YOUTH AGENDA ON EDUCATION & LEARNING BEYOND 2030

Guided by the voices of over 200,000 youth from 194 countries, we present the Youth Agenda on Education and Learning beyond 2030. For generations, students and young people have been at the forefront of movements for social justice, equality and education reform, challenging existing systems and shaping more inclusive futures. Yet, despite growing recognition of our voices, meaningful decision-making power remains unevenly distributed.

As we look beyond 2030, we reaffirm that students and young people must not only be consulted on the future of education, but actively co-lead its advancement. We demand transformative education. In tumultuous times, the world must come together for a shared prosperous future with young people at the centre of change. We envision education as an enabling force for equity, justice, sustainability and collective well-being. To realize this vision, meaningful youth and student participation must be a central priority at every stage of the post-2030 education agenda.

Our vision for education and the future

We envision quality and relevant education for current and future needs. This should be supported by student-centred learning, adequate infrastructure, sufficient resources and well-trained teachers. Updated curricula need to include solid foundational learning and elective subjects, taught through practical and interactive approaches. Learning should support critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, respect and active citizenship. Assessment should not be a source of stress, but rather support learning. More learning-by-doing activities should be introduced to support learners' holistic development and skills. Ultimately, education should enable dignified lives and pathways to opportunities and fair wages. It should allow people to thrive.

We strive for an equitable, inclusive, just society. Mutual respect, empathy and compassion should be the world's driving forces. Diversity is our strength: the future is a place where everyone is welcome. Every person, regardless of their background, needs to be able to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Education should be public and free, and youth should be supported throughout their learning journey. It should be inclusive, especially for the most vulnerable and hardest to reach, including people living in poverty, learners with disabilities, women and girls, LGBTQIA2S+ youth, indigenous peoples, migrants, undocumented and displaced people, minorities and marginalized communities.

We believe education systems should actively support young people's mental health and well-being. Beyond being spaces for learning, schools and classrooms are social places where we communicate and collaborate, developing our socio-emotional capabilities. Pressures of grades and social expectations negatively affect us. A balanced learning environment is instrumental for learning and development. Dedicated support structures, as well as spaces for activities such as sports, arts and civic engagement, are needed.

We need an education that places the protection of our planet at the centre for environmental sustainability. We want education systems that develop attitudes, skills and knowledge for climate action and environmental stewardship, based on both science and local and indigenous wisdom. Our future has clean air and water, zero pollution, access to safe green spaces, green and accessible transport, renewable energy, resilient communities and responsible use of natural resources.

We envision a peaceful and safe world. Young people should live and learn in a world without conflict, genocide, violence, discrimination and fear. Safety should extend to homes, schools, communities and digital spaces. Everyone should feel safe to express themselves, embrace their identities and share their views without fear of judgement, exclusion or repercussion. Conflict, displacement and emergencies should not disrupt learning. Education should promote peace, mutual respect, dialogue, human rights and peaceful conflict resolution.

We recognize with caution the value that technology and artificial intelligence (AI) can hold in supporting quality education. We see the potential of technology and AI in improving learning beyond the classroom and being an enabler of more personalized and flexible learning pathways. At the same time, we are concerned about the risk that insufficiently governed technology can pose. We believe that the uncritical use of AI weakens independent and critical thinking. It widens societal gaps where access is unequal because of connectivity and infrastructural challenges. Education should develop critical thinking and teach media and information literacy, allowing for ethical, safe and critical use of digital tools and AI.

We envision a teaching profession that is valued, respected and better supported. Human connections and the teacher–student bond cannot be replaced by technology. We want teachers who listen, motivate and mentor with patience and empathy.

Our own commitments for this vision

While we envision a future enabled by education, **as students and young people across the world, we are already contributing to making it a reality. Therefore, we commit to continuing to** provide solutions, resources and networks to the global education agenda through the following:

- **Champion education**. We will take an active part in school and community life, stay informed about local and global realities, and learn about and engage with the work of public institutions. We will drive dialogue between generations and use social media, community events and campaigns to make the case for education as a right and a shared priority. We will use peaceful protest to make our voices heard.
- **Speak up, co-design and hold decision-makers accountable.** We will advocate in the classroom and through student unions, surveys and consultations. We will work directly with teachers, institutional leaders and all stakeholders to shape the decisions that affect our lives. We will keep claiming our seat at the table and follow up to see how our input is used.
- **Develop and lead youth initiatives**. We will lead research projects, workshops, start-ups and social enterprises. We will exchange knowledge across generations, build skills and employability, and open doors for our peers.
- **Build inclusive communities where our peers lead and grow**. We will develop and operate shared learning spaces, and we will help ensure that students and young people have places to develop leadership and confidence. We will ensure no one is left behind through peer-to-peer tutoring, mentoring and shared learning activities. We will volunteer and support communities, including the most vulnerable and those hard to reach.

- **Foster diversity and inclusion in our communities.** We will lead by example in institutions and beyond, through honesty, positivity, non-violence, empathy and acceptance of diversity. We will not accept discrimination. We will challenge it.
- **Support each other's mental health**. We will break the silence around taboos on mental health and care about our personal and collective well-being. We will lead youth initiatives to support and help each other.
- **Advance environmental education and climate action.** We will create and lead adaptation and mitigation projects such as climate-smart agriculture, clean-up campaigns and reforestation.
- **Use digital tools to learn, share and build.** We will critically and ethically use technology, AI and social media to study and learn alongside our peers. Moreover, we will keep creating digital tools and platforms that make education open and accessible to everyone. We will share information and opportunities with those who need them.

Our needs to realize our vision

We are committed to taking action, but we cannot transform education alone. We urge governments, education institutions, international organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to guarantee and provide the following enabling conditions:

- **Recognize youth and student movements for the key role they play in education transformation.** We have long been drivers of change, and our existing and future representative structures must be formally recognized and valued at every level. Recognition is a prerequisite for meaningful and equal partnerships between youth and student movements and education stakeholders.
- **Move beyond consultation and symbolic representation to genuine participation.** We demand permanent youth and student representation, voting rights and shared decision-making power. We require transparent communication, visibility in the process and continuous access to information. Our involvement must extend from policy design to implementation and evaluation. We should not only be consulted. We need to see clearly how our input shapes the future of education.
- **Scale up investments in education for youth and students.** This includes dedicated budgets, grants and scholarships that enable us to study, organize, take part and lead change. We require investments for better educational infrastructure, educational materials, devices and technology, especially for learners in the most vulnerable situations, including rural and low-income areas.
- **Provide designated time, spaces and platforms for youth to act.** Lack of designated time during school hours contributes to the gap between our willingness and our action. We ask for flexible schedules, protected time and official school time for youth-led initiatives. We also ask for rooms, venues and safe spaces, in person and online, where they can happen.
- **Align education with the skills needed for the future.** Young people have the ideas and willingness but require institutional and policy support. We require structured training and intergenerational mentoring to build our capacities and turn our ideas into realities. Education systems must also equip us with the required skills for a sustainable future.

- **Provide responsible and ethical technology training for both educators and learners**. We also ask for education that builds critical thinking and the responsible use of technology. The tools must support learning and not widen the accessibility gap. We want technology that serves people and the planet, and demand clear and fair regulation for responsible, ethical, accessible and human-centred technology.
- **Equip teachers and educators with the knowledge, skills and support they need to shape the future of education.** Teachers are vital to the education we want. They need greater investment in training, smaller class sizes, manageable workloads, recognition and better pay. They should be empowered to support learning and student-led action and to nurture critical thinking and agency.

Young people are the present and the future. We are already doing the work. We are organizing our communities and speaking up for the education we need. We have shown what we can achieve when we are trusted. When we are given the right conditions and support, we can and will help build a world that places life, humans and the planet at its centre. This requires moving beyond tokenistic consultation towards shared decision-making, recognition, sustained investment in youth and student-led structures, inclusive representation and concrete accountability mechanisms.

For this and future generations, we will continue to take action for an education that creates better tomorrows and transforms the societies it serves.