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## ✧ Y20 Recommendations on Meaningful Youth Engagement ✧

### From Youth Representatives to Youth Co-Creators

Young people around the world have been pivotal in elevating intersectional, critical issues on political agendas through a combination of grassroots activism, policy advocacy, and leadership initiatives. However, as we maintain and advance the prominence of youth engagement and participation, it remains paramount to eradicate barriers to ensure youth voices and agency are respected and accounted for at all levels, on all issues, and in all areas and mechanisms of political engagement.

Indeed, the critical issues we face today are intergenerational, and the nature of youths' vulnerability is multidimensional therein. However, youths are not just victims of these issues - our stake in them rests on the fact that we possess the knowledge, expertise, and embedded experiences that can promote positive structural change. We have the right to participate.

Youths are neither a monolith nor "added value" that are only called upon when it benefits the political rhetoric of inclusivity. Our diverse perspectives, experiences, and interests warrant us to be co-creators and co-owners of the entire process. In particular, we must ensure the representational participation and intersectional inclusion of society's most marginalised youth - low-income, disabled, migrant, refugees, indigenous youths, etc. **Nothing about us without us.**

To ensure inclusive, sustainable, and meaningful youth participation, the 2022 Y20 delegates call on governments to enact the following recommendations:

1. Co-design with youth and conduct national and sub-national gap analysis by 2023 to identify problems and challenges youth face in society, including social, economic, political, and cultural barriers which limit their meaningful participation and engagement.
2. Co-develop with youth and publish National Action Plans by 2024 for meaningful youth engagement that are participatory, impactful, transparent, representative, and inclusive. This should include education curricula that enhance concrete experiences in political participation and policy dimensions of all academic disciplines.
3. Institute youth councils/committees/parliaments at national and regional levels of government which may approve or reject a legislative proposal or propose amendments to it. The composition of the grouping should ensure representativeness and equal access to historically underrepresented youths based on gender, class, ethnicity, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, neurodiversity, etc.
4. Consider youths for key decision-maker positions in the government by removing existing barriers such as, but not limited to, age restrictions, where youth voices are directly represented in their capacity as ministers of youth affairs and board members in government bodies, among other positions.



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5. Eradicate asymmetric access to information and engagement opportunities by publicizing information on all policy consultation and youth engagement programs in all schools, academic institutions, and community centers, making materials available in non-institutional, user-friendly, inclusive, and age-appropriate language.
6. Enhance the legal framework for youth rights to equal opportunities in decision-making and political processes, including living wage compensation or equivalent funding opportunities for advisory, research, and advocacy roles in government programs, initiatives, and internships.
7. Mandate implicit bias training, re-skilling, and capacity-building programs for all non-youth decision-makers on the importance and value of meaningful youth participation and addressing unequal power dynamics between youth and non-youth.
8. Establish diverse, inclusive and representative youth delegations to allow youth to participate in any decision-making process in all multilateral and/or public forums, with funded participation and actionable follow-up mechanisms.
9. Mandate Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis (IBPA) Framework for all government legislation, policies, programs, and initiatives, as part of the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>1</sup> 1989.

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<sup>1</sup> The actions described in recommendations 1 and 2 are intended as two phases of a single process aimed to assess and advance the degree and dynamics of youth engagement and participation within each national context as a key component of decision-making processes. Both recommendations should be co-implemented by relevant Ministers in charge of youth in consultation with youth representatives and organizations. The Y20 is willing to host the presentation of the results of the first phase (gap analysis) at Y20 Summit 2023 India and second phase (action plan) at Y20 Summit 2024 in Brazil.

<sup>2</sup> At the United Nations, encourage more countries to participate in the UN Youth Delegate Programme as less than 20% of UN Member States are currently represented:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/what-we-do/youth-delegate-programme.html>

<sup>3</sup> Mandating Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis Framework advances the understandings of differential impacts of policies on youths via an intersectional approach to produce inclusive and socially just outcomes: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/46176>

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