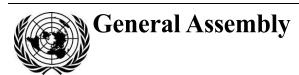
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Agenda item 28 (b)

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family

Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Portugal and Senegal: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ¹ and relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ³ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ⁴

Recalling also the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which, for the first time, the Assembly recognized children and youth as agents of change, and recognizing that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated, indivisible and global in nature, and therefore that all of them apply to youth,

Recalling that youth development is not only critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but that it is also recognized in other development frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁵ the Istanbul Declaration⁶ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade

⁶ Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.





¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ Ibid

⁴ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ Resolution 69/313, annex.

2011–2020,⁷ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,⁸ the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,⁹ the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,¹⁰ the global compact on refugees,¹¹ the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)¹² and the outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹³

Acknowledging the important contributions made by the Economic and Social Council youth forum to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that it serves as an important platform for substantive contributions of young persons to share their vision with decision makers and representatives of Governments and civil society,

Acknowledging that the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in 1998, and in this context welcoming the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21, held on 22 and 23 June 2019, and noting the Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, ¹⁴

Welcoming the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and her work in upholding the human rights of youth, as well as, inter alia, as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening the position of young persons within and outside the United Nations system,

Noting the launch by the Secretary-General, in September 2018, of Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy, to address the needs of youth and to fulfil their potential as agents of change, as well as of the Generation Unlimited global partnership, which is aimed at ensuring that, by 2030, every young person has the opportunity for education, learning, training or employment,

Recalling that Member States have an important role in promoting and protecting human rights and in meeting the needs and aspirations of young persons, including those in vulnerable situations, and recognizing that the ways in which they are able to fulfil their potential as agents of change will influence social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

Recognizing the important and positive contribution of young persons in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

Recognizing that youth have played an essential role in accelerating climate action, and that tackling climate change requires coordinated action between Governments and other stakeholders, in particular youth organizations,

⁷ Ibid., chap. II.

⁸ Resolution 69/15, annex.

⁹ Resolution 71/1.

¹⁰ Resolution 73/195, annex.

¹¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II)), part II.

¹² Resolution 71/256, annex.

¹³ Resolution 72/1.

¹⁴ A/73/949, annex.

Taking note of the convening of the "Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition" event, to be held in Milan, Italy, in preparation for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with the aim of contributing to the increase of youth-led climate ambition and implementing concrete actions to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, ¹⁵

Reaffirming that fulfilling the human rights, needs and well-being of youth, including adolescents and young women, is critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as other United Nations conferences and summits, including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, ¹⁶ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ¹⁷ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, ¹⁸ and their review conferences,

Welcoming the effective and meaningful participation of youth representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences.

Reaffirming the importance of involving youth, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, in the work of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels in all matters of concern to them, including in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing further that a youthful population creates significant opportunities for development, and underlining in this regard the importance of the creation by Member States of appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize the human rights of all young persons, while adopting a human rights-based approach to development planning and implementation,

Reaffirming that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled, and emphasizing the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth linked to the employability of youth, including quality education and health, and access to information and technology, and bearing in mind that, before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 67.2 million youth were unemployed and 118.3 million youth were living with their families in poverty, including more than 51 million in extreme poverty,

Reaffirming the need to empower youth, including young women and girls, in order to achieve sustainable development, and stressing in this regard the commitment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to eradicate poverty and substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training and to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment, and in this regard takes note of the call for action of the International Labour Organization on the youth employment crisis and the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth,

Emphasizing also the need to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, and to ensure, by 2030, that all youth

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¹⁵ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

¹⁶ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

¹⁷ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁸ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy,

Recognizing that while young persons represent almost one quarter of the online population, they often lack job-relevant digital skills and knowledge to ensure their access to the labour market, and that building the digital skills of young persons is crucial to boosting their future employability and social inclusion, by providing them, including young women and girls, access to educational resources online and necessary digital tools,

Recognizing further that the use of technology, specifically digital platforms, can mitigate the loss of education and learning opportunities caused by school closures, while expressing concern that the children and young persons in the poorest and most vulnerable situation are least likely to live in a suitable home-learning environment with an adequate Internet connection and learning support,

Recognizing that many countries are making progress towards achieving universal health coverage by 2030 and that the good health and well-being of young persons are closely intertwined with their capacity to complete their education and seize employment opportunities,

Recognizing also that young women between the ages of 15 and 24 are most vulnerable to HIV, experiencing infection rates two or three times as high as those of young men, depending on the region, as well as many health-related threats and challenges,

Noting with concern that globally HIV continues to disproportionately impact young persons and that young persons' knowledge and awareness of HIV and AIDS and access to and use of essential HIV-related services remain unacceptably low, that condom use is on the decline and that young persons, who represent 16 per cent of the global population, account for 28 per cent of new HIV infections, while stressing the need to create an environment that does not allow the dissemination of scientifically inaccurate information about HIV, including HIV denialism,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted youth, including young women and girls, and those who are in vulnerable situations, and that responses to the COVID-19 pandemic need to take into account multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion and inequalities,

Recognizing also that the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 have placed unprecedented pressures on adolescents and youth, and that, in order to achieve an equitable recovery from the pandemic, and to build back better, action is urgently needed to coordinate multisectoral investments to improve adolescent and youth health and nutrition, education, connectedness, safety, agency and resilience and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

Taking note that 2021 marks the fortieth anniversary of resolution 36/17, in which the General Assembly requested Governments to consider the inclusion of youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly and to other United Nations meetings,

Noting also the development of guiding principles and tools, for consideration by States, on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁹

¹⁹ A/76/210.

- 2. Reaffirms the World Programme of Action for Youth,²⁰ and emphasizes that all 15 priority areas of the Programme of Action are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and the role that the Commission for Social Development plays in supporting States in its implementation;
- 3. Also reaffirms the commitment of Heads of State and Government in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²¹ to leave no one behind, including youth, and the importance of implementing, following up on and reviewing strategies that adequately address youth issues and explore and promote concrete new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young persons and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular, while implementing the 2030 Agenda;
- 4. Reiterates that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop integrated, holistic, inclusive and effective youth policies and programmes, as well as coherent cross-sectoral efforts, based on the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;
- 5. Urges Member States to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all young persons, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, while ensuring that youth policies and programmes and their planning, design, implementation, monitoring and review include the views, perspectives and priorities of youth and are adequately resourced, transparent and accountable;
- 6. Calls upon Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General²² for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, giving particular attention to young women, and young persons in vulnerable or marginalized situations, especially those affected by armed conflict;
- 7. Stresses the need to strengthen and support the capacity of national statistical offices to design, collect and analyse data disaggregated by sex and age so as to contribute effectively to follow-up, reporting and accountability for the achievement of the youth dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 8. Urges Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all young persons, including those based, inter alia, on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to foster inclusion for young persons with disabilities, young migrants and refugees and indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;
- 9. Reiterates that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular their consequence on children and youth, is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalls the commitment to eradicate

²⁰ Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

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²¹ Resolution 70/1.

²² E/CN.5/2013/8.

poverty in all its forms and dimensions and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth;

- 10. Reiterates also the need for more ambitious national development strategies, efforts and investment in youth, backed by increased international support and, inter alia, by providing youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their human rights and capabilities, and calls for the increased participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant civil society organizations in the development of such national development strategies;
- 11. Emphasizes the role of quality health education and literacy, including mental health literacy and socioemotional learning, in promoting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and improving health outcomes over a lifetime, and in this regard encourages its promotion by Member States among young persons, through comprehensive evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes, both in and out of school, and through public campaigns, and to increase the access of youth to available, accessible, affordable, quality, safe, effective, sustainable and appropriate youth-friendly health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, social services, safe drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, by paying special attention to and raising awareness regarding sports and physical activity, nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, the promotion and protection of health, including mental health and well-being, and equitable access to education and participation, and support and care for youth with developmental disabilities, the prevention of interpersonal violence, the prevention, control and effects of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and the prevention of unintended or unwanted adolescent pregnancies, and recognizes the need to develop safe, affordable and youth-friendly counselling and prevention of psychoactive substance use and addictive behaviours;
- 12. Also emphasizes the need to implement measures to promote and improve the mental health and well-being of young persons, including by adopting and investing in mental health policies which respect the human rights of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, scaling up comprehensive and integrated services for the prevention of mental health conditions, including suicide prevention, as well as providing psychosocial support, including resilience training, while raising awareness of mental health issues and tackling stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, promoting well-being, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, addressing social determinants of health and fully respecting their human rights;
- 13. Emphasizes that upholding all human rights of young persons in the context of HIV and AIDS is a key element in efforts to achieve an AIDS-free generation, and urges Member States to develop accessible, available and affordable health services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care, as well as information and education programmes, including those related to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS, delivered free from stigma and discrimination, and to strengthen efforts in this regard, including by ensuring the active involvement of young persons living with or affected by HIV in the response;
- 14. Calls upon Member States to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, physical,

psychological and pubertal development, and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers;

- 15. Reiterates the need to fulfil the right to education of all girls and young women, to economically empower women by providing them with job skills, employment opportunities, financial literacy and access to financial services, to scale up social protection interventions for girls and young women, and to engage men and boys as agents of change in intensified efforts to transform negative social norms and gender stereotypes;
- 16. Also emphasizes the right to education, recognizes that investment in universal, quality and inclusive education and training is the most important policy investment that States can make to ensure the immediate and long-term development of youth, and reiterates that access to inclusive, equitable and quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young persons to develop the relevant skills and to build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and calls upon Member States to take the actions necessary to ensure that young persons, including pregnant adolescents and young mothers, have access to such services and opportunities;
- 17. Urges Member States to intensify efforts to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young persons not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work, and improving synergies between the education and employment sectors to increase the prospects for integrating youth into the sustainable labour market, and through increased innovation and entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young persons about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in quality education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;
- 18. Recognizes the importance of a deep connection between youth and their respective cultural heritage and background as a tool for the establishment of positive relations based on the respect for cultural diversity, leading to peaceful integration also through artistic, cultural and sports initiatives;
- 19. Calls upon Member States to accelerate their efforts to close the digital divide and promote innovation among youth by ensuring that information and communications technologies are fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels, including in the development of curricula, teacher training and institutional administration and management, and in support of the concept of lifelong learning;
- 20. Also urges Member States to address the challenges faced by girls and young women, as well as gender stereotypes that perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women, including harmful practices, and the stereotypical roles of men and women that hinder social and

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personal development, by implementing the commitments to the empowerment of women and gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, and to engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, including their sexual behaviour;

- 21. Further urges Member States to take all necessary legal and policy measures in order to eliminate all forms of violence against girls and young women, including sexual harassment, and prevent violence both in person and in digital context, such as bullying, including cyberbullying, address the reported surge of sexual and gender-based violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and reaffirms that States should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination and should pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating violence against women, as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;²³
- 22. Urges Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that the realization of human rights and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that seek to improve, ensure and broaden the full, equal and meaningful participation of young women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all of their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including by providing access to quality education at all levels, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work and strengthening their economic independence;
- 23. Recognizes that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities with direct and indirect implications for the human rights and well-being of young persons and which could make youth, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, vulnerable to their adverse impacts, including through suffering disproportionately in labour markets in times of crisis created by climate change, calls for the enhanced cooperation of and concerted action by Member States with youth in order to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that the education of youth can play in that respect, and encourages Member States to further promote youth participation in climate action and to consider youth perspectives in decision-making processes on climate change;
- 24. *Invites* Member States to actively engage civil society, in particular youth organizations, to develop joint environmental policy and programming initiatives aimed at countering climate change and biodiversity loss and at strengthening resilience of youth, in particular those in developing countries;
- 25. Also recognizes that the sharing of responsibilities by family members creates an enabling environment for the empowerment of youth, which contributes to development, that youth make a significant contribution to the welfare of their families and that particular attention must be paid to solutions to youth unemployment;
- 26. Further recognizes the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard recognizes the

²³ Resolution 48/104.

importance of opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young persons and older generations;

- 27. Recognizes all recent efforts to promote the youth and peace and security agenda, and calls upon Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to consider ways to increase the meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, post-conflict processes and humanitarian action, as well as to take concrete measures to further assist youth in armed conflict situations, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth, and to encourage the involvement of youth, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict situations, and recognizes the importance of protecting schools and universities from military use:
- 28. Calls upon Member States to strengthen the efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the right to education and facilitating continuation of education in armed conflict, including the efforts of States that are signatories to the Safe Schools Declaration:
- 29. Urges Member States to take concerted action, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young persons living under foreign occupation, colonial rule and in other areas of conflict or post-conflict situations in order to promote the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda;
- 30. Also urges Member States to take effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect young persons, including youth in situation of marginalization and vulnerability and affected or exploited by terrorism;
- 31. Further urges Member States to eliminate legal, administrative, social, economic, digital and cultural barriers that limit young persons' participation and representation, while enabling the capacities, resources, information, technology, support, space and skills needed to ensure free, active, independent, full, meaningful and effective participation of youth, including youth in vulnerable situations;
- 32. Calls upon Member States to develop or maintain, in this regard, preventive measures and remedies for violations and abuses regarding the right to privacy in the digital age that may affect all individuals, including young persons, promote digital literacy and technical skills to effectively protect their privacy and take measures to prevent cyberstalking and cyberbullying;
- 33. Encourages Member States to include youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young persons in their countries;
- 34. Calls upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration and coordination on youth-related matters, including, inter alia, with Governments on the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme;
- 35. Calls upon donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for

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greater geographical balance in terms of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

- 36. Acknowledges the increased collaboration through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development in developing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, requests United Nations entities, within existing resources, to continue their coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon United Nations entities and relevant partners to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;
- 37. Recognizes the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and her task of bringing the voices of young persons to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization identified in her workplan, and encourages the Envoy to continue to work closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media by empowering and strengthening the position of young persons within and outside the United Nations system, including by conducting country visits, at the request of the Member States concerned, and calls upon Member States and United Nations entities to support, as appropriate, the Envoy in her efforts to advance the situation of youth globally;
- 38. Decides to convene a one day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, with a view to addressing the challenges still faced by young persons in the realization of their human rights and to strengthening political commitment for reinforced human rights-based policies and programmes involving youth so that no one is left behind;
- 39. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on progress that has been achieved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals with regard to the youth-related agenda, and challenges that still remain, to be prepared in consultation with Member States as well as the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.