United Nations
Department of Global Communications
Civil Society Unit

Organization Name: Civil Society Youth Representatives Steering Committee (UN YRSC), Civil Society Unit, United Nations Department of Global Communications

Organization Website: https://www.un.org/en/civil-society/page/civil-society-youth-representatives-steering-committee

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Chapeau

Representing the input of Civil Society Youth Representatives linked with over 1500 Civil Society organizations associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC), the Civil Society Youth Representatives Steering Committee (UN YRSC) stands committed to fostering inclusive and intergenerational participation in shaping the Pact of the Future. Dedicated to ensuring deliberate and comprehensive youth engagement in decision-making and implementation processes, our committee presents the following recommendations to fortify an inclusive and impactful pathway towards a sustainable and equitable future.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Recognizing the pivotal role of ongoing training, collaboration, and enhanced accessibility in achieving sustainable development, these recommendations emphasize continuous training, streamlined visa processes, targeted financial support, and meaningful engagement with youth-led initiatives and civil society. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17, our recommendations aim to foster inclusive participation, capacity building, and sustainable financing, ensuring effective implementation of Summit outcomes towards realizing shared global objectives.

1. **Ongoing Training and Support for Sustainable Development**

1.1 Continuous Capacity Building:
Advocate for ongoing training programs and support mechanisms that equip stakeholders with the necessary skills for sustainable development implementation. Collaborate with Member States and relevant organizations to ensure continuous capacity building.

2. **Streamlined Visa Processing for Capacity-Building Workshops**

2.1 Collaborative Visa Streamlining:
Collaborate with Member States to simplify visa procedures for civil society participants attending in-person training workshops to implement Summit outcomes. Streamline visa application processes to facilitate smoother attendance at capacity-building workshops.

2.2 Emphasis on Global South Participation:
Prioritize and expedite visa processing for attendees from the Global South and individuals from marginalized communities who conventionally encounter obstacles in attending in-person events and programs. This ensures equitable access to training and capacity-building workshops related to sustainable development.

2.3 Visa Waivers by Program Organizers:
Encourage program organizers to provide visa waivers where feasible, easing the visa-related financial burden for civil society participants attending relevant workshops.

3. **Support for Youth-Led Initiatives and Engagement**

3.1 Funding Youth Fellowships for SDG Solutions:
Allocate funding for youth-led fellowships and initiatives to develop solutions aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17. Support innovative projects that drive sustainable development agendas.

3.2 Inclusive Engagement with Youth Representatives and Youth Advocates:
Actively involve Youth Representatives from NGOs and youth advocates within civil society in decision-making processes and implementation strategies. Foster inclusive engagement, valuing the perspectives and contributions of young leaders.

3.3 Targeted Grassroots Outreach to Civil Society:
Utilize informal methods of communication to youth and civil society on a grassroots level to the SDGs, like our Department's Civil Society YOUth Newsletter. The YOUth Newsletter is a targeted outreach tool to disseminate information by youth for youth on SDG-related initiatives and events, encourage participation, and mobilize civil society for sustainable development initiatives.

Chapter II. International peace and security

We acknowledge the critical importance of ensuring online safety and addressing violence, particularly affecting women, youth, and children, in the pursuit of international peace and security. The recommendations below emphasize specialized training, targeted initiatives, and robust measures to combat online violence, misinformation, and disinformation. Aligned with Target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, these recommendations aim to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and violence against children while also addressing threats posed by hate speech and misinformation targeting civil society communities:

1. **Training and Initiatives for Cybersafety and Combating Online Violence**

1.1 Cybersafety Training Programs:
Develop and implement specialized training programs focusing on cyber safety, addressing threats and vulnerabilities faced by women, youth, and children online. Collaborate with educational institutions, NGOs, and digital platforms to promote digital literacy and safety.

1.2 Addressing Online Violence:
Launch targeted initiatives aimed at identifying and addressing online violence disproportionately affecting women and youth. Provide resources for support, counseling, and legal aid to victims. Work with law enforcement agencies to strengthen mechanisms for reporting and addressing online violence.

2. **Combating Misinformation, Disinformation, and Hate Speech**

2.1 Raise Awareness on Misinformation and Disinformation:
Conduct awareness campaigns highlighting the dangers of misinformation and disinformation online. Empower civil society communities through education and awareness programs to recognize and counter false information.

2.2 Mitigating Hate Speech and Threats of Violence:
Develop strategies to identify and counter hate speech and threats of violence targeting civil society communities. Collaborate with tech companies and social media platforms to enforce policies against hate speech and violence-inciting content.

3. **Support Mechanisms and Reporting Systems**

3.1 Support Services for Victims:
Establish and promote accessible support services for victims of online violence, including helplines, counseling, and legal assistance. Ensure these services are tailored to the specific needs of women, youth, and children.

3.2 Enhance Reporting Mechanisms:

Strengthen reporting mechanisms for online violence and hate speech, providing user-friendly platforms for reporting. Encourage collaboration between tech companies, law enforcement agencies, and civil society to address reported cases promptly.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Aimed at enabling participation and eliminating barriers for youth, especially those from marginalized communities, these recommendations focus on equitable access, skill enhancement, innovation support, and empowerment of youth-led initiatives contributing to sustainable development goals:

1. **Breaking Barriers to STEM Access for Marginalized Youth**

1.1 Identify and Eliminate Discriminatory Barriers:
Collaborate with member states to identify and dismantle systemic barriers preventing marginalized youth from entering STEM fields, addressing issues such as gender-based discrimination, socioeconomic challenges, and resource disparities.

1.2 Resource Allocation for Enhanced Educational Systems:
Allocate resources to revamp educational systems, emphasizing STEM education that equips youth with adaptable skills aligned with the evolving job market and technological landscape.

2. **Funding Mechanisms and Support for Youth-led Innovation**

2.1 Establishment of Targeted Funding Mechanisms:
Create specialized funding mechanisms and support structures to nurture youth-led innovation, startups, and social entrepreneurship initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Ensure these mechanisms are accessible and conducive to fostering innovation from diverse backgrounds.

2.2 Empowerment of Youth-led Civil Society Organizations:
Provide financial support and resources to empower youth-led civil society organizations, enabling their active engagement in advocacy, community development, and humanitarian efforts. This support should facilitate their capacity to drive impactful change in society.

3. **Promotion of Inclusive Digital Participation and Cooperation**

3.1 Digital Literacy and Accessible Resources:
Advocate for policies that promote digital literacy among youth from all backgrounds. Ensure equitable access to digital resources, especially in underserved communities, to

bridge the digital divide and empower young individuals to leverage technology effectively.

3.2 Youth-Inclusive Digital Cooperation Platforms:
Establish inclusive digital cooperation platforms that actively involve youth agencies, organizations, and entities at all levels. Foster collaborations where young individuals have a voice in shaping technological advancements and digital policies.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Aligned with the overarching goals of sustainability and inclusive growth, our recommendations aim to ensure comprehensive education, foster entrepreneurship, and advocate for policies supporting flexible work arrangements, thus empowering young individuals to contribute meaningfully to a sustainable and equitable future:

1. **Quality Education for Youth**

1.1 Integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Curricula:
Advocate for the global inclusion of SDGs in educational curricula to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness among young minds. This inclusion will equip them to address local sustainability challenges and contribute to a sustainable future.

1.2 Promotion of Digital Literacy & Future Technologies:
Prioritize digital literacy education and future technology awareness to bridge the digital divide. Advocate for policies ensuring equal access to digital tools, empowering young people from diverse backgrounds to harness technology for positive societal, economic, and environmental impacts.

1.3 Project-Based Learning:
Encourage implementing school sustainability projects involving students in real-world problem-solving. Foster partnerships between educational institutions and local communities to co-create sustainable development projects, fostering a sense of responsibility and community engagement among students.

2. **Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship**

2.1 Support for Skill Development Programs:
Invest in comprehensive skill development aligned with emerging industries, emphasizing soft skills crucial for success in dynamic work environments and entrepreneurship.

2.2 Promote Internships, Apprenticeships, and Mentorship Programs:
Facilitate partnerships between educational institutions and businesses to provide hands-on experience through internships and apprenticeships. Establish mentorship programs connecting

experienced professionals with young individuals to foster networking and knowledge transfer.

2.3 Incentives for Sustainable Business Practices:
Encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices by providing incentives and support. Prioritize investment in socially responsible ventures and implement tax breaks for enterprises focusing on social or environmental responsibility.

2.4 Access to Financial Resources:
Expand access to microfinance, small business loans, and crowdfunding platforms for young entrepreneurs, especially those from marginalized communities. Establish government-backed entrepreneurial funds offering low-interest loans, grants, or equity investments to support youth-led startups.

3. **Policy Advocacy for Flexible Work Arrangements**

3.1 Flexible Work Policies:
Advocate for policies supporting flexible work arrangements, such as remote work options and flexible scheduling, catering to the preferences and needs of the younger workforce.

3.2 Equal Opportunities for Freelancers and Gig Workers:
Extend labor laws and policies to offer protections and benefits to freelancers and gig workers, acknowledging the diverse forms of employment prevalent among the youth.

3.3 Supportive Policies for Startups:
Streamline regulatory processes and minimize bureaucratic barriers for startups, creating an entrepreneurial-friendly ecosystem conducive to establishing and operating young entrepreneurs' businesses.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

As included in our [recommendations to the UN Youth Office,](#) we believe in solid intergenerational and intergovernmental partnerships that align with the principles of people-centered multilateralism while putting youth at the forefront in the implementation process following the adoption of the zero draft. These recommendations aim to ensure meaningful youth participation, capacity building, and sustainable implementation strategies for the advancement of shared global goals:

1. **Advancing Member States' Youth Policies for the SDGs**

1.1 Support and Assistance for Member States:
Collaborate closely with Member States to assist in advancing their respective youth policies linked to achieving the SDGs. Provide technical assistance, guidance, and best practices,

ensuring alignment with global sustainable development objectives.

1.2 Integral Youth Engagement in Decision-Making:
Advocate for and facilitate the active participation of youth representatives in decision-making processes across public, private, and NGO sectors. Encourage the integration of youth perspectives in policy formulation and implementation at all levels.

2. Advisory Services and Capacity Building

2.1 Support for National Youth Councils:
Offer advisory services and guidance to National Youth Councils, empowering them with knowledge, resources, and strategic advice to champion youth-related initiatives aligned with the SDGs effectively.

2.2 Training and Capacity Building Programs:
Partner with UN agencies to develop comprehensive training programs and capacity-building initiatives. These programs will equip youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively engage in international and regional implementation processes.

3. Enhancing Understanding and Mobilization of Civil Society

3.1 Workshops, Webinars, and Training Sessions for Consular Officials:
Conduct specialized workshops, webinars, and training sessions for consular officials of Member States. These sessions will focus on the significance of civil society activation and mobilization post-summit, enhancing their understanding and fostering collaboration with civil society entities.

3.2 Post-Summit Mobilization Initiatives:
Spearhead post-summit mobilization initiatives, fostering collaboration between civil society organizations and Member States. Encourage joint efforts in implementing summit outcomes and sustaining momentum towards achieving shared objectives.

These action-oriented recommendations aim to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive and inclusive Pact of the Future. They strive to foster responsible technological advancements, promote equitable access to digital resources, and empower marginalized communities through education and grassroots innovation in alignment with the objectives outlined in Our Common Agenda.

Towards this end, under the guidance of the Civil Society Youth Representatives Programme in the Department of Global Communications, the Civil Society Youth Representatives Steering Committee offers in-kind support in drafting the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future.

UN DGC Civil Society Youth Representatives Steering Committee
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