

Joint Declaration of the 18th edition of the University on Youth and Development

We, the participants of the 18th edition of the University on Youth and Development, come from different corners of the world bringing diverse ways of thinking but we believe we are all equally a part of the global youth. We carry within us the decisions and choices of those who came before us, but we are also responsible for what we create now and leave to the next generations. We are activists, youth workers, and members of youth organizations, organisers of communities, we all have our own different realities, and through a collaborative approach, we fight as engaged citizens for human rights, equity and global justice.

We want a world where everyone is treated equally and young people have access to their rights. A world in which war, racism, sexism or any other forms of discrimination and oppression no longer exist and everybody can freely be who they want to be. We want to change the way we interact and think about our environment so that we see it as an integral part of ourselves and our decisions towards the construction of sustainable and inclusive societies. We want an economic system that is fair, allowing everyone to be able to provide a decent life for themselves and their families while respecting the lives and livelihoods of our fellow human beings in all regions of the world and the planet we mutually share. We, young people want to equally take part in all decisions concerning our lives and have our voices heard in our current political system. We demand spaces, opportunities and resources to realise our fullest potential and to continuously grow as global citizens.

As agents of change, we believe that through non-formal and formal education, cooperation and active engagement of young people and youth organisations from all parts of the world we are able to create a space for dialogue among people and communities, foster critical thinking, promote youth participation and democracy, and engage young people in decision making processes. There are various youth-led actions aiming to strengthen intercultural sensitivity, raise awareness on environmental issues, human rights, global economic and political system. These actions are powerful tools to make our vision of the present and the future turn into reality. Technology and easy access to information are important means to connect with young people, with youth organisations, and to unite our actions for support and solidarity.

We, as participants of the UYD, as the foundation of the global youth, fully commit to act according to the above stated guiding principles during our personal lives, our organisation's daily work, and to bring the experience of the University to our local communities. In order to do so, recognising the mandate of our institutional partners and bearing in mind local realities, we agree to:

- Organise follow-up activities in our local communities to discuss and spread the idea of global citizenship.
- Train young people to work, advocate and fight for global values, Human Rights and Social Justice in line with the UNSCR Youth Peace and Security.

- Create an environment of inclusion within our local communities and youth organisations by fighting with the people facing inequalities and by respecting global, international and local solidarity.
- Include a global perspective in our youth work and to have an intersectional approach when advocating for human rights, youth rights and social justice.
- Continue working for the achievement of the SDGs and the Agenda 2030.
- Keep promoting interregional and global partnerships and to support the further development of the Network of Universities (African University on Youth and Development, Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship and the University on Participation and Citizenship) as platform for youth capacity building and youth participation in decision making processes and development of global youth policy
- Actively work to engage Asia Pacific Youth into the Network of Universities.
- Promote and hold events based on the principle of meaningful youth participation from all around the world, especially the UYD, as a way to reinforce global cooperation.

We appreciate and value the efforts of all institutional partners, regional youth platforms, national youth councils and other youth organisations in the organisation of the University on Youth and Development and their constant support and dedication to the promotion of spaces for global youth cooperation.