrative bodies, in charge of schooling also encounter problems and make decisions that affect the quality of education. Many school systems as a whole are underfunded, creating many issues around the payment of teachers and ability to provide essential materials. These bodies are also tasked with detailing the precise aspects of curricula and finding a way for all students to receive the instruction necessary to set them up for successful futures. Improved education systems are necessary to provide tomorrow's leaders with the tools necessary to address the dilemmas they will face.

Hereby, we, the youth, recommend to:

- 1** Ban compulsory teacher attendance outside of prescribed working hours unless notified ahead of time with compensatory leave or overtime pay;
- 2** Have schools partner with local businesses to expose students to possible career paths from a younger age;

- 3 Allow students more options for work study programs during high school so they may begin working in the field they are interested in;
 - 4 Expose students to more possible careers by having school trips to local businesses;
 - 5 Increase school funding to allow teachers to be paid the average salary of professionals in their region;
 - 6 Relieve teachers of many of their administrative tasks and documentation work by transferring them to school administrators and related staff;
 - 7 Promote work-life balance in teachers through ample sick leave and paid time off so they do not face excessive burnout;
 - 8 Create apolitical boards of education such that curricula are not determined by whichever ideology is in power;
 - 9 Ensure that teachers have the freedom in their classrooms to teach students at different rates and identify students as needing to stay back a grade;
 - 10 Increase and maintain the number of teachers by ensuring a decent minimum salary that is competitive with other government salaries, in addition to benefits to remain in the job through pay increases and retirement benefits;
 - 11 Allow students to choose the skill they want to learn for future work at an early age, so that they can focus on certain specific skills rather than learning about everything;
 - 12 Decrease the student-to-teacher ratio alongside proper infrastructure and support staff to focus on quality education;
 - 13 Create intercultural and international workshops for teachers, to upskill and learn from the best practices being implemented all over the world;
 - 14 Move to competency-based syllabi with flexible pedagogy; reduce high-stakes testing in lower grades.
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Unlocking Working Potential: A Youth Agenda for Equitable Employment

We, the youth, unite to confront the systemic employment inequalities that continue to harm young people. The undermining of social mobility and economic stability for youth around the world presents a critical crisis that demands our attention. Discriminatory practices in both public and private sectors actively hurt employees wanting to make a living. The workplace environment has seen the rampant persistence of inequalities. This includes having biases in hiring to offering discriminatory wages for equal work. Rather than prioritizing diversity and inclusion, workplaces are often toxic, failing to acknowledge and recognize workers for their commitment and hard work. With the presence of inequality across industries, positions, and sectors, youth are often left with no choice but to bear the cost of this systemic failure. As a result, these systemic failures harm careers as well as productivity, as it becomes harder for employees to innovate and feel supported. Furthermore, the recent expansion of artificial intelligence into the workplace also contributes to workplace inequalities rather than removing them for workers around the world. Jobs, especially those for youth, that work in entry-level positions are being cut or eliminated for the sake of efficiency. This attitude presents a significant issue for youth whose skills and expertise are not acknowledged and even replaced by automation. If artificial intelligence continues to replace rather than supplement employees, employers will miss out on a crucial opportunity. In particular, the opportunity for foundational systematic change that allows technology to work hand in hand with employees. Equitable employment measures must be integrated into the modern workplace to have workers feel supported, heard, and respected.

Hereby, we, the youth, recommend to:

- 1** Assert that interactive, in-person jobs, including customer service, can work in conjunction with AI, so that employees can focus on greeting customers rather than repetitive tasks;
- 2** Utilize AI to increase worker efficiency without replacing them through the creation of tailored job training and use in completing supplementary tasks determined by the worker;

- 3 Request that AI recruitment tools undergo independent bias audits, with penalties for discriminatory outcomes;
 - 4 Recommend the implementation of re-skilling and up-skilling workshops teaching all employees about how AI applies to and can be used in their respective fields;
 - 5 Protect workers' rights through the use of adequately-funded independent inspection bodies to investigate labor rights violations;
 - 6 Support funding for worker-led safety inspections and unionization initiatives in high-risk industries;
 - 7 Ensure that workers are able to voice their concerns on workplace issues through securing the freedom of association of all workers, even those without documentation, and through the creation of grievance platforms accessible to all workers;
 - 8 Create job training programs that focus on the development of soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem solving;
 - 9 Prepare those trying to enter the workforce by developing robust mentorship programs, making apprenticeships widely available, and focusing job training programs on sectors that are prevalent in the program's geographic region;
 - 10 Ensure that work environments are free from discrimination based upon and ensure equal access to work regardless of gender, race, religion, or creed;
 - 11 Not allow employers to have discriminatory employment and hiring practices based upon gender, race, religion, or creed.
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Responsible Modernization: A Youth Agenda for Innovation and Technology Development

We, the youth, unite to pursue the equitable and safe development of technology going into the future. Technological development disparities are broad and, unfortunately, increasing. Lesser developed nations and those in the global south will only continue to fall further behind without proper distribution of technological resources. Those nations at the forefront of technological progress march into the future with little regard for the possible negative consequences of such brazen innovation. The digital divide, the gap between those who have easy access to computers and the internet and those who do not, is increasing in severity. Nations that have not already developed widespread Digital Public Infrastructure are falling further behind nations that have already implemented such technologies. These differences are leading to a broadening wealth gap. Many nations still lack basic infrastructure for electricity as a whole, and without stronger action, by 2030, around 660 million people will still lack electricity. Nations leading the development of Artificial Intelligence do so with little to no safeguards set in place. Such cutting-edge technologies have the potential to be used in numerous nefarious ways. Powerful enough AI can assist in the creation of weapons of mass destruction and, if in the wrong hands, could allow non-state actors to construct their own WMDs. Nonetheless, frighteningly few steps have been taken to ensure that these powerful technologies are not abused. Technological innovation can help the whole world's population when executed properly.

Hereby, we, the youth, recommend to:

- 1** Focus resources into creating Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) such as virtual IDs, online payment systems, and data exchange platforms;
- 2** Provide aid and technical assistance to nations working on developing DPI from those that have already developed theirs;

- 3 Broaden access to computers and internet access through the use of free-to-use computer sites and promotion of the sale of refurbished technology that would otherwise be condemned to trash;
 - 4 Ensure nations instate safeguards on AI development within their borders to secure the safety of humans and their livelihoods;
 - 5 Never use AI in ways that harm humans through the development or implementation of weapons of mass destruction or mass surveillance, and mainly use it in ways directed toward healthcare, climate, and inclusion;
 - 6 Mandate that the rollout of internet networks, data centers, and emerging digital technologies be directly tied to renewable energy use to reduce the sector's environmental footprint;
 - 7 Require sustainability checks before large-scale deployment, while private companies must be held accountable for powering infrastructure with clean energy;
 - 8 Encourage governments and private sectors to collaborate on making clean energy accessible and affordable, especially in low-income regions, so digital growth does not deepen inequality;
 - 9 Direct youth-led innovation challenges and funding opportunities toward projects that combine digital solutions with climate action (e.g., AI for clean energy optimization, blockchain for transparent carbon tracking);
 - 10 Conduct ethical impact assessments on AI projects just like environmental ones to make sure they protect rights, dignity, and fairness;
 - 11 Implement global safeguards so that AI development is accountable with audits, bias checks, and real liability for harmful outcomes;
 - 12 Give youth a seat at the table in AI governance so tech creates opportunity instead of widening inequality or displacing jobs.
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Addressing the Crisis: A Youth Agenda for Improved Mental Health Reform

We, the youth, unite to address the severe mental health crisis impacting our generation. Mental health proves to be a critical component of our well-being, impacting our ability to thrive and contribute meaningfully to society. Structural changes to the systematic approach to mental health issues are critical to ensure youth feel supported and heard. This is especially significant with youth experiencing mounting environmental, personal, and systemic pressure. The lack of confidential and accessible mental health services for youth leaves many with little to no support. The educational framework fails to address youth needs, with schools and universities lacking comprehensive mental health education. As a result, young people are unable to develop important skills that are needed to combat emotional and psychological distress. At the same time, the mental healthcare system lacks proper infrastructure, especially with community health care services relying on minimal funding. The rise of social media under the digital age has detrimentally impacted the mental wellness of youth around the world. In particular, the promotion of toxic content and cyberbullying on these platforms often results in anxiety and depression. With social media's presence being so intertwined with the lives of youth, digital tools to address such problems appear to be nonexistent. Moreover, youth in post-conflict and disaster zones are often left vulnerable, with their mental health needs being overlooked. Expansive and structural mental health reform is necessary from leaders to ensure youth around the world no longer suffer in silence.

Hereby, we, the youth, recommend to:

- 1** Bolster outreach programs to those suffering from drug addiction, alongside investment in rehabilitation centers to help those who are presently suffering from addiction;
- 2** Broaden access to free or reduced-cost digital mental health resources such as telehealth appointments, mobile apps, or other self-assessment tools;

- 3 Promote the creation of peer-to-peer mental health support groups to foster a greater sense of community, help others with similar experiences, and create community-led initiatives to address mental health concerns;
- 4 Combat stigma surrounding addiction recovery and mental health support by increasing visibility of existing programs in addition to running campaigns that raise public awareness and normalize seeking help;
- 5 Increase public awareness of mental health treatment by adding sections about mental health to school curricula and holding workplace trainings related to mental health;
- 6 Provide easy access to mental health support for those in crisis through services such as 24/7 hotlines and mobile applications;
- 7 Establish Free and Confidential Youth Mental Health Services: Push for the creation of government-sponsored youth-friendly mental health centers or helplines that offer free counseling and support;
- 8 Increase Funding for Community Mental Health Services: Allocate budgetary support for more clinics and community-based support tailored to adolescents and young adults;
- 9 Promote the responsible use of technology by encouraging companies to introduce features that limit screen time and combat cyberbullying;
- 10 Support mental health initiatives for youth in conflict or disaster zones, particularly through trauma-informed care and rehabilitation;
- 11 Support the utilization of funds and funding of government and non-governmental organizations leading in support of mental health;
- 12 Train youth leaders, community leaders, and volunteers on issues regarding mental health among the youth and when to refer an individual to seek psychiatric and psychological services;
- 13 Organize community-led mental health services workshops targeting the youth in schools and places of worship to increase uptake of mental health services;
- 14 Encourage the accessibility and affordability of healthcare services through providing transportation services to healthcare facilities and by working towards the demonopolization of medical industries.

Ensuring a Safe Future: A Youth Agenda for Peace and Security

We, the youth, unite to work for the establishment and maintenance of peace and security now and continuing into the future. World peace remains a dream that appears increasingly difficult to achieve. The UN world order established after the Second World War is strained by nations pushing the boundaries of what is allowed under international law or outright ignoring its tenets. Such actions disrupt the tenuous peace held in many parts of the world and have caused conflicts to erupt in several theaters around the world. Steps must be taken to protect civilians, particularly children, in conflict areas. Too often, these non-combatants are gravely harmed or killed by conflicts in their region. Children are recruited to participate in war efforts through fighting as soldiers or, more often, through logistical support of all kinds. Those not in the war are still harmed by conflict due to the use of military weaponry in populated areas. Explosives and other implements of war cause great amounts of collateral damage that impact civilians and increase the number of unnecessary deaths. This paper recognizes prior UN resolutions on nuclear energy, disarmament, and non-proliferation such as UN General Assembly Resolution 1 (A/RES/1), A/RES/54/54, A/RES/55/33, UNSC Resolution 984, and UNSC Resolution 1540 and the international treaties that promote and advocate for nuclear disarmament, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Nonetheless, escalating tensions between nuclear powers and lackadaisical adherence to international law impel a renewed focus on this subject area. Peace and security for the whole world is one of the central aims of the UN, and yet it is still far out of reach.

Hereby, we, the youth, recommend to:

- 1** Support child soldier reintegration programs which are specified to the most common experiences of child soldiers in modern conflicts;
- 2** Invest in campaigns to end the stigma against former child soldiers and ensure they are seen as the victims of this practice;

- 3 Ban the use of explosive weaponry in populated areas and seek prosecution against those who violate this rule;
 - 4 Increase advocacy against the use of hospitals and schools as military targets in warzones;
 - 5 Expand programs to educate those in high-risk areas about landmine use and how to avoid them;
 - 6 Educate young people and future generations about the real effects and consequences of nuclear weapons, as witnessed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki;
 - 7 Collaborate across generations, countries, and civil society to urge nuclear-armed states to halt further nuclear weapons production and eliminate nuclear threats;
 - 8 Utilize social media platforms to bring nuclear disarmament issues into mainstream political discourse;
 - 9 Raise awareness about the severe environmental consequences of nuclear weapons, including the long-term damage caused by nuclear testing, radiation contamination, and ecological destruction;
 - 10 Learn from and amplify the real-life stories of victims of nuclear bombings, Hibakusha, and tests, educating the world about the destructive power of these weapons;
 - 11 Ensure that our current and future generations live in a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.
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