

DECLARATION

PEACE DAY 2020 Global Youth Assembly

PREAMBLE

We, Youth representatives,

Members of a Global Assembly of Youth, drawn from almost 100 cities worldwide,
Gathered together on the occasion of World Peace Day 2020, and the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, to discuss imminent and impending global issues that threaten our livelihoods and our very existence.

DECISION

Having harvested the views and conclusions that emerged during Youth discussions that took place on six different continents, we have identified a number of imminent and urgent issues that must be addressed, and we have decided that:

- Youth from all nations must be mobilized to address the global challenges and become actively engaged in building the future we want,
- The Global Youth Assembly will reconvene during the coming year in response to the UN 75 Declaration and seek to engage with the UN and other relevant bodies to ensure that Youth's voice is heard,
- The Global Youth Assembly will focus on the ten themes outlined on the following page, with a view to presenting a number of actionable ideas to the UN, at an Intergenerational Global Assembly on World Peace Day 2021.

- 1. Youth engagement:**
Youth must be granted trust, space, tools and proper representation. In order to take ownership of impactful and significant decisions, we must create our own platform upon which to develop our own policy framework and decision-making and implementation process.
- 2. Transparency and trust:**
A transparent political system is needed to restore Youth's trust in their governments and leaders. Truthful reporting of facts is necessary to prevent the manipulation of information within the media. Transparent and strong institutions must be established in order to prevent corruption and ensure justice.
- 3. Local empowerment:**
Financial investment, momentum and focus, should be shifted to local leaders, communities and initiatives that have a better understanding of local needs. Community leaders should have the ability to make better choices regarding freedom, ownership and responsibilities. This process requires mutual trust.
- 4. Equality and inclusivity:**
It is a necessity to strive for an inclusive society, which takes into consideration the needs of humanity in all its diversity, valuing traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous wisdom. Every group and minority should be represented in the decision making process, and granted equal access to health, education and opportunities.
- 5. Disincentivize monopolies:**
The financing of cooperative business development and the development of open source technologies must be supported in order to help the breakup of industrial monopolies, and simultaneously create innovative and sustainable employment opportunities, especially for the youth.
- 6. Labour:**
It is important to invest in, and reinforce, policies that bring dignity to workers' lives, guarantee income security, respect labour rights and ensure free access to healthcare, by enabling basic human needs to be met. These are needed, not just for survival, but to promote conditions for workers to thrive.
- 7. Investment into innovation:**
More significant investments are needed, into entrepreneurship and environmental accelerators, in order to help drive innovation, job creation and the implementation of sustainable initiatives. The inclusion of music, art and new immersive media technologies, is important.
- 8. Cooperation to solve the world's issues:**
Cooperation across sectors, on a local and global scale, must be promoted through education and other initiatives. It is important to take into consideration the support of community-wide interests and needs, in order to favor the wellbeing of humanity and the planet.
- 9. Global health:**
Free physical and mental healthcare should be accessible to all, free from prejudice, and tailored to the diverse needs of all people. Special attention should be placed on fulfilling basic needs (water, food, housing) and encouraging a natural and healthy lifestyle.
- 10. Education is of critical importance:**
There is a need for free, inclusive, and accessible education that puts the students at the center of their own learning process, supported by qualified and unbiased facilitators (teachers). The current classical curriculum should be remodeled, putting a focus on lifestyle, skills development sustainability, collaboration and critical thinking.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

We, members of the Global Youth Assembly, representing Youth from different continents and cultures across the world, believe the points lined out in this declaration, are urgent and necessary, in order to meet the needs of all within the planetary boundaries.

We urge the United Nations, and the leaders of the world, to take note of the suggestions set out in this declaration and to contribute in whatever way appropriate to their realization.

We are grateful for the platform we have been offered during UN75 and World Peace Day.

It is uplifting that the world leaders are ready to listen to, and engage in meaningful collaboration with Youth. However, for our aspirations and dreams to be tangibly achieved, we urge that our needs and concerns be given the absolute priority that they deserve.

We believe meaningful engagement is possible, if we move beyond classical structures, encourage innovative solutions and embrace disruptive solutions.

Our generation is ready and willing to take responsibility, and we would be honored to work with the UN to ensure peaceful collaboration across borders, towards implementation of the 2030 agenda and the full development of humankind's potential.

THE PEACE DAY 2020 GLOBAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

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