



**ECOSOC  
YOUTH  
FORUM**

**#YOUTH2030**

## **8<sup>th</sup> Economic and Social Council Youth Forum**

### **SUMMARY**

### **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**8 April 2019**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber, 1.45-3.45 p.m.  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

#### **Highlights**

- At the opening of the session, it was emphasized the significance of the preparatory virtual debate for Latin America, with the participation of young people from the region, with the aim of nurturing the discussions in the framework of the ECOSOC Youth Forum
- The accent was put on intersectoral cooperation between governments, private sector, academia and young people, guaranteeing access to education and employment for the youth
- It was stressed that young people should be launching entrepreneurship initiatives not by necessity but by choice, linking entrepreneurship and social security and including technical training for entrepreneurship within university courses. Mentioning as well the necessity to reinforce normative frameworks for entrepreneurs.
- The participants underlined the necessity to educate young people with sustainable approaches about innovation, entrepreneurship and human rights.
- It is crucial to educate young people in SDGs and make them active players in their achievement and in influencing public policies in this area
- Young people should be taken into account and their participation is important not only during electoral periods, but throughout the decision-making processes at different constituencies including the global sphere, with special emphasis on the participation of girls and women and mobilizing the required resources for so.

- Strengthening the youth leadership programmers and volunteering activities for education and training should be highly encouraged
- It was stressed that there is an urgent need to take action to reduce inequalities and violence in the region, being these environments in part catalyzers of youth criminality.
- It was remarked that new technologies are also generating gaps in the labor markets, increasing in some cases the precarization of youth labor opportunities. Therefore, there is a need to take concrete actions to protect youth labor rights.
- The participants remarked that governments need to invest in technological infrastructure and education to face to a new labor market within the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution.
- It was remarked that youths need consider the Youth 2030 Plan of action as an opportunity.
- Participant youth also mentioned the critical need to develop data that allow to see diverse youth population and to monitor the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
- It was also stressed the need to recognize the right for a healthy environment with concrete actions. Mobilizing a regional agenda to face climate change, developing public policies about climate change that represent youths interest in the intergenerational and energetic transition.,
- It was stressed the importance to ratify the Escazu Agreement by the member States.
- Achieving universal education at all levels, action needs to be taken to address segmentation in the quality of the educations and reduce inequality in educational outcomes between students.
- Latin America and the Caribbean is the most unequal region in the world. The inequality that affects youth is multidimensional and limits their access to opportunities and full enjoyment of their rights.
- A critical issue in Latin America and the Caribbean, not only for youth, but for our societies as a whole that relates to participation and equality is the many manifestations of violence.

### **Summary of key messages and recommendations**

The LATAM table agreed on the need to support entrepreneurship from different angles in order to create an ecosystem suitable for young people to undertake entrepreneurship projects. Regional table participant ministries responsible for the youth portfolio have committed to reinforce the youth entrepreneurship, providing the necessary aid and support in order to create the climate for young people to launch entrepreneurial initiatives by choice, rather than by necessity. In the case of the Caribbean region participants recommended that the education system and its curriculum be revised where it can increase the number of youth who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Participants went on to say there's a disconnect between what youth are taught and what they will actually need to progress beyond second and tertiary level and skills to start a business.

In the case of the Caribbean, participants demanded that governments should ensure that youth are able to receive free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education – to allow youth belonging to different backgrounds to have equitable and equal access to an education. In addition, participants spoke about the need to implement a second chance programme for students who may have experience a disruption in their studies.

The participants were encouraged to position the young people in the center of agendas, so that they are taken into account when making decisions and can participate in this process. Furthermore, it was highlighted to be of crucial importance for young people to influence the generation of public policies that affect them, as well as strengthen the National Youth Councils and promote the intergenerational dialogue. Young people should be indispensable players for SDG compliance and support and to carry out sustainability practices.

Furthermore, topics such as educating young people to meet the characteristics needed to be leaders, were also discussed. It is important for the young population to have the opportunity to interact with their governments, as well as from their own networks and spaces, giving them greater visibility. Greater participation of women is essential for the reduction of the gender gap.

With regards to the topic of climate change, it was stressed that it is necessary to give it a regional approach, and consider young people as partners in addressing it. Also, they vehemently recommended for the use of modern technology to build stronger and more resilient infrastructure. It is crucial to create partnerships between the public and private sectors for generating green jobs, as well as develop new public policies on climate change to encompass this problem and enable correct energetic transition, remarking the importance of the Escazu Agreement ratification.

At the same time, it was emphasized that it is essential to comply with and support the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals from the integral approach, educating young people on this topic, informing them on the sustainability practices carried out by different institutions and making them the main actors of sustainable development.

### **International Youth Instruments considered in the discussion**

- The Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Young People and its Additional Protocol aim at educating young people about their rights and motivating them to take action to defend them, signed by the Ibero-American States in the city of Badajoz, Spain, in 2005, and in force since 1 March 2008, with seven States Parties and ten signatories.
- Youth 2030 UN strategy.
- Escazu Agreement.