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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: World Programme of Action for Youth

**Cabo Verde,* Egypt,* Germany,* Kazakhstan,* Portugal and Senegal:*
draft resolution**

Policies and programmes involving youth

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [50/81](#) of 14 December 1995 and resolution [62/126](#) of 18 December 2007, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, as contained in the annexes thereto, and acknowledging that the Programme of Action provides Member States with a useful policy framework and practical guidelines for improving the situation of youth,

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling further the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998,¹ 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,²

Noting the inputs from recent relevant conferences, forums and global initiatives relating to youth at the international, regional and subregional levels, inter alia, the

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

¹ [A/53/378](#), annex I.

² [A/73/949](#), annex.



first, the second and the third World Youth Forum, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2017, November 2018 and December 2019,

Recalling 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,

Emphasizing the important role that the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth has played in addressing the needs of youth, as well as, inter alia, acting 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 people within and outside of the United Nations system,

Reiterating that all 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of all of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Recalling the proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,³ to assist Member States in assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action and thus the evolution of the situation of youth,

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 to be in education, learning, training or employment,

Acknowledging the important contributions made by the youth forum of the Economic and Social Council, held annually, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing that the youth forum serves as a platform for young people to share their vision and contribute to, inter alia, the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

Acknowledging also the positive contribution of youth, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society, as a way of contributing to a progressively fairer distribution of opportunities for youth, which will constitute a step forward to economic development, social justice, social integration and equity,

Recognizing that while young people 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 people 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,

Stressing that policies that enhance digital and technical skills and opportunities for young people are an important area of investment for Governments, and that the inclusive and effective engagement of youth, including through volunteerism and participation in relevant decision-making processes, is critical in tailoring the most effective response, according to the specific needs of all young people, and

³ [E/CN.5/2013/8](#).

recognizing that multisectoral investments in young people could yield a triple dividend ensuring health, well-being and resilience through their life course,

Stressing also that high rates of youth unemployment persist, as do high rates of underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment, leaving many young people in situations of working poverty or in jobs that have limited access to social protection and that do not provide adequate labour standards,

Emphasizing that education, both formal and non-formal, and training promote equity and social inclusion, and recalling in that sense 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 help ensure, by 2030, that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy, as well as to substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted youth, including young women and girls, youth with disabilities and those who are in vulnerable situations, and has also accelerated digital transformation, which risks widening the digital divides, further exacerbating existing inequalities in learning opportunities and access to education, as well as polarizing the labour market,

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 poorest and most vulnerable children and young people are least likely to live in a suitable home-learning environment with an adequate Internet connection and learning support,

Acknowledging that the recovery from the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity to design strategies out of the crisis to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to foster economic growth, build back better, including by promoting a socially just transition to sustainable development and recognizing that digital technologies can facilitate that transition and create a more inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable society for all and by supporting inclusive, multisectoral and coordinated approach toward youth well-being,

Recognizing the heroic efforts of young health-care workers, first responders and essential workers, paid or volunteer, and commending them for their outstanding selfless service during the COVID-19 pandemic and also their efforts to mitigate its overall economic, social, educational and psychological impact,

Taking note of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth,

Acknowledging the important link between migration and development, recognizing that migration brings both opportunities and challenges to countries of origin, transit and destination, to migrants and to the global community, and recognizing the responsibility of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants effectively, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women, young people and children,

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

Stressing that increased coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities and with other regional and international organizations working on youth contribute to making the youth-related work of the United Nations system more effective,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁴
2. *Calls upon* Member States to realize the opportunity afforded by the demographic dividend of the largest number of young people ever in the history of humankind, reiterates that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth⁵ lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies, programmes and action plans, including for those who are poor, vulnerable or marginalized, and to address all aspects of youth development, in line with the World Programme of Action and all the internationally agreed development frameworks, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁶
3. *Also calls upon* Member States to continue the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its 15 interrelated priority areas, as a policy framework with practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, while taking into account the views of youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations as part of the effective participation of youth in society;
4. *Further calls upon* Member States to promote gender equality and the empowerment of young women and girls and the full realization of all human rights on an equal footing with young men and boys;
5. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the set of indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General⁷ for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, paying particular attention to young women and girls and those who are vulnerable or marginalized, including indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth with disabilities and young migrants, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;
6. *Also calls upon* Member States to collect, on a continuing and voluntary basis, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by age and sex, to measure progress towards the implementation and monitoring of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard encourages Member States to engage youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data in the process of assessing progress and evaluating youth policies;
7. *Urges* Member States to ensure that youth issues are adequately addressed in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and underlines the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in its implementation;
8. *Encourages* Member States to ensure a coherent and mutually reinforcing approach while implementing all relevant agreed frameworks related to youth, including the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,⁸ in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

⁴ E/CN.5/2021/5.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁷ E/CN.5/2019/5.

⁸ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

9. *Urges* Member States to protect, promote and fulfil the realization and full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

10. *Encourages* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and at relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance and non-discrimination, and, inter alia, to consider establishing a national youth delegate programme, and emphasizes that youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to encourage and promote youth-led and youth-focused organizations through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities;

12. *Urges* Member States to promote the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in relevant decision-making processes at all levels, including in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programmes and activities, including those related to the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

13. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, capacity-building, the enhancement of dialogue, mutual understanding and the active participation of young people are crucial elements in efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social inclusion, and in this regard stresses the importance of promoting access to health-care services, nationally owned social protection and social services as an important instrument for empowering youth;

14. *Calls upon* Member States, in this context, to address the social aspects of youth development with the adoption and/or strengthening of appropriate policies, including fiscal, employment and labour-market policies, and to establish nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors;

15. *Urges* Member States and all stakeholders to take concerted action to close the digital divides, including youth digital divide, promote digital inclusion and responsible use of information and communications technologies, prevent their use for criminal purposes and bridge the gender gap in digital access and competences, by taking into account national and regional context and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability and skills, as well as support more comprehensively those countries that are trailing in the digital economy in order to reduce the digital divides, strengthen the international enabling environment for value creation and build capacities in both the private and public sectors;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to 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;

17. *Recalls* that access to quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in assessing information and in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies, extracurricular activities and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant skills and to build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and to gain decent and productive

work, and calls upon Member States to take the action necessary to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities;

18. *Recognizes* that substantial digital divides and data inequalities exist within and among countries and regions, and between developed and all developing countries, and that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies, and urges Member States and other relevant stakeholders to accelerate the catalytic role that digital technologies play in reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education, health, communication, commerce and business continuity and to take concerted action to further digital governance and economy, scientific research, emerging technologies and new data sources and to build resilient, inclusive and integrated data and statistical systems, under the leadership of national statistical offices, that can respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster and ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the increased collaboration among United Nations entities on youth through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, calls upon United Nations entities to develop additional measures to support local, national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development and well-being, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in particular youth-led and youth-focused organizations;

20. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to bring the voices of young people to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization, inter alia by considering appointing special representatives, envoys or advisors, while working closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media, to empower and strengthen the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system, including by conducting country visits, at the request of the Member States concerned;

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

22. *Encourages* the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth to continue to work closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media, as appropriate, by empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-first session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress on the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including the linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in consultation with Member States, as well as with the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, including the youth forum of the Economic and Social Council, and encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.