



**ECOSOC
YOUTH
FORUM**

#YOUTH2030

8th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

SUMMARY

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

8 April 2019

CR 8, 4-6 p.m.

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Key messages

- Young people should be in the driver seat for change, having a real and meaningful role in decision-making processes
- Governments must choose to act, to priorities and develop quality policy to combat inequality, based on reliable data and the experiences of target-groups.
- Indigenous populations and Yonge people need to be safeguarded and involved in all processes relating to SDG 10
- Wealth isn't trickling down, its shooting back. The trickle-down effect has been promised over and over again, but it isn't working, and the system has to be reimagined.
- Intersectionality needs to be at the core of any analysis made in relation to inequalities.

Inequalities based on income, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion and opportunity continue to persist across the world, within and among countries. Despite important gains made in lifting people out of poverty, inequalities and large disparities remain in income and wealth, as well as access to basic human rights. Some groups - rural communities, indigenous people, young people, women, those with various abilities - continue to disproportionately carry the burden of inequalities.

There have been some improvements since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, namely: improvements to the bottom 40 percent of the global population with regard to income inequalities, the reduction of remittance costs, and global growth. However, growth has not been evenly distributed. And, to add to the challenges of SDG 10 are a few megatrends that could affect

implementation include changes to the labor market and sectors for job growth due to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, forced migration due to conflict and fragility in countries, and climate change.

Governments have a key role as an enabler to support legislative and social policies that support the influx of financial flows and good investments, such as in infrastructure, social protection, human development, that can consequently reduce inequalities overall. Governments often know what policies need to be done but political will and leadership is required to make the tough choices that are needed to decrease inequalities. In the end, when it comes to implementation, we need to remember that inequality is a policy choice.

Data is vital for adjusting and developing efficient and accurate policy. Policymaking cannot assess situations or development appropriate responses without data. With the rise of newer technologies, we can move beyond traditional household surveys, which are great in capturing income distribution, and use new means – such as the digitalization of records – to help political leaders in their policymaking. Getting the fiscal policies right as reducing inequality has a larger impact on poverty than increasing growth.

Wealth isn't trickling down, its shooting back. The trickle-down effect has been promised over and over again, but it isn't working, and the system has to be reimagined. Distribution of wealth itself relates to the system which isn't fit for purpose. Taxation laws must reflect the values, and needs, of the society as a whole. Taxing the rich enables the breaking down of a system that encourages wealth concentration.

Lack of affordable housing has forced people into stagnation. Thus, many are actually living at home longer and longer. Furthermore, people are not in a position to make any form of economic investment or pursue new job opportunities, because of the risk it entails and their own ever-growing personal financial constraints. The cycle therefore continues.

Young people face different challenges from our forefathers and haven't been adequately prepared for it. The labor market has to be adjusted to meet young people's rights and needs, there should be a transferable link between qualifications globally, academia and the labor market needs to be closer connected. We have to walk the talk and pay our interns and increase accessibility to resources, including human-to-human resources, which will then in turn increase the potential spread of knowledge and further resources. Globalization means that the world is far more competitive and one of the first places people use to cut cost is in the work force. An educational reform is vital. We are preparing a generation for the workforce which requires experience, yet education system cannot provide this. Education must be free and accessible for all.

Migration and mobility should be seen as something that is strengthening our society, it is a natural phenomenon and the global community needs to adopt policies in order to promote the well-being of immigrants facing inequality in their destination countries. There is however a backside to migration, a situation that drives inequality further, with both stereotypical mindsets and legislation targeting immigrants. Global economic inequality is one of the main causes of migration. It is also very important to note that only people from certain countries obtain visas to international events, we have to raise awareness on who is not reaching the table and who's voices are not heard.

Women face more inequalities as compared to men in every area of life. The access to sanitation and reproductive health services must be ensured for all women and girls, as well as the access to the rights to education and equal opportunities, pay and ownership. The inequalities are not just rooted in the developing countries but also equally in the developed countries equally. Inequalities for women are deep rooted in every country. Intersectionality is a crucial concept to understand whilst talking about inequality, and should be

The involvement of young people has to be safeguarded and ensured throughout the implementation of SDG 10. Young people should and will hold governments accountable and we need systems for legitimate checks and balances in government offices involving young people. The SDG's provide an opportunity for raise awareness, educate and engage young people all over the world. Rights-based education should be provided from kindergarten age, and young people should be seen as a resource in the implementation of all SDG's. Young people are willing, able and should be in the driver seat, included in meaningful decision-making processes. Bottom up approaches, based on intersectionality and a rights-based approach can and will give young people the platform they need to come together and stand up for change. There are many good examples where young people have come together, with powerful messages, and change as a result, such as the climate change marches and the events in the US after the Parkland school-shooting.

Young people are constantly told that they are the leaders of tomorrow. But tomorrow is never today, but we need to turn tomorrow into today now!