Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

"Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions: Reinforcing the 2030 Agena and eradicating poverty in times of crises"

SIDE EVENT AT THE 2024 ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

"World Children's Parliament"
Organized by (Neighbourhood Community Network & PRATYeK)
[25 April 2024]

1. **Background**

The 17 April 2024 World Children's Parliament event gathered about 400 participants, including groups, both children and adults, united in their goal to empower children to address issues in their communities and the world. It focused on the thematic Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 13, 16, 17 and proposed SDG 18, Child Rights. Leading up to the main event, the participants developed recommendations to accelerate progress on each of these SDGs.

During the event, an innovative governance approach called sociocracy enabled mutual and intergenerational leadership through consent-based decision-making. The Children's Parliament model, renowned for its impact on children's decision-making processes in India, was also highlighted.

The participants were from diverse countries including Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, United Kingdom, and the United States. Their collective presence and contributions enriched the event with a global perspective. The primary language was English and interpretation was provided for French, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu.

2. **Outcomes**

First, this side event demonstrated that children, regardless of their age, can do well on a global stage, especially when platforms like the Children's Parliament federate upwards through multi-

tiered levels of representation. [Second, the meeting produced recommendations for accelerating progress on all of the thematic goals](). Third, there was a decision to hold ongoing meetings to hasten momentum in advancing the SDGs.

3. Programme and names of speakers/panelists

[The World Children's Parliament (WCP)]() event began with a warm welcome from Manas Koyada (WCP Prime Minister), and was facilitated by Yashasree Gadipalli, WCP Finance Minister. Youth advisors Preetam Casimir and Swarnalakshmi Ravi provided invaluable insights into interpretation and safeguarding instructions. Aripina Jayalaxmi and Swarnalakshmi Ravi provided an overview of WCP, recounting their journey with Children's Parliaments. Aaron Castelino, WCP Minister of International Affairs, introduced the proposed agenda; however, Nikki, Prime Minister of the National Children's Parliament of India, asked for SDG 18 to be added to the agenda.

Next, the thematic SDGs and newly proposed SDG 18 were explained: SDG1 by Katelyn Cawley, UK, & Gautam Putheri, USA; SDG2 by Aaron Castelino, USA; SDG13 by Ravi Robin, Nepal; SDG16 by Fongang Carine, Cameroon; SDG17 by Anu Subba, India; SDG 18 by Nikki, India. Subsequently, the proposed recommendations for each SDG were discussed and modified as needed in breakout rooms. SDG13 remained in the main room, offering a live demonstration to the audience of the decision-making process facilitated by Paige Hein. A significant moment occurred in the SDG 13 discussion when a comment (made in Tamil and interpreted to English) concerning the needs of a poor fishing village was seamlessly incorporated into the SDG 16 recommendations, marking the final step towards a resolution.

The breakout rooms closed and representatives from each room presented their room's recommendations - which were then consented by the WCP. In addition, a decision was made to continue to and expand WCP meetings. Finally, in the spirit of continuous improvement, Yashasree invited the whole audience to share their thoughts via chat about what went well and areas for enhancement. Swarnalakshmi and Aaron then extended a heartfelt vote of thanks, concluding the event with gratitude and a commitment to ongoing progress.

4. Guiding Questions for Discussion/s

The breakout rooms focused on two significant guiding questions as they considered their recommendations: What can children do to accelerate the SDGs? and What do children want the governments to do to accelerate the SDGs?

5. Virtual platform

[The whole session in the main room was recorded on video](). Consent was obtained from the children who spoke and their parents/guardians before recording the meeting.