



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 December 2023

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 24 (b)

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/78/472, para. 57)*]

78/179. Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action² and relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the General Assembly recognized youth as agents of change and pledged to leave no one behind, and recognizing that all of the Sustainable Development Goals apply to youth,

Recalling its resolutions on policies and programmes involving youth, the latest of which being resolution 76/137 of 16 December 2021, and the resolutions adopted by the Commission for Social Development on the same topic,

Recalling also its resolution 75/1 of 21 September 2020 on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in particular the commitments related to listening to and working with youth, as well as to placing women and girls at the centre,

Recalling further the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

³ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.



Recalling the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in 1998, and noting the Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes,⁶ adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in 2019,

Noting the inputs from recent relevant conferences, forums and global initiatives relating to youth at the international, regional and national levels,

Recalling that youth development is recognized in other frameworks, including but not limited to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁷ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁸ the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,⁹ the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,¹⁰ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹¹ the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,¹² the Global Compact on Refugees¹³ and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),¹⁴

Reaffirming that fulfilling the human rights, developmental needs and well-being of youth is critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the goals of United Nations conferences and summits, including but not limited to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹⁵ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹⁶ and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

Recalling its resolution [76/6](#) of 15 November 2021 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, presented as a basis for further consideration by States, which contained several proposals, *inter alia*, to promote effective and meaningful participation of youth and to ensure that their voices are more systematically integrated across the United Nations system, including through their empowerment and capacity-building,

Noting the progress made on the implementation of Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy, launched by the Secretary-General in 2018, to address the needs of youth and to fulfil their potential as agents of change, as well as the Generation Unlimited global partnership,

Noting also the Youth Declaration on Transforming Education, presented to Member States at the Transforming Education Summit, held in September 2022, which highlighted the positive contribution of young people in strengthening education systems,

Acknowledging the important contributions made by the Economic and Social Council youth forum, and that it serves as an important platform for the effective

⁶ [A/73/949](#), annex.

⁷ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

⁸ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁹ Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

¹⁰ Resolution [69/137](#), annex II.

¹¹ Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

¹² Resolution [73/195](#), annex.

¹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

¹⁴ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

¹⁵ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁶ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

participation and substantive contributions of young people to share their vision with decision makers and representatives of Governments and civil society, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its decade of action,

Welcoming the meaningful and effective participation and substantive contribution of youth representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly and in its subsidiary bodies, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, and relevant United Nations conferences and summits,

Welcoming also the work of the Envoys of the Secretary-General on Youth in addressing the needs of and placing young people as a cross-cutting priority of the United Nations, ensuring that their perspectives are reflected across the United Nations work, as well as, *inter alia*, as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments and their youth delegates, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening young people within and outside the United Nations system,

Taking note of the appointment by the Secretary-General on 27 October 2023 of the first United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, and noting its functions as contained in resolution [76/306](#) of 8 September 2022,

Recalling the decision to convene a one-day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government with the full and effective participation of youth, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the General Assembly in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth,

Recognizing the important contribution of Model United Nations to diplomacy and international cooperation and to building the capacities of young people in the field of international affairs, providing them with greater knowledge and opportunities,

Recalling that Member States have the primary role of promoting and protecting human rights and in meeting the needs and aspirations of all young persons, including those in vulnerable situations and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and recognizing that the ways in which they are able to fulfil their potential as agents of change will influence social, environmental and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

Recognizing the important and positive contribution of young people in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and reaffirming the commitment to the full implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda,

Emphasizing that fulfilling the needs and well-being of youth is critical to achieving inclusive and sustainable development, and underlining the important role that youth can play in the promotion of development,

Emphasizing also the importance of the full, meaningful, effective and inclusive participation of young people in decision-making, taking into account their diverse situations and conditions, which includes involving youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and movements at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate, including in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Emphasizing further the importance of empowering youth, including young women and girls, in order to address global challenges, including but not limited to fully eradicating poverty, ending hunger and malnutrition, tackling food insecurity, structural inequalities, climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss as well as the

effects of technological change, and reducing the widening gap between developed and developing countries across all spheres, promoting sustainable growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all young people,

Recognizing that the young generations will be most affected by today's decision-making, and therefore underlining that public policies should prioritize and ensure long-term sustainability, foster intergenerational solidarity and exchange of experiences, and consider impacts on future generations,

Deeply concerned with all forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion of young people, notably in schools and in the digital sphere, particularly in social media platforms, reiterating the need to tackle the spread of disinformation and misinformation and the rise in racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stereotyping, and religious hatred, and emphasizing the importance of preventing and combating violations and abuses of human rights, and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, as well as violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, sexual harassment and bullying, both online and offline,

Recognizing that, while young people represent a significant part of the online population, they may lack essential digital literacy and skills required for labour market access and future employability, and acknowledging the significance of providing them with digital educational resources, including online, and necessary digital tools,

Acknowledging the need to address juvenile crime and delinquency by giving priority to preventative approaches and measures as well as to rehabilitation services and programmes,

Stressing the importance of taking effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect all young people from radicalization to violence, and acknowledging the important role that youth can play in preventing its occurrence,

Acknowledging the resilience and capacity of young people to respond to challenges, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and that their innovation, volunteering and activism have actively contributed to mitigating the impact of the pandemic, both in the immediate and the long term, and recognizing that partnering with young people is key to achieving a sustainable recovery and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled, emphasizing the need to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment, with a focus on promoting quality education and lifelong learning, the acquisition of relevant skills, including literacy and numeracy, digital, technical and vocational skills and entrepreneurship, and the promotion of apprenticeships and internships, and taking note of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth as well as the launch of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact,

Recognizing the need to invest in human capital development for youth by promoting entrepreneurship, education, vocational training and skills development programmes and partnerships, productive employment creation, in line with labour market needs, as well as in cooperation with the private sector and trade unions, with a view to reducing youth unemployment, avoiding brain drain and optimizing brain gain and harnessing the demographic dividend,

Underlining the importance of addressing the needs of all young people, including through the establishment in the national context of robust social security systems as well as social protection floors that respond to the needs and rights of youth, including all girls and young women,

Mindful of the critical importance of young people enjoying an adequate standard of living, including through the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition as well as through addressing the drivers of food insecurity, including armed conflicts, climate change, economic downturns and pandemics, expressing concern that young people, particularly in developing countries, often lack equal access to adequate housing and to safe drinking water and sanitation, which leads to barriers in hygiene management, and recalling the need to enhance the capacities of developing countries to achieve universal health coverage,

Reaffirming our political commitment to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, recognizing that the well-being of young people is closely intertwined with the enjoyment of their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, noting with concern that HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, malaria and tuberculosis continue to disproportionately affect young people, especially in developing countries, and that the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 placed unprecedented pressures on national health systems and youth, including young women and girls and those in vulnerable situations, including on their mental health, and reiterating the importance of addressing other health-related issues affecting youth, including but not limited to malnutrition, eating disorders, obesity and adolescent pregnancies, and of sustainable, affordable, fair, equitable, effective, efficient and timely access to medical countermeasures,

Recognizing that investment in universal, accessible, quality and inclusive education, at all levels, and professional training, both formal and non-formal, is the most important investment that States can make to ensure the immediate and long-term development of youth, and noting the development of guiding principles and tools, for consideration by States, on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education,

Stressing the role of education as an important tool for promoting respect of cultural diversity aimed at achieving intercultural and interreligious dialogue and tolerance,

Recognizing the role of arts and other forms of cultural expression, sports, and recreation, and equal access to them without any kind of discrimination, in promoting youth development, the well-being of young persons, such as health, education and social inclusion, and respect for cultural diversity, global citizenship and non-violence,

Recognizing also the important role of young people, including young women and girls, in accelerating climate action, and that tackling climate change requires coordinated action between Governments and other stakeholders, including youth and youth-led organizations,

Recalling youth initiatives held in preparation for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the aim of contributing to the increase of youth-led climate ambition and implementing concrete actions to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and emphasizing the importance of the participation of young people in the Conferences of the Parties,

1. *Reaffirms* that all the 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth¹⁷ are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and emphasizes the role that the Commission for Social Development plays in supporting States in its implementation;

2. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and therefore urges Governments, in cooperation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations

¹⁷ Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

and other stakeholders, to develop integrated, holistic, inclusive and effective youth policies and programmes and to evaluate them regularly, as part of the follow-up on and implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth at all levels, and to ensure that youth policies and programmes reflect the views, perspectives and priorities of youth and are adequately resourced, transparent and accountable;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report,¹⁸ when monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action for Youth;

4. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all young people, including those based, *inter alia*, on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to foster social inclusion and integration, including for young persons with disabilities, young migrants, young people in rural and remote areas and Indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

5. *Also urges* Member States to protect, promote and fulfil the realization and full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, while ensuring that youth policies and programmes and their planning, design, implementation, monitoring and review include the views, perspectives and priorities of youth and are adequately resourced, transparent and accountable;

6. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular in the light of their consequence on children and youth, is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁹ recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth;

7. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Heads of States and Government in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind, including youth, and reiterates the importance of formulating, implementing, following up and reviewing development strategies that adequately address youth needs and rights as a cross-cutting issue;

8. *Urges* Member States to provide all young people with opportunities for full, effective, meaningful, constructive and inclusive participation in society, in all spheres of political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, including engagement in policymaking and decision-making processes, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives;

9. *Reiterates* the need for more ambitious efforts and investment in youth through policies and programmes, at an international, regional, national and local level, which nurture the potential and capabilities of young people and empower them, and underlines the need for those policies and programmes to be adequately resourced, transparent, accountable and inclusive of the views, perspectives and priorities of youth;

10. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the capacity of statistical offices to collect and analyse relevant and comparable data disaggregated, *inter alia*, by age and sex so

¹⁸ E/CN.5/2013/8.

¹⁹ Resolution 70/1.

as to contribute to the design, deployment and evaluation of all policies and programmes involving youth;

11. *Urges Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities, when designing, deploying or evaluating policies and programmes involving youth, including to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all young people, to pay special attention to the specific needs of young women and girls, young persons with disabilities, young migrants, young people in rural and remote areas, Indigenous youth and young people belonging to vulnerable groups or in vulnerable situations;*

12. *Urges Member States to address the challenges faced by young women, including through combating gender stereotypes and negative social norms that perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women, to engage, educate and support young men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, to support them to be positive role models for gender equality, and to take measures aimed at eliminating all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful practices, including but not limited to female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage;*

13. *Also urges Member States to strengthen policies and programmes that seek to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of young women in all spheres of political, civil, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners;*

14. *Recognizes that the lack of access to quality education and economic opportunities, and inadequate investment as well as underdevelopment are among the key drivers that compel young people to leave their countries of origin in search of better opportunities, and therefore it remains crucial to promote sustainable development, generate employment, bridge the digital divides and empower youth to fully participate in their societies;*

15. *Calls upon Member States to guarantee systematic, equal, inclusive and meaningful youth participation in the digital environment, to promote safety on the Internet, to raise the awareness of young persons around harmful and sensitive content online, to take measures against cyberstalking and cyberbullying, to develop remedies for violations and abuses of privacy rights in the digital age and to hold perpetrators and social media platforms accountable, when such violations and abuses occur, and to take active measures to counter hate speech, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, both online and offline;*

16. *Urges Governments to promote science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration with, as well as foreign direct investment in and trade with and among, developing countries, as well as international support, which are fundamental to enhancing developing countries' ability to benefit from technological advances that could also benefit young people's skills;*

17. *Emphasizes the importance that all young persons enjoy their rights to work, to social security, to an adequate standard of living, to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to education and to culture, without discrimination of any kind;*

18. *Urges Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, to invest in vocational training and skills development, particularly in developing countries, particularly digital skills, to scale up social protection interventions for young people, to eradicate poverty and end hunger and malnutrition, to tackle the lack of adequate and affordable housing for young people, to invest in both formal and non-formal education, and in the redistribution of unpaid*

care and domestic work, and to promote cultural diversity through youth-oriented policies;

19. *Also urges* Member States to promote health literacy, including by raising awareness of the benefits of sports, physical activity and proper nutrition, to increase access to youth-friendly health-care services, including those related to sexual and reproductive health-care services, menstrual health, to provide youth-friendly information services about HIV/AIDS free from stigma, and treatment from malaria, hepatitis, Ebola, cholera, waterborne diseases, neglected tropical diseases and other communicable diseases, and to ensure sustainable, affordable, fair, equitable, effective, efficient and timely access to medical countermeasures;

20. *Emphasizes* the need to implement measures to promote and improve the mental health and well-being of young people, including by adopting and investing in mental health policies which respect the human rights of young people with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, recognizing and addressing risk factors for mental health conditions, scaling up comprehensive and integrated services, both in person and in digital contexts, for the prevention of mental health conditions, including suicide prevention, as well as providing psychosocial support, including resilience training, while raising awareness of mental health issues, the impact of misuse of digital technology on young people's mental health and well-being and tackling stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, promoting well-being, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, addressing social determinants of health and fully respecting their human rights;

21. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development, and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers;

22. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intergenerational partnerships, multigenerational dialogue and intergenerational knowledge transfer, including by fostering opportunities for voluntary and regular interactions between young people and older persons, to involve youth and youth organizations in climate and environmental policymaking, to recognize that young people, particularly in developing countries, including African countries and small island developing States, are disproportionately vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, and to develop preventative programmes to equip young people with the tools and skills to contribute to the prevention of violence;

23. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to take concrete measures to assist and protect young people in situations of armed conflict, and to increase the full, meaningful and effective participation of youth, especially young women, in conflict prevention and resolution, in peacebuilding and in humanitarian action, while ensuring that young people continue to enjoy their rights to education and health even in situations of conflict, and recognizing the importance of protecting schools, universities, hospitals and medical facilities from attacks and military use, in contravention of international humanitarian law;

24. *Urges* Member States to take concerted action, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young

people living under foreign occupation, colonial rule and in other areas of conflict or post-conflict situations in order to promote the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

25. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General²⁰ and the recommendations contained therein;

26. *Encourages* Member States to include youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and other relevant United Nations conferences, including the upcoming Summit of the Future, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process;

27. *Encourages* the United Nations Youth Office to work closely with Member States, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with resolution [76/306](#);

28. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to continue efforts to further collaborate and coordinate, within its mandate, on youth-related economic and social matters, including, *inter alia*, with Governments on the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme;

29. *Calls upon* donors to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance in terms of youth representation, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

30. *Requests* United Nations entities, within their existing mandates and within existing resources, to continue their coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon them to support local, national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and encourages close collaboration with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

31. *Recommends* that the President of the General Assembly appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to facilitate intergovernmental consultations on the organizational arrangements and modalities for the high-level plenary meeting, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the General Assembly in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report, in an accessible format, to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and be prepared in consultation with Member States, with relevant United Nations organs and entities, including specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and with civil society, particularly youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

50th plenary meeting
19 December 2023

²⁰ [A/78/189](#).