



SDG4 Youth and Students Network

Website:

<https://www.unesco.org/sdg4education2030/en/global-education-cooperation-mechanism-platforms/sdg4-youth-network>

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Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

1. **Empower and Include Youth in Decision-Making:** Ensure meaningful engagement in decision-making processes, especially in education, by following defined principles of youth engagement. Recognize youth as partners and integrate their perspectives via policies, programs and activities co-developed between the UN System and Youth stakeholders, from design and development to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
2. **Recognize Youth Across Spheres:** Centre the immense value of meaningful youth engagement in the UN System, addressing concerns of representation and genuine inclusion and leadership. Ensure that youth have equal seats and spaces in decision-making processes and ensure their voices are genuinely heard, integrated, and considered.
3. **Measurement and Monitoring:** Advocate for wider implementation of the Global Youth Engagement Indicator proposed by SDG4 High Level Steering Committee to measure and report on youth engagement in education. Use this indicator to mobilize countries towards greater meaningful youth engagement.
4. **Systematic Financial Resourcing for Youth Empowerment:** Prioritize systematic, accessible, and flexible financial support for youth engagement in international, regional and national forums, capacity building, and intergovernmental processes, focusing on participation from developing countries, and of young people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

5. **Education Focus Areas:** Address youth recommendations for advancement of the right to education, especially for women and girls, by investing in inclusive education that embraces diversity and ensures the full participation of all students in the same learning environment regardless of ability, ethnicity, religion, legal status, gender, psychosocial needs, marital status, sexual orientation, caretaker role, and any other discriminating factor in line with [Youth Declaration](#).
6. **Partnerships and Reward Mechanisms:** Build partnerships for education with various stakeholders, including UN entities, Member States, educators, private sectors, and youth. Establish rewarding mechanisms to recognize and value meaningful youth engagement.
7. **Incorporate Contemporary Issues:** Address contemporary issues facing youth, such as AI in education, and support the formulation of youth policies at local government levels for more impactful results. Recommend making sustainability, human rights education, climate education, as well as digital and information literacy mandatory for future generations, including access to education on sexual health and reproductive rights and comprehensive sexuality education.
8. **Foster and support the wellbeing of the youth generation:** Acknowledge youth's pivotal role in addressing the mental and physical health of the youth generation by fostering impactful wellbeing youth-friendly strategies and peer support networks that prioritize healthier learning environments for all.

In summary, actively centre meaningful youth engagement across all deliberative and decision-making processes, at all levels, integrate our contributions across various sectors, prioritize genuine engagement over tokenising approaches, establish measurable indicators and systems of monitoring, provide systematic financial support and resourcing, focus on education's diverse aspects, foster partnerships, and address contemporary issues while recognizing and rewarding meaningful youth engagement and wellbeing.

Recognizing that weaknesses in the delivery of quality education affect broader systems, we are urgently calling on making SDG4 a top priority across all sectors. This includes centring meaningful youth engagement, given our stake in present times and in the future. The [Youth Declaration](#) outlines our expectations, stressing inclusive and accessible quality education, future-relevant learning, and specific domains like sustainable development and digital skills. Furthermore, the Pact should commit to the Global Youth Engagement Indicator, ensuring governments allocate adequate resources for meaningful youth engagement. Strengthening youth engagement in decision-making processes is key to transforming education systems and delivering the 2030 Agenda. This can be achieved through embracing the Youth Declaration's vision for a more inclusive and impactful future.