

**37th UNESCO General Conference**  
**Item 5.5 - Conclusions of the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum**  
**Presentation by the 8<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum delegates**  
**Natural Sciences Commission (SC) , 12 November 2013**

*“Dear Mr. Chairman, Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*My name is Besmira Uruci and I am the youth delegate from Albania. I have the honor to stand today in front of you as the representative of the world's youth who came together last week in the 8th Youth Forum of UNESCO.*

*More than 500 youth delegates and participants from approximately 135 countries, gathered altogether in an all-youth-led Forum to discuss UNESCO's Operational strategy on Youth 2014-2021 under the theme of “Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development”. The outcomes of these discussions are 10 concrete Recommendations and 15 action projects which I will present to you today.*

*I would like to start by underlining the fact that the whole Forum was inspired by young people truly concerned and aware of youth's problems in this period. Capacity building and sustainable development, which are one of the priorities of Natural Sciences sector, were at the heart of our discussions. As such, we concentrated our discussions on unemployment, environmental issues, gender equality in sciences, green economy, technology and youth-led development projects.*

*More specifically, we first recommend that the Member States must prioritize youth employment by narrowing the gap between educational systems and labor markets; by supporting quality internship opportunities accessible for all and providing job opportunities especially in the green economy. Capacity building in science, technology and innovation is crucial for the creation of these jobs.*

*Second, we also recommend that the Member states should promote intercultural dialogue which includes discussions on the environment, economy, health and education which will help to prevent conflicts and also support economically, socially and environmentally sustainable youth development projects.*



*Other important recommendations of the Youth Forum consist on urging UNESCO, on one hand, to promote collaboration and development of knowledge and technological skills across developed and developing countries; and on the other hand to encourage partner organizations to allocate CSR from corporations to youth entrepreneurship. In particular, the Youth Forum, also following UNESCO's priorities, estimates that funding should be increased for programs that encourage more women and minorities to study science, mathematics, engineering, technological fields, creative arts and other underrepresented fields.*

*The 15 action projects which received the forum's label, deal with all these issues that the world's youth is facing nowadays and we strongly recommend to the member states of UNESCO to support them.*

*Last but not least I would like to emphasize the fact that the aim of this Youth Forum was to make youth in every country be included in all decision-making processes, at all levels. Let's not forget that as the special envoy of UN on Youth, Mr Alhendawi, said: "Youth are not just the future generations: youth are partners today!" So let's make the youth of today our partners! And let's start doing it by implementing this Youth Forum's recommendations.*

*Thank you very much!"*

**\*Presentation prepared and delivered by Ms Besmira Uruçi (youth delegate of Albania).**