

**Organization:** “YouthLED” Integrity Advisory Board to the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) Initiative at the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

**Website:** <https://grace.unodc.org/grace/en/youth-empowerment/YouthLED.html>

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**Chapeau**

*We propose an action-oriented approach for the Summit of the Future, emphasizing the pivotal role of youth as agents of positive change and guardians of integrity. Recognizing the urgent need to address corruption as a barrier to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our proposal aims to harness the power of youth in transforming global governance and fostering a better future for all.*

**Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development**

*1.1 Youth-led Initiatives for Sustainable Development: Encourage the establishment of youth-led initiatives that promote sustainable development, focusing on education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Provide financial support and resources for innovative projects led by young individuals committed to integrity and transparency.*

*1.2 Integrity in Financial Systems: Advocate for youth involvement in financial decision-making processes to ensure transparency and accountability. Promote financial literacy programs among young people to equip them with the knowledge needed to combat corruption in financial systems. Transparency portals and oversight mechanisms should also be at the center of the initiatives.*

*1.3 Sustainable Youth Entrepreneurship Grants: We propose a grant program supporting young entrepreneurs in sustainable and ethical business practices. This initiative will foster transparency and integrity, with collaboration from the financial industry to integrate microfinancing, financial education, and green finance. The aim is to tailor financial instruments for young, integrity-focused entrepreneurs, bridging gaps in existing financial resources.*

**Chapter II. International peace and security**

*2.1 Youth Diplomacy for Peace: Support youth-led diplomatic efforts and peace-building initiatives. Engage young leaders in conflict resolution processes and international relations to foster a culture of integrity, cooperation, and ethical leadership. Anti-corruption initiatives, peace and stability are very closely related. Without a holistic approach we won't have effective and sustainable peace-keeping strategies.*

*2.2 Combating Corruption in Security Institutions: Address corruption within security institutions by promoting youth participation in oversight mechanisms. Encourage the development of whistleblower protection programs to empower young individuals to report corruption without fear of retaliation. Whistleblower mechanisms should be fit for youth people and guarantee an integral protection to the whistleblower and her/his family.*

*2.3 Global Youth Diplomacy and Integrity Network: This proposal seeks to establish a network for young diplomats, enhancing skills in ethical governance and international relations. Recognizing their dual role as national representatives and youth ambassadors, this network aims to promote understanding and collaboration across nations.*

*2.4 Anti-Corruption Pen-Pals Program: Create an "Anti-Corruption Pen-Pals Program," where young individuals engage in an asynchronous communication model with global peers to mutually support their integrity and sustainability projects. This program will focus on intercultural understanding and reflective communication, utilizing an algorithm to pair participants based on ambitions, projects, and challenges. It encourages thoughtful, letter-style online exchanges, allowing youth to reflect and provide meaningful input into each other's initiatives.*

### **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

*3.1 Youth-driven Innovation for Transparency: Promote youth involvement in the development and implementation of technological solutions to enhance transparency and accountability. Support initiatives that use blockchain, artificial intelligence, and other technologies to combat corruption and promote integrity.*

*3.2 Digital Literacy for Anti-Corruption: Integrate anti-corruption education into digital literacy programs for youth. Technology is here to stay. We need to empower, and teach, young people to use them as a tool for positive change. Equip them with the skills to navigate the digital landscape ethically and responsibly, fostering a generation that values integrity in the online and offline spheres.*

*3.3 Youth Digital Integrity and Transparency Labs: We propose creating labs for youth to develop digital solutions for transparency and anti-corruption. Seeking support from the tech industry, these labs will empower youth to use technology for civic engagement, such as social media organization and public resource discussions, enhancing integrity in governance.*

*3.4 AI Awareness and Integrity Program: Develop a program focused on raising awareness about the potential and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in promoting integrity and sustainability. This initiative aims to educate youth about the rapidly advancing field of AI, its uncertain impacts on governance, markets, and the environment, and how it can be leveraged for social control, environmental damage control, and combating misinformation. The program would involve collaboration with technology sector experts and specialists to provide comprehensive knowledge about AI, including its various applications, open and closed models, and ethical considerations.*

### **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

*4.1 Youth as Anti-Corruption Advocates: Empower young individuals as advocates against corruption in their communities. Establish youth-led awareness campaigns, workshops, and educational programs that highlight the detrimental effects of corruption and the importance of integrity in achieving a sustainable future. We, the youth, are the leaders of tomorrow and if we want to live in a better future, we need ethical leaders committed to integrity. Corruption is a cross-cutting issue that can be an obstacle for effectively implementing other measures aimed at promoting human rights and sustainable development. Without tackling corruption, we won't be able to achieve other goals and leave a better world for present and future generations.*

*4.2 Inclusive Decision-Making: Ensure meaningful youth engagement in decision-making processes at all levels. Create platforms for young leaders to voice their concerns, ideas, and solutions, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility in building a corruption-free future.*

*4.3 Global Youth Day for Future Generations: We propose the creation of "Global Youth Day for Future Generations," an annual event dedicated to inspiring hope and reflection among young people about their responsibility towards unborn generations. This day will focus on the absence of formal representation for future generations in current discussions and decision-making. It's an opportunity for youth worldwide to ponder the long-term impacts of their actions on environmental sustainability and justice, aiming to promote a sense of duty and advocacy for the well-being and rights of those yet to come.*

*4.4 Include Youth in Global Debates on AI Alignment: Advocate for the inclusion of young people in the emerging global discourse on AI alignment with human values. Recognizing AI's potential for both human progress and risk, this initiative calls for conditions that ensure youth participation in discussions about AI's ethical implications and global regulation. The goal is to actively engage young leaders in shaping policies and frameworks that align AI developments with ethical standards, highlighting their role in navigating this increasingly central technological frontier.*

*4.5 Youth Project Failures and Learning Initiative: We propose the establishment of an initiative that encourages young people to share and learn from the failures in their integrity and sustainability projects. This initiative, aligning with the concept of 'FailDay,' will promote a culture of tolerance towards mistakes and learning from them, especially in high-risk initiatives. It aims to foster open discussions about project setbacks in global forums, reducing the pressure for overachievement and emphasizing the value of experiential learning and growth in youth-led projects.*

## **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

*5.1 Youth Inclusion in Global Governance Structures: Advocate for the inclusion of youth representatives in international governance bodies, promoting diversity and fresh perspectives. Encourage the establishment of youth advisory councils to advise on policies and engage in intergenerational dialogues.*

*5.2 International Cooperation against Corruption: Strengthen international cooperation in the fight against corruption. Facilitate partnerships between youth organizations, governments, and international bodies to share best practices, resources, and strategies in combating corruption and promoting good governance.*

*5.3 Global Youth Empowerment in Governance: We propose a comprehensive program that includes leadership training, mentorship, and opportunities for active participation in global governance discussions. This program aims to empower young leaders to organize grassroots anti-corruption initiatives and effectively contribute to policy-making processes. A central feature of this proposal is the International Youth Governance Shadowing Program, which would allow young leaders to shadow senior officials in global governance settings, providing young leaders with the opportunity to gain practical experience in global governance and fostering intergenerational learning and cooperation.*