

Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

April 19-20 2022

"COVID-19 recovery: Youth taking action for a sustainable future"

Ministerial Roundtable

Representative: (Mr.) Vakhtang (Vato) Baakashvili, Deputy Head of the Youth Agency of Georgia

Greetings from Georgia,

I am honored to join the EcoSoc's forum this year.

Young people's development, employability and protection represent one of the key topics of the Governmental Agenda.

This was expressed by adopting the New National Youth Policy Document for 2030 by the parliament of Georgia. It reflects the best examples of International practices, envisions SDG Goals, and UN Youth Strategy 2030 priorities.

Youth Agency works on development of the National Youth Strategy and the action plan.

We are setting ambitious sets of actions for the next few years.

So far by

- Prioritizing Youth Issues in all policy documents and building a legal basis of the further development of the field,
- Developing Needs and rights based local youth policies, working on capacity development for local decision makers;
- Bringing Volunteering on the first priority, to establish a national platform. As we have seen the importance of volunteers' role in building an inclusive society;
- Strengthening skills and competences through non formal education;
 - o Using Youth Camps as the platform and inviting thousands of youth annually, where they are going through the best lifetime experience in parallel of learning; By creating youth friendly high quality campsites around Georgia.
- Engaging youth in decision making process, by establishing Youth Advisory council of Youth Agency and online and offline platforms for structure dialogue;
- Enhancing Youth work, by establishing quality standards and bringing the best international experience, including recognition the profession of youth worker;
- Supporting youth initiatives through granting and capacity building for youth.
- Creating Youth spaces for intercultural dialogue and creating digital platforms for youth opportunities, so that everyone could have the access to the meaningful information;

As a conclusion, I would like to underline our strategic vision: Youth empowerment is a key to build up a democratic society;

We strongly believe Youth must be first priority to policy agenda, and we urge other policy makers to do the same.

Young people are the core of the human capital, and therefore, activating youth and increasing investments in their development, is a cornerstone for sustainable development of every country.

Thank you