

World Youth Charter

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Geneva
Youth Call

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE
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UNIVERSITÉ
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World Youth Charter

Table of contents

Opening	3
Preamble	3
Part 1: Core values	5
Chapter I - Definitions	5
Chapter II - The Youth's Commitments	5
Chapter III - Our Values	6
Chapter IV - Supplementary Founding Documents	7
Part 2: Vision	8
Chapter I - Our Vision for the Youth	8
Chapter II - Our Vision of the World	8
Part 3: Actions	9
Chapter I - Online Platform	9
Chapter II - World Youth Assemblies	10
Part 5: Objectives	11
Editable part: Solutions	14
Chapter I - The Environment	14

World Youth Charter

*àwa òdó se pàtàkì ni àwùjò
èyìn olùdarí wa owón,
e gbò ohùn ẹnu wa
e gbò ìpè wa
àsìkò tí to*

*the time is now
for you to listen to young people
for you to allow young people
build a world that include them
we are no longer silent
we are no longer leaving the tune to play itself
the piano is in our hands,
we want to create a music of hope, of peace, of equality, of freedom
and of a world they embrace us all*

*from Africa to Asia to Australia to Europe to North America to South America
we are here with a song of sustainable development*

*this is the music of the young people
listen to us!
écoute-nous
e gbò ohùn ẹnu wa*

Poem written by Karimot Odebode

This charter was written by Joëlle Fuchs, Alexis Musumeci and Eva Luvisotto.

Preamble

We, the World's Youth,

Persons under the age of 30,
Representing half of the world's population,
Across the entire globe,
Sharing common values,

Call for the creation of a global youth movement,

To make our voice heard on the international stage,
To become involved in the decisions of tomorrow, and
To take the means of action required to do so.

We, the World's Youth, speak up on the international stage,

To assert our desire for peace, equality, and freedom,

With a mission is to oppose all attacks on human dignity and all manner of harm to the environment,

With a common ambition and desire is to go beyond the rigidity of processes based on limited, short-term government interests all while including diversity, which is representative of the reality of our world.

We speak up,

To demand the use of an approach anchored in seeking out and implementing sustainable solutions,
Via a collective response, the only means of addressing global problems, and
Via a system of innovation based on science, experience, communication, and mutual aid.

We, the World's Youth, request that we be involved in making the decisions of tomorrow,

Realizing the need for immediate action, as we, the present and future generations, who are suffering and will suffer the consequences of deleterious decisions and inaction,

Realizing that only (immediate,) collective, and coordinated action – by various stakeholders and based on inclusive, innovative, and democratic decision-making – can solve global problems and prevent social, economic and environmental degradation.

We, the World's Youth, call for our own means of action,

Because the Youth has the power to reach all communities through coordinated action, free from national political ideas, serving common goals that transcend borders;

Because the Youth comes with a fresh perspective and new answers to address global issues;

Because the Youth of the entire world have the common aspiration to build a viable and desirable future and refuse to endure the consequences of yesterday without acting today.

Today, a global youth movement is rising up to build a more responsible and equitable future.

We, the Youth of the entire world,

Gathered here in the city of Geneva, the Capital of Peace and an emblem of the United Nations and multilateral cooperation,

Responding to the Resolution (A/RES/75/1) adopted by the United Nations the 21th of September 2020 on its 75th anniversary, by launching an international youth movement, whose mission it is to oppose all violations upon human and environmental dignity.

Do hereby adopt this World Youth Charter.

Part 1: Core values

Chapter I - Definitions

Article 1

“The Youth” is hereby defined as any person under the age of 30, regardless of race, colour, sex, gender, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin or any other status.

Article 2

¹ Core universal values are those commonly recognized as preserving life, sustainability, solidarity and peaceful harmony.

² Core universal values include cooperation with Youth, respect for international law, especially human rights and international humanitarian law, promotion of peace, equality and non-discrimination, respect and preservation of the environment as well as overcoming national interests.

Article 3

For the purposes of this Charter, “the Youth” shall comprise the group of young persons defined in Art. 1 who identify with and share the core universal values defined in Article 2.

Chapter II - The Youth’s Commitments

Article 4

The Youth undertake to adhere to all the provisions in this Charter.

Article 5

The Youth undertake to apply the provisions of this Charter and act in accordance with its purpose and essence.

Chapter III - Our Values

Article 6

The Youth undertake to uphold and respect the following values:

1. Cooperation between and among young persons

The Youth is taking its place on the international stage and participating in local, national and international decision-making processes. They demand to be included at the institutional level.

2. Respect for human rights

The Youth undertake to promote and defend the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Defending and promoting each person's fundamental freedoms are at the heart of the Youth's goals, actions and concerns.

Because young persons are particularly vulnerable, they must receive special protection, their rights and needs must be taken into account.

3. Promotion of peace

The Youth undertake to defend and promote peace throughout the world. Any incitement to violence, hatred or conflict goes against the very essence of their values.

4. Equality and non-discrimination

The Youth condemn all discrimination on the basis of origin, race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, language, social status, lifestyle, religious, philosophical and/or political beliefs, physical, mental and/or intellectual differences.

The Youth promote inclusion and tolerance and foster ethnic, cultural, intellectual, generational, ideological, economic, social, sexual and gender diversity.

5. Respect for humanitarian law

According to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, the youth benefit from international humanitarian law on the conduct of hostilities.

In addition, young persons affected by conflict or other humanitarian crises must be informed, consulted and fully involved in all phases of humanitarian action.

6. Respect for and preservation of the environment

Environmental protection contributes to a healthy and sustainable society. All components of society must, in a concrete manner, function in accordance with the fundamental principle of sustainability.

Young persons will bear the consequences of environmental actions and decisions. For this reason, such issues relate to them more than any other generation and they must be involved in today's decision-making processes.

7. Freedom from national interests

The Youth have global ambitions that go beyond national interests and reasonings.

The Youth shall work to strengthen their role in global cooperation by offering the possibility of emancipation from national interests. In global meetings and action, therefore, members of the Youth shall not represent their governments.

Chapter IV: Supplementary Founding Documents

Article 7

The Youth draw inspiration from and shall act in accordance with the following instruments:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948);
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976);
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976);
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979);
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

Article 8

The Youth recognize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and shall contribute to achieving them. The Youth shall consider and contribute in the same way to the objectives that will be set in the future.

Part 2: Our Vision

Chapter I: Our Vision for the Youth

Article 9

¹ The Youth shall set the objectives of its actions and assemblies based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and future Agendas.

² The Youth shall draw on the interactions and proposals from their online platform to determine their objectives and priorities.

³ The Youth shall hold World Youth Assemblies to allow young persons to gather, debate and establish their own objectives and actions.

Article 10

¹ The Youth aim to collaborate globally, welcoming contributions and testimonies from all countries and regions of the world.

² The Youth aspire to cover the major issues confronting young persons worldwide by seeking common solutions.

³ The Youth wish to establish hand-in-hand collaboration with the UN to make the solutions proposed by young persons a reality on the ground.

⁴ The Youth aspire to have their demands recognized globally and to gain legitimacy and visibility in order to impact as many young people in the world as possible.

⁵ The Youth intend for no young person in the world to have to keep a problem or idea to themselves. The system of sharing must be accessible, and this principle upheld in everyone's mind.

⁶ The Youth demand to be included in the decision-making processes of institutions and in society.

Chapter II: Vision of the world

Article 11

¹ The Youth advocate for a world where the core universal values are respected and cherished by all.

² The Youth call for a world, where one can project into the future with confidence and serenity.

³ The Youth understand that resilience is essential to a healthy and sustainable world. They call for this quality to be built into every organizational system.

⁴ The Youth call for a world in which every generation is included and considered for what they have left behind, what they achieve, and what they project to do.

⁵ The Youth are aware of the environmental, economic, political and institutional interdependence of the world and call on all communities to look after the health of their own structures and not harm others.

Part 3: Actions

Chapter I – Online Platform

Article 12

¹ The online platform is a virtual space for collecting and sharing solutions to the SDGs.

² It was created to bring together young persons around global and local issues, an interactive tool geared towards finding solutions to the Youth's objectives outlined in Art. 20.

Article 13

¹ Anyone may access and participate on the online platform on the Geneva Youth Call (GYC) website.

² The platform shall promote collective citizen participation; everyone is invited to freely contribute. This global offer shall not be limited on the basis of region, gender, age or any individual characteristic.

Article 14

¹ Each contribution shall be published on the GYC website, visible to all, subject to compliance with the Youth's values and provisions.

² Publishing a problem allows any person to propose a solution with the aim of, in particular, establishing links between problems and proposed solutions and creating a general trend of mutual aid.

Article 15

The solutions presented on the platform may be considered at World Youth Assemblies.

Chapter II - World Youth Assemblies

Article 16

¹ The World Youth Assembly is an annual event where young persons come together to propose local and international solutions in relation with the SDGs and future development objectives.

² The primary goal of the Assembly is to generate solutions that are put forward by the Youth and are as concrete and implementable as possible.

³ The World Youth Assembly is a place of debate, deliberation, decision making and reflection on the implementation of proposed solutions.

Article 17

¹ Participation in the World Youth Assembly is open to all members of the Youth, as defined in art. 3, within the limits of the resources available for the Assembly.

² If, for technical and logistical reasons, the organizers of the World Youth Assembly have to select applicants, they will do so in a non-arbitrary manner and in accordance with the values set out in point 4 of art. 6.

Article 18

¹ The World Youth Assembly is organized each year around a specific theme related to the SDGs. This focus aims to concentrate the attention and efforts of Assembly participants on a particular issue in order to be able to respond more precisely and effectively.

² The chosen theme is divided into different sub-themes in order to discuss, debate and collect specific contributions for each sub-theme in small groups.

³ The solutions provided are intended to be concrete and applicable.

Article 19

At the end of the World Youth Assembly, the solutions proposed by the Assembly participants shall be integrated into the editable part of this Youth Charter.

Part 4: Objectives

Article 20

¹ The Youth's objectives are as follows:

- To protect the environment;
- To guarantee equal access to health care;
- To guarantee equal access to quality food;
- To guarantee equal access to quality, clean potable water;
- To promote human rights;
- To guarantee equal access to quality education;
- To limit and manage conflict by peaceful means;
- To strengthen global solidarity;
- To promote the responsible use of technology.

² These objectives shall be followed by appropriate action, within the limits of the Youth's competencies.

³ The Youth undertake to work towards these objectives by establishing concrete solutions at World Youth Assemblies.

Article 21

¹ The Youth define "environmental protection" as the measures to be taken to limit or eliminate the negative impact of human activities on the environment.

² The Youth consider environmental protection as a key objective and underscore that urgent action based on the scientific community's projections must be taken against climate change.

³ In their commitment to environmental protection, the Youth have established the sub-objectives included in the editable part of the Charter.

Article 22

¹ The Youth hereby adopt the WHO's definition of health: "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity".

² The Youth consider universal access to quality health care services a key objective and underscore that urgent action must be taken in times of pandemic and serious health insecurity.

Article 23

¹ To meet their objective to guarantee access to quality food, the Youth shall adopt the UN's "Zero Hunger" goal, whose purpose is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

² The Youth consider access to quality food a key objective.

³ The Youth aim in particular to better allocate resources and reduce food wastage.

Article 24

¹The Youth define access to quality potable water as access to basic services, such as clean drinking water, functional sanitation facilities and improved water distribution.

² Water allows us to live; it is crucial that every human being have free access to it. For this reason, the Youth consider access to quality potable water a key objective.

Article 25

¹The Youth hereby recognize human rights as defined in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

²These rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from torture and slavery, the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to work and to education.

³The Youth consider the promotion of human rights a key objective.

Article 26

¹The Youth define access to quality education as every child receiving access to a recognized educational programme for a minimum of 11 years, in general from the age of 4 to 16. It must be accessible to all, without prejudice to sex, origin, opinion, language, social status or any other ground for discrimination. As proportionately fewer girls than boys attend school, girls in particular must have access to education.

²Education is a fundamental human right enshrined in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

³The promotion of quality education that is accessible to all is a key objective in order to train the youth of tomorrow, equipping them with the tools for healthy development.

Article 27

¹The Youth define the limiting of conflict as all means by which the international community and civil society can diminish international and non-international conflict.

²Limiting conflict is a key objective for the Youth in order to build a safer, more united world. Young persons are still forging their identity and can either incite violence or help stop it. If they are well trained, organized and supervised, they will have great potential to bring about qualitative change to conflicts.

³ In line with this objective, the Youth encourage the promotion of and respect for international humanitarian law both in situations of conflict and in the absence of conflict.

Article 28

¹The Youth define global solidarity as cooperation and mutual aid that is established between and among persons and go beyond national interests.

²The Youth underscore the importance of quality communication in order to avoid misunderstandings between persons and achieve better mutual understanding.

³ Global cooperation is particularly important for the Youth in order to promote a future society that respects the objectives of this Charter.

Article 29

¹The Youth define the promotion of the use of technology as developing access to technology in remote areas, learning how to use it, and constantly innovating said technology.

²Promoting the use of technology is particularly important because technology contributes to achieving the other objectives in the World Youth Charter, such as education, environmental protection, access to health and access to safe food and water.

³The Youth underscore the importance of regulating technology and recognize its risks, such as threats to privacy, to certain jobs and of increased inequality.

Solutions

This is the editable part of the Charter. It shall be updated and approved at each World Youth Assembly. The details governing the implementation of the Solutions can be found in the Appendix.

Chapter I: The Environment (Edition WYA/no1/22)

This chapter was edited during the World Youth Assembly 2022, from the 20th to the 22nd of April.

1. Guarantee access to clean water

1.1 Community association programme for clean water

The community association programme for clean water will equip young people and the rest of their communities to launch projects for access to clean water. The programme's main objective is to provide a standardized information toolkit with a view to, among other goals, raising awareness of the applicable laws and training community associations to lobby their governments to take action. As a result, people will be able to take precise and positive steps towards guaranteeing access to clean water in their communities.

This solution was written by: Deborah Elendo, Alishoh Khudonazarov, Florence Koch, Milena Sassi, Marina Tamer, Sharon Matongo, Fatouma Mohamed Barat, Federico Borre, Ghazi Abdullah Muttaqien, Katrina Mehmeti and Joëlle Fuchs.

2. Provide access to renewable energy

2.1 Solar panels at remote schools

The solar panel initiative is aimed at geographically remote schools with limited or no access to clean energy. Through this initiative, we plan to provide access in rural areas to solar energy either by replacing existing fossil fuel generators with solar panels or by installing solar electric systems where there is no access to power. The programme's objectives are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the level of education overall and address specific energy problems using different means of funding.

This solution was written by: Nicolas Cavadini, Daria Voronina, Erfan Fazli, Chinchilla Perez, Maria Catarina Mendonça, Ange Martin's, Jessy Alejandra Sánchez Buitrago, Kevin Perreira, Gonçalo Almeida Freitas, Kong Wai Cheung, Adrien Coulon and Thibault Fehlmann.

3. Restore our ecosystems and prevent further deforestation

3.1 Voicing the concerns of indigenous and local communities

In the event of poor land management and other breaches of biocultural rights, indigenous and local communities can use our platform to denounce such practices and settle disputes. A 'duties-and-mediation toolkit' will provide information on environmental science and indigenous communities, thus enabling concrete action to solve issues. With this toolkit, we aim to empower remote communities while reducing deforestation and biodiversity loss.

This solution was written by: Andreina Carenza, Juliette Borri, Naraana Enkhjin, Riccarda Heepen, Loïc Merzlic, Gaëlle Fourré, Grayson Goyer, Génio Lay Da Silva and Quentin Knight.

4. Preserve marine biodiversity

4.1 Campaign to end overfishing

The lack of transparency and awareness with regard to high-seas industrial fishing has consequences for the entire marine food chain. The campaign to end overfishing thus seeks to improve transparency and raise awareness among the general public, by advocating sustainable fishing practices and developing people's emotional ties to marine life. To increase transparency, we will require vessels to gather video documentation of their fishing methods. In addition, the campaign will raise awareness of governments' financial support for the campaign and the lack of rules and policies on fishing, to appeal to the public's emotions.

This solution was written by: Paula Mogrovejo, Annabelle Azelart, Benno Pouly, Jeanne Cordy, Mathieu, Cosandier, Mylan Evrard, Matteo Braizat, Areen De and Victor Amoretti.

4.2 'National Social Network' to boost local involvement

This initiative will use social media to effectively advocate for marine biodiversity, address the threats to it, and educate the public. Schools can carry out marine conservation campaigns in coastal regions to raise awareness among the youngest in society. Social media will be used to address important issues and mobilize local volunteers. Specific bodies will conduct research and prepare national marine biodiversity statistics to better educate the public and thus equip them to develop effective, concrete solutions together with stakeholders in the field. People will receive updates on volunteering opportunities, fundraisers, petitions and events.

This solution was written by: Lakshita Nathawat

5. Work towards sustainable consumption and production

5.1 Sustainable Eating and Nutrition Programme

The Sustainable Eating and Nutrition Programme will target excessive meat consumption and its environmental impacts. It will be a customizable four-tier programme to help communities decrease meat consumption through individual and government action. We plan to organize awarenessraising activities, make sustainable meat alternatives available to families and eventually to entire communities, and advocate for change in public policy and collective behaviour. The programme will help fight animal cruelty, health problems related to excessive meat consumption, and reduce communities' carbon footprint.

This solution was written by: Ambroise Crittin, Qing Li, Mélanie Rufi, Besma Abdallah, Matilda Tedde, Marta La Placa, Sybille Revel, Clara George, Nishtha Agarwal, Leila Joutet and Aliénor Casai.

6. Fight plastic waste

6.1 Plast'week™ - Plastic pollution awareness week

Plast'week™ is geared towards organizations that seek to raise awareness of the danger of plastics to human health and the environment. There will be an online platform accessible to the public that will allow users to organize customized plastic pollution awareness weeks based on three pillars: learn, care and act.

Plast'week™ will help fill the lack of local action within institutions regarding the impact of plastic waste and urge participants to change their habits.

This solution was written by: Ellen Foloppe, Madeleine Wild, Anouk Grunberg, Maya Lau, Duanxia Xu, Ganjargal Borgilchuluun, Laura Negrodo and Noé Lukundula.

7. Promote sustainable cities

7.1 HAPPEN - Household Air Pollution Prevention and Education Network™

HAPPEN is a collaborative online network that can be used to educate the public on household air pollution and thus fight against it, for more sustainable cities. HAPPEN is intended to help grassroots organizations, NGOs, and engineers who seek to raise awareness of sustainable practices in urban settlements.

This solution was written by: Brian Li Han Wong, Bente Valentine Ritter, Flora Smith, Gautham Varada Narayan, Jennifer Courtney, Marco Calignano, Seyed-Moeen Hosseinalipour, Sophie Tegang, Ayu Pratiwi Muyasyaroh, Astrid Nadya Rizqita, Benjamin Van Burderen Robberechts, Martim Domingos Baptista, Emmanuel Osei, Dylan Pereira, Anette Sánchez Guzmán, Arissandra Egorova, Charlotte Courtney, Maria Eugenia Polegri Santoni, Leon Gojani, Zeinorin Angkang and Killian Foloppe.

7.2 Rewarding bins

The ‘rewarding bins’ programme will be geared towards governments, nonprofit organizations, and technology companies that aim to foster a sustainable and healthy environment. This programme consists of designing and installing bins and machines that financially reward users for properly recycling or upcycling waste. The programme will improve waste sorting and will encourage the general public to have more environmentally conscious habits.

This solution was written by: Amanda Liu, Nyarai Mukwe, Jesuwheye Tudonu and Pia Barrios.

8. Reduce and manage electronic waste

8.1 Online database

This database is aimed at users of electronic devices. It will allow them to reduce their environmental impact by providing an overall indicator of the sustainability of electronic devices, including a list of features of sustainable electronics, and by educating users on sustainable ways of purchasing and disposing of electronic devices. The database will help people to make more prudent choices regarding their electronic devices, electronic waste, and its impact on the environment.

This solution was written by: Carl Joel Tilos and Victoria Schmidt.

*Adopted under the leadership of the Geneva Youth Call at the World Youth Assembly,
Geneva, Switzerland, 22 April 2022.*