



37th UNESCO General Conference
Item 5.5 - Conclusions of the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum
Presentation by the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum delegates
Social and Human Sciences Commission (SHS), 15 November 2013

*“Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We are delighted to be here with you today as representatives of the world’s youth. We are only three, but over 50% of the world’s population today is under the age of 30. The modern day global challenges are faced in all parts of the world and by all generations, but it is the young people who are often most affected. In order to find sustainable, long-term solutions, youth should be included in all decision-making processes, at all levels.

First of all, let us begin by expressing our gratitude and thankfulness to UNESCO for organizing and promoting the Youth Forum, and especially the Youth team, Ms Goucha, who leads the team, and Ms. Kyriotou, our coordinator, for their remarkable work and support.

Today, we have the honor to present you the outcomes of the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum under the theme of “Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development”. Over 500 participants from all the regions of the world, including youth delegates from approximately 135 countries came together to discuss UNESCO’s Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021, two weeks ago. The results contain 10 concrete policy recommendations and 15 action projects that will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy. This is our voice on our future.

Our contribution to the Strategy and to our future should go way beyond these recommendations. Youth should therefore be involved in the implementation, follow up and evaluation of the Operational Strategy. Moreover, a closer cooperation between UNESCO and non-governmental youth organizations has to be established, especially through the re-establishment of a youth NGO commission within the UNESCO-NGO liaison committee.



In each Member State, a legal framework and an action-plan which secure the development, participation, and inclusion of all young people have to be implemented. Further, Member States need to establish and strengthen autonomous youth structures in order for young people to exercise their full citizenship.

In addition, young people have to learn the functioning of this legal framework in order to contribute to it, and therefore ensure a more constructive dialogue between youth and decision makers.

The 15 actions projects are just a few of the youth-led initiatives taken, but they are proof of our good will and energy. In order to ensure the success and sustainability of all promising youth-led projects, we urge Member States to allocate increased and constant funding opportunities and promote financial responsibility and accountability among these projects.

On one hand, Member States have to support youth-led initiatives. On the other hand, supporting projects led by young people has to be considered as a main way of exercising Corporate Social Responsibility, as, both, State and private organizations will see the benefits of it.

Last, but not least, we support UNESCO's engagement on education for peace through a human-rights based approach in order to foster social inclusion and intercultural dialogue.

It is imperative to promote a culture of "inclusiveness," free from all possible forms of discrimination. As such, we encourage Member States to support the integration of young immigrants, indigenous, and marginalized youth into society and promote intercultural diversity, with a special focus on gender equality.

Finally, we want to emphasize that the aim of this Youth Forum was to make youth in every country participate in all decision-making processes at all levels, and as the UN Envoy on Youth said during the Forum: "Youth are not just the future generation youth are partners today."

So support us, collaborate with us and let us BE your partners!

Thank you for your attention."

*** Presentation prepared and delivered by Ms Besmira Uruçi (youth delegate of Albania), Mr Victor Giron Meza (youth delegate of Honduras) and Mr Roman Twerenbold (youth delegate of Switzerland).**