



**WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE**  
*Youth for Sustainable Development*  
New Delhi, Republic of India  
12-14 November 2016



**New Delhi Youth Declaration**  
**World Youth Conference 2016 “Youth for Sustainable Development”**  
**New Delhi, Republic of India - 12 November to 14 November 2016**

We, the youth participants of the World Youth Conference 2016, affirm that strengthens effective youth participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of various global issues, referring to the process of defining the future global development framework will succeed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

We affirm that the ultimate objective of Youth for Sustainable Development is to create an inclusive platform for youth that enables them to review the progress of the SDGs, share ideas, experiences and innovative approaches for effectively contributing to the SDG framework and its implementation. As such, we call on a re-examination of the efficacy of youth participation at all levels of decision making.

Young people are already impacting their communities every day, in countless ways and to widely varying ends. We need our desire to contribute to constructive change and to offer meaningful service to be strengthened, supported, and expanded, by our international, national and local communities. We call to allows young people to voice their ideas and concerns and make suggestions directly

Today’s youth are arising to shape the present and future of their countries. They want to be heard, to be included in decision making debates and to make change. Students’ engagement, social innovation, fostering democracy, youth employment, conflict and sustainable development should be incorporated in everyday life to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Integrating young people into formal structures of power is of course advantageous for a variety of reasons. But simply feeding “young” voices into “old” systems, if unaccompanied by more substantive forms of participation runs the risk of degenerating into mere tokenism. Young people are needed as leaders and decision-makers not only in youth forums and special-purpose councils, but in those spaces where the course and direction of society as a whole are determined. This may well require the development of new systems of decision-making and collaboration – systems characterized by an unbiased search for truth, an attitude of cooperation and reciprocity, and an appreciation for the vital role every individual can play in the betterment of the whole.

To be effective global citizens and to contribute fully to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, young people need better access to quality and affordable education, that spans the range of human faculty development, develops critical thinking and global mindedness, is inclusive of the diversity of youth, and builds moral character. However, while many current education systems are not meeting our evolving needs, we recognize that we are active agents of change and have much to contribute towards strengthening educational processes at all levels.

## Thus, we the youth, commit to:

- ✚ Recognize that success of SDGs depends on youth engagement.
- ✚ Wholeheartedly work to implement the SDGs and empower increasing numbers of youth to take real action together.
- ✚ Contribute to the establishment of a permanent youth engagement mechanism that ensures consistent follow-up with young people and further boosts their participation and partnership in the implementation of the SDGs at national, regional and global levels.
- ✚ Strengthening a new global network of young people across the world empowered to share experiences and exchange ideas on youth led activities especially on conservation of biodiversity and to eradicate poverty, etc.
- ✚ Stop activities which contribute to environment degradation, such as pollution, the overexploitation of natural resources, the spread of invasive alien species, and climate change.
- ✚ Harness our innovation to develop projects aimed at improving quality educational experiences for young people.
- ✚ Urge governments to implement national legislation and enforce judgments to address environmental degradation and support civil society and the private sector to ensure that their actions do not adversely affect biodiversity.
- ✚ Encourage environmentally – friendly lifestyles, including the sustainable use of resources, and the use of clean renewable energies.
- ✚ Encourage participation in activities at the local and national levels that stimulate business, civil society and governments to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity.
- ✚ Collaborate with international campaigns and initiatives, and improve international networks for coordinated action regarding the sustainable use of biodiversity.
- ✚ Take further action in deepening and spreading the awareness of the fundamental value of biodiversity.
- ✚ Create a global biodiversity platform in order to increase international cooperation among youth organizations by sharing their respective practices.
- ✚ Realize that over one billion of the world population lives in poverty, facing daily the unacceptable conditions of hunger and malnutrition, disease, homelessness, unsafe environments and social exclusion, and that the majority of this population consists of young people, three quarters of them living in rural areas. We feel that the cycle of indebtedness of developing countries is a major contributor to hunger and poverty, and note with sorrow that debt forgiveness is not being implemented in accordance with the expediency and urgency of the need.
- ✚ Concern about the continued deterioration of the status of youth worldwide, who face growing levels of unemployment, poverty, armed conflict, epidemic diseases, functional illiteracy and substance abuse - among other social and economic challenges -despite global advances made in technologies, entrepreneurship development, medical research, leisure and recreation facilities.
- ✚ Recognize that in spite of progress made in basic education, inequity based on economic and social conditions, sex and disabilities continues to persist, leaving millions of children and young people out of school. Additionally, we acknowledge that youth continue to lose lives to acute respiratory infections, vaccination-preventable diseases and malnutrition. These risks continue to result in the loss of lives to a very large scale. Violence and suicide are also growing factors of youth mortality. We also recognize that the access to quality child and youth-friendly health services as well as health education is still issues that need to be seriously addressed.

- ✚ Recognize women, particularly young women and girls, are the most vulnerable and most affected by social and economic problems and in times of armed conflict, and that their status as equal partners in youth development and empowerment is essential in overcoming the societal imbalances that continue to prevail.
- ✚ Concern about the prevalence of human rights violations with regard to young people, such as child labour, trafficking and sexual exploitation, children and youth in armed conflict and living in countries under occupation, and the exclusion of children and youth infected and affected by AIDS, including those orphaned by it. We choose to identifying and advocating for initiatives that empower young people to have greater control over their individual and collective destinies, and their ability to effectively contribute to the advancement of the global community.
- ✚ Fight effectively against hunger and poverty a comprehensive approach needs to involve all parts of civil society, especially youth, in the policy making and implementation areas of hunger, poverty and debt at all levels.
- ✚ Form a youth network which could generate mechanisms to ensure the participation of young representatives in reconciliation process, negotiation and peace building.
- ✚ Develop and support the education of a culture of peace in programmes of schools in all levels. We encourage sport programs that are especially for disabled people and encourage the participation of disabled people in the regular sports activities at all levels.
- ✚ Call on future World Youth Forum to lead by example and remove the causes of marginalization and provide access to services for youth with disabilities.
- ✚ Report regularly on our actions, reflect on the efficacy of programs aimed at youth, and share our honest learning and shortcomings.
- ✚ Take up the responsibility to mentor each other through higher educational processes and share learning opportunities.
- ✚ Build strong intergenerational partnerships with Civil Society Organisations to work towards achieving the SDGs together, in particular strengthening informal educational initiatives.
- ✚ Offer honest, measured and unbiased perspectives to policy and decision making processes, for the betterment of all, not just for young people.
- ✚ Call on governments to seek out an active and substantive engagement of young women and men from diverse backgrounds in national-level planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- ✚ Call upon Governments, the United Nations System and civil society organizations to support young people in their endeavours to obtain the resources for extensive and comprehensive youth empowerment programmes.
- ✚ Strive to leave this planet better than we found it.

***Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Republic of India***  
***14<sup>th</sup> November 2016***