The Young Canadians Roundtable on Health

https://sandboxproject.ca/ycrh-home

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Chapeau

(Add your concise, concrete, and action-oriented language for the Chapeau)

The recommendations for Chapter I emphasize the importance of accessible and integrated health systems, prioritizing clean water for Indigenous and marginalized communities, and investing in pandemic response to prevent backsliding on Sustainable Development Goals. Chapter II focuses on protecting children and youth during international conflicts, promoting racial and gender equity, and addressing digital security. In Chapter III, the focus is on accessible research and digital tools, leveraging technology for global health, and ensuring integrity in research data. Chapter IV highlights child-centered policies, schools and communities as health and well-being hubs, and the need for universal healthcare coverage. Finally, Chapter V calls for accountability measures for the Pact of the Future, cross-sectoral international strategic goals, and the integration of research into policy and practice.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 1)

1. **Accessible, Adaptable, Health and Well-being Systems**
   There needs to be a consistent approach to health, where children's physical and mental health needs are delivered through a fully integrated system of care. The access to child and youth mental health services, child development services, and services for children, youth and families with disabilities and medical complexities needs to be timely and appropriate.
   Every Indigenous and marginalized child, youth and family should have had a stable and sustainable community source of clean water at this point in time, and this needs to be made more of a priority than it has been. This is crucial to positive health and wellbeing for Indigenous peoples. Policies need to be made to immediatly address inequalities in resources, which will ultimaely reduce the long-term burden on health systems.

2. **Investment in Pandemic Response**
   As the world sees backsliding in SDG goals, it is essential that member states have a clear pandemic response strategy that is implemented and followed by all states. Pandemic response plans need to address the SDG's and how progress will continue to be made towards them, or at a minimum, to prevent backsliding. The current UN Comprehensive Response to COVID-19 showed that insufficient resources were raised, and we believe nations need to be investing into pandemic responsiveness so they swiftly mobilize and streamline resources in light of another pandemic. Vulnerable areas of the world are disproportionately affected by epidemics, and funding should be allocated to reflect these disparities.

3.   Increased investment in civil society organizations and research funding
Civil society organizations play a crucial role in sustainable development, in a wide variety of sectors. With adequate funding these organizations can continue to augment civilian voices, monitor government policies, and hold policy makers accountable. There needs to be an investment in upstream and downstream health policies, strategies, and initiatives.

Policymakers need to continue funding research endeavors, especially as the world looks for unique solutions to achieve the SDGs. Furthermore, when considering which countries would benefit the most from SDGs, it is crucial that these countries are given opportunities to meaningfully engage in research, and are rightfully credited for their contributions.

Chapter II. International peace and security

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 2)

   1. **Need to protect children and youth during international conflict**
It is crucial to protect and ensure the welfare of children and youth during international conflict. Children are disproportionately affected by war and conflict; UNICEF USA found that many children are orphaned, and over half of civilian casualties are children. Youth in these situations are vulnerable and often lack the resources and support they need. Many articles of The United National Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) are violated during conflicts, so we urge policymakers to ensure the UN CRC is consistently being upheld, especially during times of distress.
2.   Racial, gender and structural equity
It is not possible to talk about thriving futures for children and youth without fully engaging in racial justice and gender equity. There is a need to incorporate equity and intersectionality into all solutions to help children and youth across the country especially to uphold international peace and security. Policymakers need to enagage with youth stake holders from historically equity-denied groups, without tokenism, before making policies that directly impact these groups the most.
3.   Digital Security
Young people are aware of the power of social media, and use it as a medium to channel their voices to drive advocacy efforts forward. As the UN incorporates the youth voice into its policies, it is critical that equitable approaches and opportunities are presented to ensure youth from all countries and backgrounds are able to use online platforms to inform, educate, and share their opinions with policymakers, without risks of backlash or punishment. Digital innovations can be used to spread correct health information, tackle disinformation, all of which can be leveraged for initiatives like increasing vaccination rates and disease monitoring. When health information is collected, proper policies must be in place to protect this sensitive data and how it is used in collaboration between states, and there must be full, accessible transparency to civillians abotu how their data is used.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 3)

   1. **Accessible Research and Digital Tools for Youth and Communities**
        a. **Community Engagement**
Digital inclusion that precedes barriers such as socio-economic constraints or digital literacy is integral to ensuring equitable access to the benefits of science, technology and innovation. Promoting open-access research and development of accessible digital tools play an integral role in fostering a culture of digital inclusion. By actively engaging with youth and communities in scientific discourse and making research findings and digital tools more

accessible, we foster informed decision-making. Recognizing the diverse learning needs within communities, we advocate for the creation of digital tools that are not only inclusive but also user-friendly. Tailoring these tools to accommodate various digital literacy levels serves as a proactive approach to increasing digital cooperation and bridging the digital gap.

2.   Leverage Digital Tools to Further Global Health
        Digital tools have significant potential to accelerate global health research, monitoring and evaluation. Digital technology may streamline data collection, improve health indicator tracking and facilitate collaboration around the globe. Strategically leveraging digital tools and technologies can accelerate progress in healthcare delivery, public health interventions and disease surveillance. Promoting the intersection between technology and global health can optimize the well being of populations worldwide and create a more data-driven, equitable global health landscape.

3.   Ensure Integrity in Research Data that Supports Evidence-Based Research
Maintaining integrity in research data is integral in supporting evidence-based research. We advocate for the establishment and upholding of international benchmarks for research data. Ensuring the integrity of research data fosters an academic culture of not only transparency but emphasizes the importance of ethical considerations and credibility of research outcomes.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 4)

1. Child Centered Policies and Structures:
States needs to ensure that every child, youth and family have access to structures, especially in rural areas and Indigenous communities to ensure they thrive. There needs to have opportunities for youth to get support to reconnect with their school and recover their learning; every youth in transition will be assured a place in post-secondary education, training or employment until the pre-pandemic rate of youth not in employment, education, or training is reached; and youth in care have broad and flexible transitional supports.

2.   Schools and Communities as Health and Wellbeing Hubs
Schools need to be recognized as child and youth development centers, while ensuring that every child has access to child care, quality early learning, developmental and social care, and access to necessary diagnosis, therapy and early intervention, and that parents are fully engaged as partners and peer supporters. Every child needs to have access to a free and healthy meal every school day. Education departments across the states also need to provide culturally responsive Mental Health First Aid training to every teacher, youth service provider and parent, to ensure all young people are supported in a time of crisis.

3.   Universal Healthcare Coverage and Stronger Health Systems
The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of emergency preparedness, robust health systems, and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all communities. To fortify UHC, our policy recommends that governments increase funding for disease surveillance, risk communication, and public health interventions. Additionally, we emphasize the crucial inclusion of mental health coverage within UHC, recognizing the profound impact of the pandemic on

mental well-being. By prioritizing these measures, we aim to create a resilient healthcare infrastructure that safeguards communities and ensures equitable access to comprehensive health services.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 5)

1. **Cross- Sectoral International Strategic Goals:**

Research needs to be recognized as a critical partof informing the environment for family and child health and well-being. Individuals, such as those with lived and living experience need to have the opportunity to be engaged in and see and feel the impact of the research, with the evidence being integrated into member states policy and practice. This process will lead to a sustainable and integrated research sphere. There is also a need to work in partnership with the community, to identify the most pressing health concerns, and address them through new knowledge generation and knowledge sharing. Additionally, there needs to be an accountability measure for the Pact of the Future to ensure that State members are committing and completing the outlined goals.