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Women's Corner recommendations on Youth and future generations

Chapeau

It is not enough to have our voices heard; we must actively participate in the implementation process to be a part of the future we want.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations.

Young people are a vital part of the growth and development of any society, as well as in the process by which that society will become resilient in the future. In spite of this, the voices of young people, who are the future of tomorrow, are not heard and are underrepresented in the process of policymaking. When it comes to policy formulation, it is not enough for young people to simply have a seat at the table and contribute their voices; it is time for them to actively participate in determining the kind of future they envision for themselves. Policymakers should trust the abilities young people have by giving them the opportunity to actively participate in the implementation of these policies, which would allow them to take the initiative to bring about the change that they want. At Women's Corner Cameroon (WoCC), we aim at empowering young people and teenagers by helping them develop the skills necessary to become agents of change and by allowing them to have their voices heard on a larger scale. Taking this into consideration, I led a consultation session with the team at WoCC to discuss ways in which young people and future generations can be empowered to address future challenges and close the gap between gender inequality and other barriers. Please find the outcome recommendations from the consultation below.

Digital Inclusion:

- In a world that is rapidly evolving and developing, it is critical that young people, particularly those from marginalized, underrepresented, and less developed countries, have technological empowerment. In light of the fact that technology has the potential to create new avenues and opportunities for young people, particularly rural women who are underrepresented in digital spaces, technological access can also increase the accessibility of education, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities for adolescents and young adults. Technology can also assist in breaking and challenging gender biases and stereotypes that frequently restrict the potential of women. We urge all governments and stakeholders to increase access to digital technologies and the internet for all individuals, particularly those living in rural communities, in order to prepare young people for the challenges of the future and bridge the digital gap.
- We urge all stakeholders to support initiatives that support youth in acquiring digital literacy and developing their skill set. This can be accomplished through increased funding and the development of strategies that specifically target women and youths in rural communities.

Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability:

- • Women, particularly young people living in rural areas, are at risk as a result of climate change. The effects of climate change are being felt by women, and we are urging governments and other stakeholders to include young people in the process of formulating climate policy and making decisions. This will enable youths to build a more sustainable society in the future.
- We also call on stakeholders to integrate environmental education in formal curricula.

Financial Inclusion.

- If youth-led organizations are going to be successful in bringing about the change they want, having access to financial resources is of the utmost importance. We urge stakeholders to develop a robust financial support system for youth-led organizations. These funds should be directed specifically towards initiatives that are aimed at elevating young people, particularly young women, by addressing the intersectionality of gender disparities, youth unemployment, and financial exclusion.

Capacity Building:

- Through participation in STEM fields, particularly among young women, it will help in equipping young people with the necessary skills that will enable them in challenging future challenges.