



Czech Council of Children and Youth

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Chapeau

In advocating for the empowerment and inclusion of youth in decision-making, this submission created by the Non-formal Youth Advisory Group under the United Nations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is coordinated by the Czech Council of Children and Youth, emphasises the need for equitable participation, data-driven policy, and the elimination of access barriers. We urge the UN and the member states to foster cooperation and resource-sharing, promoting sustainable, diverse, and transparent youth engagement across all sectors.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Non-applicable

Chapter II. International peace and security

Non-applicable

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Non-applicable

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Following the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, **it is paramount to ensure that Pact for the Future leaves no one behind**. It is crucial to guarantee that individuals have adequate material security and that they are not subjected to discrimination based on race, social status, sex, gender, or sexual orientation.

To avoid the concentration of opportunities in metropolitan areas, participatory **opportunities should be made accessible to all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds and geographical location**. This requires removing barriers in access to information and fighting against the lack of structural capacities for involving youth in public or political decision-making during their studies and as young professionals.

To solve problems concerning youth, **data-driven policymaking is indispensable**. It is important for solutions to be based on concrete and precise information regarding the true diversity of situations of youth in different regions. Thus cooperation in data collecting must be improved under the auspices of the UN.

To strengthen youth participation **is important to support further coordination of existing projects and institutions that focus on youth engagement.**

The aforementioned support must be based on these principles:

- **Wide-basis** - Taking into account all regions, not only the economically developed ones.
- **Discrimination Prevention** - Actively supporting the participation of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Financial stability and sustainability** - Ensuring projects are sufficiently financed for their long-term operation.
- **Governmental framework** - Promoting legal support enabling full cooperation with the public sector.

We urge that the **UN becomes a platform for sharing good practices among all relevant institutions.** The member states should also in their own capacity intensify the dissemination of information about the aforementioned projects.

Acknowledging the existing opportunities, **we consider it important to promote, support and develop already existing opportunities, projects and institutions for integrating youth into decision-making.** These institutions should be incentivized to improve their cooperation and they must work transparently. In areas with crucial impact on youth (such as education and climate policy), youth involvement should exceed existing representation.

In light of creating opportunities for meaningful and full participation of youth representatives, we appreciate the existence of the UNYD programme. **UNYD programmes need to be expanded to ensure the global youth is systematically and equally represented.** We call on the UN DESA, UN Youth Office and member states' to expand collaboration ensuring UNYDs are not struggling with insufficient resources and can physically participate in UN processes. The collaboration should also guarantee that the Delegates gain a deeper understanding of UN mechanisms and processes and thus participate in a more meaningful way. We further see it as **important to expand the number of UNYDs per country and anchor their mandates in thematic clusters** (such as climate, gender equality, etc.) to ensure better quality representation.

Taking into account the aforementioned financial barriers, **we call on member states to contribute to sustainable financing of paid internships in all UN branches.** We also call for the abolition of unpaid internships within other international organizations and in governmental and private sectors. Youth are most endangered by the lack of social stability, thus **providing sufficient and fair compensation for their work and time is essential to ensure equality of access to opportunities** and promoting inclusion. Only that will allow for the full development of their potential.

As (Czech) youth, we consider the **SDGs 4, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 16** to be the most pressing for young generations.

- The prevailing problem lies in socio-economic inequalities between genders, regional municipalities and socio-economic stratas.
- The outdated definition of literacy unfit for the 21st century further solidifies these inequalities or propels the status quo.
- Democratization, decentralization and greater transparency in education, political and municipal institutions should be bolstered to promote youth participation in decision-making processes.

- The economic aspect for youth participation still remains problematic. Insufficient housing opportunities present an enormous threat to the standard of living of young people. We also consider the communal level to be ideal for introducing young people into the public processes.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Non-applicable